

Śva-varta, 'found in dogs,' is, according to some manuscripts, the name of a species of worm in the Atharvaveda (ix. 4, 16). See Śavarta.

Śvaśura from the Rigveda onwards¹ denotes the 'father-in-law' of the wife; not till the Sūtra period does it include the 'father-in-law' of the husband.² The daughter-in-law (Snuṣā), in the normal case when the father-in-law was the head of the family to which her husband belonged in fact as well as in age, was bound to pay him all respect.³ When the old man had ceased to exercise control, she became mistress (*samrājñī*) over him and his wife.⁴ In the plural⁵ the word denotes the 'parents-in-law.'

¹ x. 28, 1; 85, 46; 95, 4; Av. viii. 6, 24; xiv. 2, 26, etc.

² Pāraskara Grhya Sūtra, iii. 10, 46.

³ See Rv. x. 95, 4; Av. viii. 6, 24; Maitrāyaṇī Saṃhitā, ii. 4, 2; Kāthaka Saṃhitā, xii. 12 (*Indische Studien*, 5, 260); Aitareya Brāhmaṇa, iii. 22, 7. So in Av. xiv. 2, 26, the daughter-in-law is to be 'helpful' to the father-in-law.

⁴ Rv. x. 85, 46. See Pati.

⁵ Rv. x. 95, 12; Av. xiv. 2, 27; Kāthaka Saṃhitā, *loc. cit.* Or it may be a plural *majestatis*, but not a sign of polyandry.

Cf. Delbrück, *Die indogermanischen Verwandtschaftsnamen*, 515, 516.

Śvaśrū denotes 'mother-in-law' of the husband¹ as well as of the wife.² She, together with her husband, if he became unable to manage the family,³ fell under the daughter-in-law's sway, but otherwise was entitled to regard.⁴ The gambler in the Rigveda⁵ complains of his having lost the favour of his wife's mother as one of the misfortunes brought upon him by dicing.

¹ Rv. x. 85, 46; Av. xiv. 2, 26.

² Rv. x. 34, 3.

³ Rv. x. 85, 46.

⁴ Av. xiv. 2, 26.

⁵ Rv. x. 34, 3.

Cf. Delbrück, *Die indogermanischen Verwandtschaftsnamen*, 516.

Śvājani is the name of a Vaiśya in the Jaiminiya Upaniṣad Brāhmaṇa (iii. 5, 2).