

while he exercises his art.³⁷ His wife³⁸ and his cow³⁹ are both sacred.

4. *Legal Position of Brahmins.*—The Taittiriya Saṃhitā⁴⁰ lays down a penalty of a hundred (the unit meant is unknown) for an insult to a Brahmin, and of a thousand for a blow; but if his blood is drawn, the penalty is a spiritual one. The only *real* murder is the slaying of a Brahmin according to the Satapatha Brāhmaṇa.⁴¹ The crime of slaying a Brahmin ranks above the sin of killing any other man, but below that of killing an embryo (*bhrūṇa*) in the Yajurveda;⁴² the crime of slaying an embryo whose sex is uncertain is on a level with that of slaying a Brahmin.⁴³ The murder of a Brahmin can be expiated only by the horse sacrifice,⁴⁴ or by a lesser rite in the late Taittiriya Āraṇyaka.⁴⁵ The ritual slaying of a Brahmin is allowed in the later ceremonial,⁴⁶ and hinted at in the curious legend of Śunaḥśepa;⁴⁷ and a Purohita might be punished with death for treachery to his master.⁴⁸

5. *Purity of Birth.*—The importance of pure descent is seen in the stress laid on being a descendant of a Ṛṣi (*ārṣeya*).⁴⁹ But, on the other hand, there are clear traces of another doctrine, which requires learning, and not physical descent, as the true criterion of Ṛṣihood.⁵⁰ In agreement with this is the fact that Satyakāma Jābāla was received as a pupil, though his parentage was unknown, his mother being a slave girl who had been connected with several men,⁵¹ and that in the Satapatha

³⁷ Taittiriya Saṃhitā, vi. 4, 9, 3. Contrast Rv. x. 97, 22, where no discredit attaches to the profession.

³⁸ Av. v. 17.

³⁹ Ibid., v. 18.

⁴⁰ ii. 6, 10, 2.

⁴¹ xiii. 3, 5, 3.

⁴² Kāthaka Saṃhitā, xxxi. 7; Kapiṣṭhala Saṃhitā, xlvii. 7; Taittiriya Brāhmaṇa, iii. 2, 8, 12.

⁴³ Taittiriya Saṃhitā, vi. 5, 10, 2; Kāthaka Saṃhitā, xxvii. 9; Weber, *Indische Studien*, 9, 481; 10, 66.

⁴⁴ Satapatha Brāhmaṇa, xiii. 3, 1, 1; 5, 4, 1 *et seq.*

⁴⁵ x. 38.

⁴⁶ Sāṅkhāyana Śrauta Sūtra, xvi. 10, 10; 12, 16-20; Weber, *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft*, 18, 268, 269.

⁴⁷ Aitareya Brāhmaṇa, vii. 15; Sāṅkhāyana Śrauta Sūtra, xv. 20.

⁴⁸ Pañcaviṃśa Brāhmaṇa, xiv. 6, 8.

⁴⁹ See Taittiriya Saṃhitā, vi. 6, 1, 4; Vājasaneyi Saṃhitā, vii. 46; Taittiriya Brāhmaṇa, i. 4, 4, 2; Satapatha Brāhmaṇa, iv. 3, 4, 19; xii. 4, 4, 6.

⁵⁰ Taittiriya Saṃhitā, vi. 6, 1, 4; Kāthaka Saṃhitā, xxx. 1; Maitrāyaṇi Saṃhitā, iv. 8, 1.

⁵¹ Chāndogya Upaniṣad, vi. 4, 4.