

Sobhari is the name of a **ṛṣi** frequently mentioned in the **Rigveda**.¹ The family is also referred to,² and a father, **Sobharī**.³

¹ viii. 5, 26; 19, 2; 20, 19; 22, 2.

² Rv. viii. 19, 32; 20, 8.

³ Rv. viii. 22, 15. Cf. viii. 103, 14; Av. xviii. 3, 15.

Cf. Ludwig, Translation of the **Rigveda**, 3, 105; Oldenberg, *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft*, 42, 217.

Soma was the famous plant which was used for the preparation of the libation of **Soma** made at the Vedic sacrifice. Its importance is sufficiently shown by the fact that the whole of the ninth Maṇḍala of the **Rigveda**, and six hymns in other Maṇḍalas, are devoted to its praise.

Nevertheless, little is actually known of the plant. Its twigs or shoots are described as brown (*babhru*),¹ ruddy (*aruṇa*),² or tawny (*hari*).³ Possibly its twigs hang down if the epithet **Naicāsākha**⁴ refers to the plant as Hillebrandt⁵ thinks. The shoot is called *aṃśu*,⁶ while the plant as a whole is called *andhas*,⁷ which also denotes the juice.⁸ *Parvan*⁹ is the stem. *Kṣip*,¹⁰ 'finger,' is used as a designation of the shoots, which may therefore have resembled fingers in shape; *vakṣaṇā*¹¹ and *vāṇa*¹² also seem to have the sense of the shoot. There is some slight evidence to suggest that the stem was not round, but angular.¹³

¹ The word is not actually found applied to the plant itself; but the **Pañcaviṃśa Brāhmaṇa**, ix. 5, 3, prescribes *arjunāni*, plants of this indefinite colour, as a substitute for **Soma**, if **Pītikas** cannot be obtained.

² Rv. vii. 98, 1; x. 94, 3; 144, 5. Cf. **Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa**, iv. 5, 10, 1 et seq.

³ Rv. ix. 92, 1. The **Soma** cow, with which **Soma** was purchased, is called *babhru* or *aruṇā*, **Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa**, iii. 3, 1, 15; **Maitrāyaṇī Saṃhitā**, iii. 7, 5, etc.

⁴ Rv. iii. 53, 14. Cf. **Naicāsākha**.

⁵ *Vedische Mythologie*, I, 14-18; 2, 241-245.

⁶ Rv. i. 168, 3 iii. 48, 2, etc.

⁷ Rv. i. 28, 7; iii. 48, 1; iv. 16, 1, etc.

⁸ ii. 14, 1; 19, 1; 35, 1, etc.

⁹ Rv. i. 9, 1. Cf. *parus*, **Taittiriya Brāhmaṇa**, iii. 7, 13; **Vaitāna Sūtra**, 24.

¹⁰ Rv. ix. 79, 4. Cf., however, **Pischel**, *Vedische Studien*, I, 70.

¹¹ Rv. viii. 1, 17.

¹² Rv. iv. 24, 9; ix. 50, 1. But these passages are both very doubtful. Cf. **Vāṇa**. The husk left after the pressing is called *andhas* (ix. 86, 44), *vavri* (ix. 69, 9), *tvac* (ix. 86, 44); **Taittiriya Brāhmaṇa**, iii. 7, 13, 1. *śarira* (*ibid.*, 2), *śarya* (ix. 68, 2), *tānva* (ix. 78, 1).

¹³ Cf. *prsthya* in Rv. iv. 20, 4; **Hillebrandt**, I, 54, 55.