

Uśanas Kāvya is an ancient seer, already a half-mythical figure in the Rigveda,¹ where he is often mentioned, especially as associated with Kutsa and Indra. Later on² he becomes the Purohita of the Asuras in their contests with the gods. A variant of his name is Kavi Uśanas.³ He appears in the Brāhmaṇas as a teacher also.⁴

¹ i. 51, 10; 83, 5; 121, 12; iv. 16, 2; vi. 20, 11; viii. 23, 17; ix. 87, 3; 97, 7; x. 40, 7; probably also i. 130, 9; v. 31, 8; 34, 2; viii. 7, 26; x. 22, 6. Also in Av. iv. 29, 6.

² Taittiriya Saṃhitā, ii. 5, 8, 5; Pañcaviṃśa Brāhmaṇa, vii. 5, 26; Śāṅkhāyana Srauta Sūtra, xiv. 27, 1.

³ Rv. iv. 26, 1.

⁴ Pañcaviṃśa Brāhmaṇa, xiv. 12, 5; Jaiminiya Upaniṣad Brāhmaṇa, ii. 7, 2, 6.

Cf. Roth, St. Petersburg Dictionary, s.v.; Geldner, *Vedische Studien*, 2, 167 et seq.; Bergaigne, *Religion Védique*, 2, 339 et seq.; Macdonell, *Vedic Mythology*, p. 147.

Uśanā occurs in the Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa (iii. 4, 3, 13; iv. 2, 5, 15) as the name of a plant from which Soma was prepared.

Uśinara.—In the Aitareya Brāhmaṇa¹ the Kuru-Pañcālas are mentioned as dwelling together in the 'Middle Country' with the Vaśas and the Uśinaras. In the Kauṣītaki Upaniṣad² also the Uśinaras are associated with the Kuru-Pañcālas and Vaśas, but in the Gopatha Brāhmaṇa³ the Uśinaras and Vaśas are regarded as northerners. In the Rigveda⁴ the people is alluded to in one passage by reference to their queen, Uśinārāṇī. Zimmer⁵ thinks that the Uśinaras earlier lived farther to the north-west, but for this there is no clear evidence. His theory is based merely on the fact that the Anukramaṇī (Index) of the Rigveda ascribes one hymn⁶ to Śibi-Auśinara, and that the Śibis were known to Alexander's followers as Σίβου,⁷ living between the Indus and the Akelines (Chenab). But this is in no way conclusive, as the Śibis, at any rate in Epic times,⁸ occupied the land to the north of Kurukṣetra, and there is no reason whatever to show that in the Vedic period the Uśinaras were farther west than the 'Middle Country.'

¹ viii. 14.

² iv. 1. See Keith, *Śāṅkhāyana Aranyaka*, 36.

³ ii. 9.

⁴ x. 59, 10.

⁵ *Altindisches Leben*, 130.

⁶ Rv. x. 179.

⁷ Diodorus, xvii. 19.

⁸ See Pargiter's map, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 1908, p. 322.

Cf. Weber, *Indische Studien*, 1, 213, 419; Hultsch, *Indian Antiquary*, 34, 179.