

power of 'colouring' (from *rañj*, 'to colour'). The species cannot be identified owing to the untrustworthiness of the later authorities who attempt its identification.

Rajayitri, a 'female dyer,' is included in the list of victims at the Puruṣamedha ('human sacrifice') in the Yajurveda.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Vājasaneyi Saṃhitā, xxx. 12; Taittirīya Brāhmaṇa, iii. 4. 7. 1.

1. **Rajas** denotes the region of the atmosphere between heaven and earth in the Rigveda<sup>1</sup> and later.<sup>2</sup> The atmosphere, like the sky (*Div*), is divided into three regions,<sup>3</sup> but more normally into two, the 'earthly' (*parthiva*)<sup>4</sup> and the 'heavenly' (*divya* or *diva*).<sup>5</sup> In some passages<sup>6</sup> the word refers in the plural to the dusty fields on earth.

<sup>1</sup> i. 56, 5; 62, 5; 84, 1; 124, 5; 168, 6; 187, 4; ii. 40, 3; vi. 62, 9, etc.

<sup>2</sup> Av. iv. 25, 2; vii. 25, 1; 41, 1; x. 3, 9; xiii. 2, 8. 43; Taittirīya Saṃhitā, iii. 5. 4. 2; Vājasaneyi Saṃhitā, xiii. 44, etc.

<sup>3</sup> Rv. iv. 53, 5; v. 69, 1; ix. 74, 6; x. 45, 3; 123, 8; Av. xiii. 1, 11, etc.

In Rv. i. 164, 6, six 'regions' are mentioned.

<sup>4</sup> Rv. i. 81, 5; 90, 7; 154, 1; vi. 49, 3; viii. 88, 5; ix. 72, 8, etc.

<sup>5</sup> Rv. iv. 53, 3; i. 110, 6. Cf. Macdonell, *Vedic Mythology*, p. 10; St. Petersburg Dictionary, s.v.

<sup>6</sup> Rv. i. 166, 3; iii. 62, 16; x. 75, 7.

2. **Rajas** in one passage of the Yajurveda Saṃhitās<sup>1</sup> clearly means 'silver,' like **Rajata**. It is also taken in this sense in one passage of the Rigveda<sup>2</sup> by Zimmer,<sup>3</sup> but this interpretation is doubtful.

<sup>1</sup> *Rajata-baya*, Vājasaneyi Saṃhitā, v. 8; *rajābaya*, Taittirīya Saṃhitā, i. 2, 11; 2 (Sāyana on Aitareya Brāhmaṇa,

i. 23, 2); Maitrāyaṇi Saṃhitā, i. 2, 7; Kāthaka Saṃhitā, ii. 8.

<sup>2</sup> x. 105, 7.

<sup>3</sup> *Altindisches Leben*, 55, 56.

**Rajasa** occurs once in the Atharvaveda,<sup>1</sup> apparently as the name of a kind of 'fish.' Roth,<sup>2</sup> however, understood it as an adjective meaning 'impure.'

<sup>1</sup> x. 2, 25.

<sup>2</sup> St. Petersburg Dictionary, s.v. Cf. Bloomfield, *Hymns of the Atharvaveda*,

621; Whitney, Translation of the Atharvaveda, 624.