

something analogous to these. Weber<sup>3</sup> thinks that in one passage of the Atharvaveda<sup>4</sup> the word designates a constellation, and Whitney,<sup>5</sup> who does not decide whether that interpretation is necessary, suggests that the constellation  $\gamma$ ,  $\xi$ ,  $\eta$ ,  $\pi$  Aquarii may be meant, since the next verse mentions **Vicrtau**, which is the constellation  $\lambda$  and  $\nu$  Scorpionis, and is not far from Aquarius. See also **Chardis**.

<sup>3</sup> *Indische Studien*, 17, 208.

<sup>4</sup> iii. 7, 3.

<sup>5</sup> Translation of the Atharvaveda, 95.

Cf. Bloomfield, *Hymns of the Atharvaveda*, 336.

1. **Chandas** in the Rigveda usually denotes a 'song of praise' or 'hymn.'<sup>1</sup> The original sense of the word, as derived from the verb *chand*, 'to please,' was probably 'attractive spell,' 'magic hymn,'<sup>2</sup> which prevailed on the gods. In a very late hymn of the Rigveda,<sup>3</sup> as well as in one of the Atharvaveda,<sup>4</sup> the word is mentioned in the plural (*chandāṃsi*), beside *Ṛc* (*ṛcaḥ*), *Sāman* (*sāmāni*), and *Yajus*, and seems to retain its original meaning, not improbably with reference to the magical subject-matter of the Atharvaveda. From denoting a (metrical) hymn it comes to mean 'metre' in a very late verse of the Rigveda,<sup>5</sup> in which the 'Gāyatrī, the Triṣṭubh, and all (*sarvā*) the metres (*chandāṃsi*) are mentioned. In the later Saṃhitās three<sup>6</sup> or seven<sup>7</sup> metres are enumerated, and in the Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa<sup>8</sup> eight. By the time of the Rigveda Prātiśākhya<sup>9</sup> the metres were subjected to a detailed examination, though much earlier references are found to the number of syllables in the several metres.<sup>10</sup> Later the word definitely denotes a Vedic text generally, as in the Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Rv. x. 85, 8 (an obscure verse); 114, 5; Av. iv. 34, 1; v. 26, 5; vi. 124, 1; xi. 7, 8, etc.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Roth in *St. Petersburg Dictionary*, s.v.

<sup>3</sup> Rv. x. 90, 9.

<sup>4</sup> Av. xi. 7, 24.

<sup>5</sup> x. 14, 16.

<sup>6</sup> Av. xviii. 1, 17; Vājasaneyi Saṃhitā, i. 27, etc.

<sup>7</sup> Av. viii. 9, 17, 19, etc.

<sup>8</sup> viii. 3, 3, 6, etc.

<sup>9</sup> xvi. 1 *et seq.* Cf. Max Müller, *Sacred Books of the East*, 32, xcv. *et seq.*

<sup>10</sup> Kāthaka Saṃhitā, xiv. 4; Jaittirīya Saṃhitā, vi. 1, 2, 7.

<sup>11</sup> xi. 5, 7, 3. So Gobhila Gṛhya Sūtra, iii. 3, 4, 15, etc.