

found them in high flood, but Viśvāmītra by prayer induced the waters to subside. The same feat appears to be referred to in another passage of the same book of the Rigveda.⁵ Curiously enough, Sāyaṇa⁶ quite misunderstands the situation: according to him, Viśvāmītra having obtained wealth by the exercise of his office, went off with it to the rivers, pursued by others. Yāska's⁷ version of the tale merely seems to mean that the king paid Viśvāmītra to act as his **Purohita**, or domestic priest. For the relations of Viśvāmītra to Vasiṣṭha connected with their service of **Sudās**, see **Vasiṣṭha**.

The Viśvāmītras are mentioned in several other passages of the Rigveda,⁸ and are also designated as a family by the term **Kuśikas**.⁹

In the later literature Viśvāmītra becomes, like Vasiṣṭha, a mythical sage, usually¹⁰ mentioned in connection with **Jamadagni**; he was Hotṛ priest at the sacrifice of **Śunaḥśepa**, whom he adopted, and to whom he gave the name of **Devarāta**.¹¹ He was a protégé of Indra, with whom he had an interview according to the Rigveda **Āraṇyakas**.¹² He is also often mentioned as a **Ṛṣi**.¹³

In the Epic¹⁴ Viśvāmītra is represented as a king, who becomes a Brahmin. There is no trace of his kingship in the Rigveda, but the **Nirukta**¹⁵ calls his father, **Kuśika**, a king; the

⁵ iii. 53, 9-11. This hymn is probably later.

⁶ Sāyaṇa on Rv. iii. 33.

⁷ Nirukta, ii. 24.

⁸ iii. 1, 21; 18, 4; 53, 13; x. 89, 17; Av. xviii. 3, 6; 4, 54; Jaiminiya Upaniṣad Brāhmaṇa, iii. 15, 1.

⁹ Rv. iii. 26, 1, 3; 29, 15; 30, 20; 42, 9; 53, 9, 10.

¹⁰ Cf. Rv. iii. 53, 15, 16; Sadguru-śiṣya in Macdonell's edition of the *Sarvānukramaṇi*, p. 107; Weber, *Indische Studien*, I, 117; Muir, *Sanskrit Texts*, I², 343; Geldner, *Vedische Studien*, 3, 158 et seq.

¹¹ Aitareya Brāhmaṇa, vii. 16 et seq.; Śāṅkhāyana Śrauta Sūtra, xv. 17 et seq.

¹² Aitareya Āraṇyaka, ii. 2, 3; Śāṅkhāyana Āraṇyaka, i. 5.

¹³ Aitareya Āraṇyaka, ii. 2, 1; Aitareya Brāhmaṇa, vi. 18, 1; 20, 3; Taittiriya Saṃhitā, ii. 2, 1, 2; iii. 1, 7, 3; v. 2, 3, 4, etc.; Kāthaka Saṃhitā, xvi. 19; xx. 9; Maitrāyaṇi Saṃhitā, ii. 7, 19; Kauṣītaki Brāhmaṇa, xv. 1; xxvi. 14; xxviii. 1, 2; xxix. 3; Pañcaviṃśa Brāhmaṇa, xiv. 3, 12; Bṛhadāraṇyaka Upaniṣad, ii. 2, 4; Jaiminiya Upaniṣad Brāhmaṇa, iii. 3, 13; 15, 1, etc. Jamadagni is often associated with him, Av. iv. 29, 5, etc.

¹⁴ Muir, *Sanskrit Texts*, I², 388 et seq.

¹⁵ ii. 24.