

Vāsitā in the Atharvaveda<sup>1</sup> and later<sup>2</sup> denotes a cow desiring the bull.

<sup>1</sup> v. 20, 2.

<sup>2</sup> Kāṭhaka Samhitā, xiii. 4; Tait- | tiriya Brāhmaṇa, i. 1, 9, 9; Aitareya Brāhmaṇa, vi. 18, 10; 21, 14, etc.

Vāśī is mentioned in the Rigveda both as a weapon of the Maruts<sup>1</sup> and as held by the god Tvaṣṭr,<sup>2</sup> as well as in other mythical surroundings.<sup>3</sup> It is used, however, in the Atharvaveda<sup>4</sup> of the carpenter's knife; here it may mean 'awl,' in accordance with Sāyaṇa's view.

<sup>1</sup> i. 37, 2; 88, 3; v. 53, 4.

<sup>2</sup> viii. 29, 3.

<sup>3</sup> viii. 12, 12; x. 53, 10; 101, 10 (of the stones with which the Soma plant is manipulated), all doubtful passages.

<sup>4</sup> x. 6, 3 (where the manuscripts all have *vāsyā*: perhaps this is really a different word).

<sup>5</sup> Zimmer, *Altindisches Leben*, 307.

Vāsaḥ-palpūli, 'washer of clothes,' is the name of one of the victims at the Puruṣamedha ('human sacrifice') in the Yajurveda.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Vājasaneyi Samhitā, xxx. 12; Taittiriya Brāhmaṇa, iii. 4, 7, 1.

Vāsaś is the most usual word in the Rigveda<sup>1</sup> and later<sup>2</sup> for 'clothing.' Clothes were often woven of sheep's wool (*cf.* *Urṇā*); the god Pūṣan is called a 'weaver of garments' (*vāso-vāya*)<sup>3</sup> because of his connexion with the fashioning of forms. The garments worn were often embroidered (*cf.* *Peśas*), and the Maruts are described as wearing mantles adorned with gold.<sup>4</sup> When the 'giver of garments' (*vāso-dā*)<sup>5</sup> is mentioned along with the giver of horses and gold, ornamental garments are probably meant. There are several references in the Rigveda<sup>6</sup> to the Indians' love of ornament, which is attested by Megasthenes.

<sup>1</sup> i. 34, 1; 115, 4; 162, 16; viii. 3, 24; x. 26, 6; 102, 2, etc.

<sup>2</sup> Taittiriya Samhitā, vi. 1, 9, 7; 11, 2; Vājasaneyi Samhitā, ii. 32; xi. 40; Aitareya Brāhmaṇa, i. 3, etc. A garment of Kuśa grass is mentioned in Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa, v. 2, 1, 8, as worn by the wife of the sacrificer at the consecration, but it is doubtful

whether such dresses were normally worn. *Cf.* also *kauśumbha-paridhāna*, 'a silken garment,' Śāṅkhāyana Aranyaka, xi. 4.

<sup>3</sup> Rv. x. 26, 6.

<sup>4</sup> Rv. v. 55, 6 (*hiranyayān athān*).

<sup>5</sup> Rv. x. 107, 2. *Cf.* *vastra-dā*, v. 24, 3.

<sup>6</sup> Rv. i. 85, 1; 92, 4; ix. 96, 1; x. 1, 6.