

by Roth<sup>1</sup> in a difficult passage of the Rigveda,<sup>2</sup> where the received text presents the apparent false concord *vidhantam vidhavām*, in which he sees a metrical lengthening for *vidhavam*, 'the sacrificing widower.' Ludwig in his version takes *vidhantam* as equivalent to a feminine, while Delbrück<sup>3</sup> prefers 'the worshipper and the widow.' Possibly 'the widower and the widow' may be meant; but we know nothing of the mythological allusion in question, the feat being one of those attributed to the Aśvins, and the natural reference to **Ghoṣā** as 'husbandless' being rendered unlikely because their feat in regard to her has already been mentioned a few verses before in the same hymn.<sup>4</sup> The word *Vidhavā* is not of common occurrence.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> St. Petersburg Dictionary, s.v.; so also Grassmann.

<sup>2</sup> x. 40, 8.

<sup>3</sup> *Die indogermanischen Verwandtschaftsnamen*, 443.

<sup>4</sup> x. 40, 5.

<sup>5</sup> Rv. iv. 18, 12; x. 40, 2; *Śaṣṭvīṃśa Brāhmaṇa*, iii. 7; *Nirukta*, iii. 15.

**Vidhu** seems clearly to mean (as it does in the post-Vedic language) the 'moon' in a passage of the Rigveda,<sup>1</sup> where it is alluded to as 'wandering solitary in the midst of many' (*vidhuḥ dadrāṇam samane bahūnām*).

<sup>1</sup> x. 55, 5; *Nirukta*, xiv. 18. Cf. Hillebrandt, *Vedische Mythologie*, i, 465. That the 'many' are the **Nakṣatras** is

neither certain nor even probable. The stars are an adequate explanation.

**Vi-naśana**, 'disappearance,' is the name of the place where the **Sarasvatī** is lost in the sands of the desert. It is mentioned in the *Pañcaviṃśa Brāhmaṇa*<sup>1</sup> and the *Jaiminiya Upaniṣad Brāhmaṇa*.<sup>2</sup> The locality is the Patiala district of the Panjab.<sup>3</sup> Cf. **Plakṣa Prāsravaṇa**.

<sup>1</sup> xxv. 10, 6; *Kātyāyana Śrauta Sūtra*, xxiv. 5, 30; *Lātyāyana Śrauta Sūtra*, x. 15, 1; *Baudhāyana Dharma Sūtra*, i. 1, 2, 12. Cf. Bühler, *Sacred Books of the East*, 14, 2, 147.

<sup>2</sup> iv. 26.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. *Imperial Gazetteer of India*, 22, 97.

**Vip** in several passages of the Rigveda<sup>1</sup> refers, according to Roth,<sup>2</sup> to the rods which form the bottom of the Soma filter,

<sup>1</sup> ix. 3, 2; 65, 12; 99, 1.

<sup>2</sup> St. Petersburg Dictionary, s.v.