

Sūri is the regular word in the Rigveda<sup>1</sup> for the sacrificer, the later Yajamāna—that is, the man who pays the priests for performing the rite, and reaps the benefit of that service. The Sūris are often coupled with the Maghavans,<sup>1</sup> described as heroes or warriors,<sup>2</sup> and as related to the priests by their patronage<sup>3</sup> or as companions.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> i. 31, 7, 12; 48, 24; 54, 11; 73, 5. 8, 9; iii. 31, 14; v. 42, 4; 79, 6; vi. 4, 8; 23, 10; vii. 32, 15; viii. 70, 15; x. 61, 22; 115, 5, 7, 8.

<sup>2</sup> i. 69, 3; 73, 9; 119, 3; 122, 12; 180, 9; vii. 32, 15.

<sup>3</sup> i. 97, 3, 4; v. 10, 6; vi. 8, 7;

25, 7; vii. 3, 8; 44, 18; viii. 60, 6; x. 66, 2.

<sup>4</sup> v. 64, 5; vii. 32, 25; viii. 45, 36; ix. 96, 4; x. 115, 7.

Cf. Ludwig, Translation of the Rigveda, 3, 236.

Sūrmi denotes in the Rigveda<sup>1</sup> and later,<sup>2</sup> according to the St. Petersburg Dictionary, a kind of 'tube' serving as a lamp. In one passage of the Rigveda<sup>3</sup> it means a 'pipe' for conveying water. Cf. Avata.

<sup>1</sup> vii. 1, 3.

<sup>2</sup> Taittirīya Saṃhitā, i. 5, 7, 6; v. 4, 7, 3; Kāthaka Saṃhitā, xxi. 9, where it is described as *karṇakāvāṭī*, rendered by Roth as 'provided with a handle.'

<sup>3</sup> viii. 69, 12. Sūrmya in Taittirīya Saṃhitā, iv. 5, 9, 2, may mean 'being in pipes or channels.'

Sūrya, the 'sun,' plays a great part in Vedic mythology and religion,<sup>1</sup> corresponding with the importance of the sun as a factor in the physical life of the peninsula. In the Rigveda<sup>2</sup> the sun is normally regarded as a beneficent power, a not unnatural view in a people which must apparently have issued from the cold regions of the Himālaya mountains. Its heat is, however, alluded to in some passages of the Rigveda,<sup>3</sup> as well as referred to in the Atharvaveda and the literature of the Brāhmanas.<sup>4</sup>

In one myth Indra is said to have vanquished Sūrya and to have stolen his wheel:<sup>5</sup> this is possibly a reference to the

<sup>1</sup> See Macdonell, *Vedic Mythology*, p. 30 et seq.

<sup>2</sup> E.g., i. 50, 6; 115, 1, 3; 164, 11, 13; 191, 8, 9; vii. 63, 1; x. 37, 4; 85, 9; 88, 11; 139, 3, etc.

<sup>3</sup> Rv. vii. 34, 19; 1x. 107, 20.

<sup>4</sup> Ebner, *Yama*, 134; Macdonell, *op. cit.*, p. 31.

<sup>5</sup> i. 175, 4; iv. 30, 4; x. 43, 5.