

**Ṛṣya.**—This is the correct<sup>1</sup> spelling of a word that occurs in the Rigveda<sup>2</sup> and the later literature<sup>3</sup> meaning 'stag,' the feminine being **Rohit**.<sup>4</sup> Apparently deer were caught in pits (*rṣya-da*).<sup>5</sup> The procreative power of the stag (*ārṣya vrṣṇya*) was celebrated.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> It appears in Av. iv. 4, 7, as *Rṣa*; as *Rṣya* in Maitrāyaṇi Samhitā, iii. 14, 9, 18.

<sup>2</sup> viii. 4, 10.

<sup>3</sup> Av. iv. 4, 5, 7; v. 14, 3; i. 18, 4 (*rṣya-pad*); Vājasaneyi Samhitā. xxiv 27, 37; Aitareya Brāhmaṇa, iii. 33; citation in Śāṅkhāyana Śrauta Sūtra, viii. 25, 8, etc.

<sup>4</sup> Av. iv. 4, 7.

<sup>5</sup> Rv. x. 39, 8.

<sup>6</sup> Av. iv. 4, 5.

Cf. Weber, *Indische St. dien*, 18, 18; Zimmer, *Altindisches Leben*, 82; Whitney, Translation of the Atharvaveda, 150, 151.

1. **Ṛṣabha** is the common name of the 'bull' from the Rigveda<sup>1</sup> onwards.<sup>2</sup> See also **Go**.

<sup>1</sup> vi. 16, 47; 28, 8; x. 91, 14, etc.

<sup>2</sup> Av. iii. 6, 4; 23, 4, etc.; Taittirīya

Samhitā, ii. 1, 3, 2, etc.; Vājasaneyi Samhitā, xxi. 22, etc.; Pañcaviṃśa Brāhmaṇa, xiii. 5, 18, etc.

2. **Ṛṣabha**, king of the Śviknas, appears in the Satapatha Brāhmaṇa<sup>1</sup> with the patronymic Yājñatura, as one of those who performed an Aśvamedha or horse sacrifice. He is also mentioned there<sup>2</sup> as having probably been the source of a saying of Gauriviti Śāktya's.

<sup>1</sup> xiii. 5, 4, 15. Cf. Śāṅkhāyana Śrauta Sūtra, xvi. 9, 8-10.

<sup>2</sup> xii. 8, 3, 7.

3. **Ṛṣabha** is mentioned in the Aitareya Brāhmaṇa (vii. 17) as a son of Viśvāmītra.

**Ṛṣi**, 'seer,' is primarily a composer of hymns to the gods. In the Rigveda<sup>1</sup> reference is often made to previous singers and to contemporary poets. Old poems were inherited and refurbished by members of the composer's family,<sup>2</sup> but the great aim of the singers was to produce new and approved hymns.<sup>3</sup> It is not till the time of the Brāhmaṇas that the

<sup>1</sup> i. 1, 2; 45, 3; viii. 43, 13, etc.

<sup>2</sup> i. 89, 3; 96, 2; iii. 39, 2; viii. 6, 11, 43; 76, 6, etc.

<sup>3</sup> i. 109, 2; ii. 18, 3; iii. 62, 7; vi. 50, 6; vii. 14, 4; 93, 1; viii. 23, 14, etc.