

In the household the mother ranked after the father (see Pitṛ). Occasionally *mātarā* is used for 'parents,' as are also *pitārā* and *mātarā pitārā*⁷ and *mātā-pitaraḥ*.⁸

⁷ Rv. iii. 33, 3; vii. 2, 5, etc. For *mātarā pitārā*, see Rv. iv. 6, 7; Vāja-saneyi Samhitā, ix. 19.

⁸ Taittiriya Samhitā, i. 3, 10, vi. 3, 11, 3.

Māṭṛ-vadha, 'matricide,' is mentioned as a very grave crime in the Kauṣītaki Upaniṣad (iii. 1), but as one that can be expiated by the knowledge of the truth.

Māṭṛ-han, 'mother-killer,' 'matricide,' occurs in a Vedic quotation mentioned by the commentator on Pāṇini.¹

¹ Kāśikā Vṛtti on Pāṇini, iii. 2, 88: *māṭṛhā saptaṃam narakam pravīṣet*.

Mātrā in the Upaniṣads¹ denotes a mora, the length of a short vowel.

¹ Taittiriya Upaniṣad, i. 2, 1; Aitareya Āraṇyaka, iii. 1, 5; Śāṅkhāyana Āraṇyaka, vii. 15.

1. **Mātsya**, 'prince of the Matsya people.' See **Matsya**.

2. **Mātsya** occurs in the Taittiriya Brāhmaṇa¹ as the name of a Ṛṣi skilled in sacrifice. Possibly,² but not probably, he may also be meant in the Atharvaveda.³

¹ i. 5, 2, 1, where he serves Yajñeṣu and Śatadyumna.

² Bloomfield, *Hymns of the Atharva-veda*, 681.

³ xix. 39, 9.

Cf. Weber, *Naxatra*, 2, 306.

Māthava, 'descendant of Mathu,' is the patronymic of Videgha, perhaps 'king of Videha,' in the Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa.¹

¹ i. 4, 1, 10, 17. Cf. Eggeling, *Sacred Books of the East*, 12, xli, 10, n. 1; 26, xxix.; Weber, *Indische Studien*, 1, 170.