

ritual acted as supervisor. Other priests referred to in the Rigveda⁴ are the singers of Sāmans or chants, the Udgātṛ and his assistant the Prastotṛ, while the Pratihartṛ, another assistant, though not mentioned, may quite well have been known. Their functions undoubtedly represent a later stage of the ritual, the development of the elaborate series of sacrificial calls on the one hand, and on the other the use of long hymns addressed to the Soma plant. Other priests, such as the Achāvāka,⁵ the Grāvastut, the Unnetṛ, and the Subrahmaṇya, were known later in the developed ritual of the Brāhmaṇas, making in all sixteen priests, who were technically and artificially classed in four groups⁶: Hotṛ, Maitrāvaruṇa, Achāvāka, and Grāvastut; Udgātṛ, Prastotṛ, Pratihartṛ, and Subrahmaṇya; Adhvaryu, Pratisthātṛ, Nestṛ, and Unnetṛ; Brahman, Brāhmaṇacchaṁsin, Agnidhra, and Potṛ.

Apart from all these priests was the Purohita, who was the spiritual adviser of the king in all his religious duties. Geldner⁷ holds that, as a rule, when the Purohita actually took part in one of the great sacrifices he played the part of the Brahman, in the sense of the priest who superintended the whole conduct of the ritual. He sees evidence for this view in a considerable number of passages of the Rigveda⁸ and the later literature,⁹ where Purohita and Brahman were combined or identified. Oldenberg,¹⁰ however, more correctly points out

⁴ Rv. viii. 81, 5.

⁵ Cf., for the Achāvāka, Kauṣītaki Brāhmaṇa, xxviii. 4; Aitareya Brāhmaṇa, vi. 14, 8, etc.; Bergaigne, *Recherches sur l'histoire de la liturgie védique*, 47; Oldenberg, *Religion des Veda*, 397, n. 2. The other three occur in the Aitareya and other Brāhmaṇas. See St. Petersburg Dictionary, s.v.

⁶ Āśvalāyana Śrauta Sūtra, iv. 1, 4-6; Śāṅkhāyana Śrauta Sūtras, xiii. 14, 1, etc. In the Rigveda Sūtra the order of the four sets is Hotṛ, Brahman, Udgātṛ, and Adhvaryu. Sometimes a seventeenth priest is mentioned, but he was not usually approved, though the Kauṣītakins maintained him as the Sadasya. See Satapatha Brāhmaṇa,

x. 4, 1, 19; Eggeking, *Sacred Books of the East*, 43, 348, n.; Keith, *Aitareya Aranyaka*, 37; Weber, *Indische Studien*, 9, 375.

⁷ *Vedische Studien*, 2, 143 et seq.

⁸ Rv. i. 44, 10; 94, 6; viii. 27, 1, etc.

⁹ Bṛhaspati is Purohita of the gods, Rv. ii. 24, 9; Taittirīya Brāhmaṇa, ii. 7, 1, 2; Aitareya Brāhmaṇa, iii. 17, 2; Satapatha Brāhmaṇa, v. 3, 1, 2; but Brahman in Rv. x. 141, 3; Kauṣītaki Brāhmaṇa, vi. 13; Satapatha Brāhmaṇa, i. 7, 4, 21. Vasiṣṭha is Purohita, Rv. x. 150, 5, of Sudāsa Paijavana, Śāṅkhāyana Śrauta Sūtra, xvi. 11, 4; but Brahman of the Sunah-sepa sacrifice, *ibid.*, xv. 21.

¹⁰ *Op. cit.*, 380 et seq.