

another, it would not be difficult to show, that both might have originated at the same time. Pāṇini distinguishes between old and new Brâhmaṇas as well as between old and new Kalpa works (Sûtras). The strict distinction between a Brâhmaṇa and Sûtra period is, on a closer inquiry, hardly tenable. The Brâhmaṇas were only more complete collections of the same traditional stock which was in existence on the sacrificial art and its meaning than the Sûtras, which were compiled for practical purposes only.

We may safely conclude from the complicated nature and the multitude of the Brahminical sacrifices which were already developed and almost complete at the time of the composition of the Vedic hymns, not only at that of the Brâhmaṇas, that the compilation of sacrificial manuals containing all the rules for the actual performance of the duties of a certain class of priests (such as the Hotṛis or repeaters of the Rik verses, the Udgâṭṛis, the chanters of the Rik verses, and the Adhvaryus, the manual labourers and sacred cooks), was quite necessary at a very early time, certainly not posterior to the collection of the Mantras and the dicta of the Brahma priests into separate works.

The Sûtras contain many special rules which will be in vain sought for in the Brâhmaṇas, but which are there simply presupposed. So we do not find, for instance, the description of the Dars'apûrṇama isṭi (the New and Full Moon sacrifice), or that of the Châturmâsya-isṭi, in the Aitareya Brâhmaṇam, though their names are occasionally mentioned, but