

Napāt in Vedic literature apparently has both the wider sense of 'descendant',¹ and the narrower one of 'grandson' in the Saṃhitās.² In the Brāhmaṇas the word seems hardly to have the sense of 'descendant' at all, while it denotes not only 'grandson',³ but also 'great-grandson' in the sequence 'sons, grandsons, great-grandsons' (*putrān, pautrān, naptīn*).⁴ 'Grandson' is also expressed by Pautra ('son's son') in the Atharvaveda and later,⁵ while the sense of 'great-grandson' is accurately conveyed as early as the Rigveda⁶ by Pra-napāt, used beside Napāt, 'grandson.' Naptī, the feminine, is practically limited to the Saṃhitās,⁷ and denotes 'daughter.' The use in the Veda throws no light on the original use of the word.⁸

¹ It is equivalent to 'son' in a number of mythological epithets such as *apām napāt*, 'son of waters.'

² Rv. x. 10, 1, clearly 'son'; vi. 20, 11, may be 'grandson.' Most passages, vi. 50, 15; vii. 18, 22; viii. 65, 12; 102, 7; Vājasaneyi Saṃhitā, xxi. 61; Kāṭhaka Saṃhitā, xxii. 2, require 'descendant.'

³ As in Aitareya Brāhmaṇa, iii. 48: *putra-naptīrah*, 'sons and grandsons.' Cf. Nirukta, viii. 5.

⁴ Aitareya Brāhmaṇa, vii. 10, 3; Āpastamba Śrauta Sūtra, x. 11, 5.

⁵ Av. ix. 5, 30; xi. 7, 16: Aitarey Brāhmaṇa, vii. 10, 3; Taittirīya Brāhmaṇa, ii. 1, 8, 3.

⁶ Rv. viii. 17, 13, with *napāt*.

⁷ Rv. iii. 31, 1 (Nirukta, iii. 4); viii. 2, 42. Cf. i. 50, 9; ix. 9, 1; 14, 5; 69, 3; Av. i. 28, 4; ii. 14, 1; vii. 82, 6.

⁸ Delbrück, *Die indogermanischen Verwandtschaftsnamen*, 403-405; Lanmann, *Festgruss an Böhrlingh*, 77.

Naptī, as feminine of **Napāt**, is found in the Sāmaveda, Āraṇya (v. 13).

Nabha(s) Nabhasya. See **Māsa**.

Nabhāka is the name of a Ṛṣi who is referred to in the Rigveda¹ and the Aitareya Brāhmaṇa.² The Anukramaṇī (Index) attributes to **Nābhāka** the composition of several hymns of the Rigveda (viii. 39-42).

¹ viii. 40, 4, 5.

² vi. 24.

Cf. Ludwig, Translation of the Rigveda, 3, 107.