

Abhi-prasnin.—This term occurs after **Prasnin**, and followed by **Prasnavivāka** in the list of victims for the **Puruṣamedha** given in the **Taittirīya Brāhmaṇa**¹ and the **Vājasaneyi Saṃhitā**.² The commentators, **Sāyaṇa** and **Mahīdhara**, see in it merely a reference to an inquisitive man. But there can be little doubt that the term must have had a legal reference of some sort—perhaps indicating the defendant as opposed to plaintiff and judge.

¹ iii. 4, 6, 1.

xxx. 10.

Abhi-srī (' admixture ').—This word¹ designates the milk used to mingle with the Soma juice before it was offered.

¹ Rv. ix. 79, 5; 86, 27. Cf. Zimmer, *Altindisches Leben*, 227; Hillebrandt, *Vedische Mythologie*, i. 211.

Abhi-ṣavaṇī.—Zimmer¹ renders the expression in the **Atharvaveda**² as a pressing instrument, but it appears to be merely an adjective, (waters) ' used in pressing. '³

¹ *Altindisches Leben*, 277.

² ix. 6, 16.

³ Cf. Whitney's Translation of Av. ix. 6, 16.

Abhi-ṣeka (' besprinkling ').—The Vedic king was consecrated after his election with an elaborate ritual, which is fully described in the **Taittirīya**,¹ **Pañcaviṃśa**,² **Śatapatha**,³ and **Aitareya Brāhmaṇas**,⁴ and for which the Mantras are given in the **Saṃhitās**.⁵ The consecration took place by sprinkling with water (*abhiṣecanīyā āpah*).⁶ Only kings could be consecrated, the people not being worthy of it (*anabhiṣecanīyāh*).⁷ The sprinkler (*abhiṣekṭṛ*) is mentioned in the list of victims at the **Puruṣamedha**.⁸ The **Abhiṣeka** is an essential part of the **Rājasūya**, or sacrifice of royal inauguration, being the second of its component members.

¹ i. 7, 5.

² xviii. 8 *et seq.*

³ v. 3, 3 *et seq.*

⁴ viii. 5 *et seq.*

⁵ **Taittirīya Saṃhitā**, i. 8, 11; **Kāthaka Saṃhitā**, xv. 6; **Maitrāyaṇī Saṃhitā**, ii. 6; **Vājasaneyi Saṃhitā**, x. 1-4.

⁶ **Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa**, v. 3. 5, 10-15.

⁷ **Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa**, xiii. 4, 2, 17.

⁸ **Vājasaneyi Saṃhitā**, xxx. 12; **Taittirīya Brāhmaṇa**, iii. 4, 8, 1.

⁹ Cf. Hillebrandt, *Rituallitteratur*, 143-147; Eggeling, *Sacred Books of the East*, 41, xxvi; Weber, *Über den Rājasūya*.