

Ulūka is the ordinary word for 'owl' from the Rigveda¹ onwards. The bird was noted for its cry,² and was deemed the harbinger of ill-fortune (*nairṛta*).³ Owls were offered at the horse sacrifice to the forest trees,⁴ no doubt because they roosted there.

¹ x. 165, 4.

² Rv. *loc. cit.*

³ Av. vi. 19, 2; Taittirīya Saṃhitā, v. 5, 18, 1; Vājasaneyi Saṃhitā, xxiv. 38.

⁴ Vājasaneyi Saṃhitā, xxiv. 23; Maitrāyaṇī Saṃhitā, iii. 14, 4.

Ulūkhala is the regular expression for 'mortar' from the Rigveda¹ onwards, occurring frequently also in the compound² **Ulūkala-musala**, 'mortar and pestle.' The exact construction of the vessel is quite unknown till we reach the Sūtra period.

¹ i. 28, 6; Av. x. 9, 26; xi. 3, 3; xii. 3, 13; Taittirīya Saṃhitā, v. 2, 8, 7; vii. 2, 1, 3; Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa, i. 1, 4, 6, etc.

² Av. ix. 6, 15; Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa, i. 1, 1, 22.

Ulkā regularly denotes a meteor from the Rigveda¹ onwards. In the Brāhmaṇas² it also signifies a 'firebrand.' The much rarer form **Ulkuṣī**³ has both senses.

¹ iv. 4, 2; x. 68, 4; Av. xix. 9, 8; Śadvimśa Brāhmaṇa, vi. 8, etc.

² Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa, v. 5, 4, 19.

³ As 'meteor,' Av. v. 17, 4; Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa, xi. 2, 7, 21; as 'firebrand,' *ibid.*, iii. 9, 2, 9.

Ulmuka is the common word in the Brāhmaṇas¹ for 'firebrand,' from which a coal (*aṅgāra*)² could be taken.

¹ Aitareya Brāhmaṇa, ii. 11; Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa, i. 8, 2, 1; ii. 1, 4, 28, etc.; Jaiminiya Brāhmaṇa, ii. 76 (*Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 15, 239).

² Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa, xii. 4, 3, 3; Jaiminiya Brāhmaṇa, i. 61, 1 (*Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 23, 342).

Ulmukāvakṣayaṇa is an expression that occurs several times in the Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa,¹ signifying a 'means of extinguishing (*ava-kṣayaṇa*) a firebrand,' or possibly more precisely 'tongs.' Compare **Aṅgārāvakṣayaṇa**.

¹ iv. 6, 8, 7; v. 2, 4, 15; xi. 6, 3, 3; Jaiminiya Brāhmaṇa, ii. 76. Cf. Böhtlingk, Dictionary, s.v.