

Vrata ('vow') in the later *Samhitās*¹ and the *Brāhmaṇas*² has the peculiar sense of the 'milk' used by one who is living on that beverage alone as a vow or penance.

¹ Av. vi. 133, 2; *Taittirīya Samhitā*, vi. 2, 5, 3, 4; *Vājasaneyi Samhitā*, iv. 11, etc.

² *Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa*, iii. 2, 2, 10. 14. 17; 4, 2, 15; ix. 2, 1, 18. Cf. *ghṛta-*

vrata, *Pañcaviṃśa Brāhmaṇa*, xviii. 2, 5, 6, and *vrata-dughā*, the 'cow that gives the Vrata milk,' *Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa*, iii. 2, 2, 14; xiv. 3, 1, 34. etc.

Vratati in the *Rigveda*¹ and later² denotes a 'creeping plant.'

¹ viii. 40, 6; *Nirukta*, i. 14; vi. 28.

² *Taittirīya Brāhmaṇa*, i. 5, 1, 3, etc.

Vrāja-pati is found in one passage of the *Rigveda*,¹ where it is said that comrades attend Indra, as the **Kulapas** the **Vrāja-pati**, when he goes about. Zimmer² thinks that this refers to the heads of families being subordinate in war to the village headman (**Grāmaṇī**), but Whitney³ seems to be right in seeing merely the chieftain surrounded by the leading men, the family heads, not necessarily merely a village headman. **Vrāja** alone occurs in one passage of the *Atharvaveda*,⁴ adverbially in the sense of 'in troops.'

¹ x. 179, 2 = Av. vii. 72, 2.

² *Altindisches Leben*, 171.

³ Translation of the *Atharvaveda*, 436.

⁴ i. 16, 1. Cf. Whitney, *op. cit.*, 17.

Vrāja-bāhu is used in the *Kauṣītaki Brāhmaṇa* (ii. 9) of the 'encompassing arms' of death, **Vrāja** here apparently meaning a 'pen,' like **Vraja**. Cf. **Viṣṭhā-vrājin**.

Vrāta is found in several passages of the *Rigveda*¹ and later² in the sense of 'troop.' In one passage of the *Rigveda*³ the troops of the Maruts are referred to by three different terms—*śardha*, *vrāta*, and *gaṇa*. From this fact Zimmer⁴ has

¹ i. 163, 8; iii. 26, 2; v. 53, 11; ix. 14, 2 (perhaps an allusion to the five tribes); x. 34, 8. 12 (of dice). In x. 57, 5, the host of the living (*jīva vrāta*) is referred to.

² Av. ii. 9, 2 ('host of the living');

Taittirīya Samhitā, i. 8, 10, 2; *Vājasaneyi Samhitā*, xvi. 25; *Pañcaviṃśa Brāhmaṇa*, vi. 9, 24; xvii. 1, 5, 12, etc.

³ v. 53, 11. Cf. iii. 26, 2, where *śardha* is not mentioned.

⁴ *Altindisches Leben*, 162.