

Viṣūcikā is the name of a disease mentioned in the Vājasaneyi Saṃhitā¹ as a result of over-indulgence in **Soma** drinking. It seems clearly to be 'dysentery,' or, as Wise calls it, 'sporadic cholera.' The term apparently means 'causing evacuations in both directions.'

¹ xix. 10 = Maitrāyaṇī Saṃhitā, iii. 11, 7 = Kāthaka Saṃhitā, xxxvii. 18 = Taittirīya Brāhmaṇa, ii. 6, 1, 5 = Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa, xii. 7, 3, 2.

² *Hindu System of Medicine*, 330.
Cf. Zimmer, *Altindisches Leben*, 275, 392.

Vi-ṣkandha occurs several times in the Atharvaveda¹ as the name of a disease. As remedies against it a lead amulet,² or hemp,³ or a salve,⁴ or the **Ja gīda** plant are recommended for use.⁵ Weber⁶ suggests that the disease meant is 'rheumatism,' because it draws the shoulders apart (*vi-skandha*), but Bloomfield⁷ thinks that it is rather the name of a demon, like the Rigvedic **Vyaṃśa**⁸ and **Vigriva**,⁹ both of which are similarly formed and are names of demons. Possibly **Karṣapha** and **Viśapha** mentioned in one hymn¹⁰ are plants used to cure the disease.

¹ i. 16, 3; ii. 4, 1 *et seq.*; iii. 9, 2, 6; iv. 9, 5; xix. 34, 5. It is also found in the Taittirīya Saṃhitā, vii. 3, 11, 1.

² Av. i. 16, 3. Cf. ii. 4; iii. 9, 6.

³ Av. ii. 4, 5.

⁴ Av. iv. 9, 5.

⁵ Av. ii. 4, 1, 5; xix. 34, 5; 35, 1.

⁶ *Indische Studien*, 4, 410; 13, 141;

17, 215. See Zimmer, *Altindisches Leben*, 390, 391; Grill, *Hundert Lieder*,² 75.

⁷ *Hymns of the Atharvaveda*, 282, 283.

⁸ Rv. i. 32, 5, etc.

⁹ Rv. viii. 4, 24.

¹⁰ Av. iii. 9, 1. Cf. Bloomfield, *op. cit.*, 340. Roth, *St. Petersburg Dictionary*, s.v., thinks demons are meant: this seems the more probable view.

Vi-ṣtārin in the Atharvaveda¹ denotes a special sort of **Odana** or porridge.

¹ iv. 34, 1 *et seq.* According to Whitney, Translation of the Atharvaveda, 206, the designation 'outspread' is due to the fact that the rice mess

was kneaded into furrows and juices (*rasa*) were poured into them. See Kauśika Sūtra, lxvi. 6.

Viṣṭhā-vrājīn is a word of doubtful significance in the Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa.¹ According to Sāyaṇa, it means 'remaining in one and the same place'; if this is right, the rendering of the

¹ v. 1, 12.