

The former sense is supported by another passage of the Vājasaneyi Saṃhitā,² where the Mayu, being a substitute for the man, must be an ape. This sense also suits the word in the other passage³ where it occurs.

² viii. 47; *mayu āraṇya* in Taittiriya Saṃhitā, iv. 2, 10, 1.

³ Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa, vii. 5, 2, 22.

Cf. Zimmer, *Altindisches Leben*, 85; Weber, *Indische Studien*, 9, 246.

Mayūkha denotes, from the Rigveda onwards,¹ a 'peg,' especially as used for keeping a web stretched.² Cf. Otu.

¹ Rv. vii. 99, 3; Taittiriya Saṃhitā, ii. 3, 1, 5; Kāthaka Saṃhitā, xi. 6; Aitareya Brāhmaṇa, v. 15, 9, etc.

² Rv. x. 130, 2 (in a metaphor); Av. x. 7, 42; Kāthaka Saṃhitā, xxvi. 6; Taittiriya Brāhmaṇa, ii. 5, 5, 3, etc.

Mayūra, 'peacock,' occurs in the Rigveda in the compounds describing Indra's horses, *mayūra-romān*,¹ 'with hair like peacocks' feathers,' and *mayūra-śēpya*,² 'with tails like those of peacocks.' The peacock also appears in the list of victims at the Aśvamedha ('horse sacrifice') in the Yajurveda Saṃhitās.³ The pea-hen, Mayūri, is mentioned in the Rigveda⁴ and the Atharvaveda,⁵ in both cases with reference to the bird's efficacy against poison, a curious superstition to be compared with the modern dislike of peacocks' feathers.

¹ Rv. iii. 45, 1.

² Rv. viii. 1, 25.

³ Maitrāyaṇī Saṃhitā, iii. 14, 4; Vājasaneyi Saṃhitā, xxiv. 23, 27.

⁴ i. 191, 14 (a late hymn).

⁵ vii. 56, 7.

Cf. Zimmer, *Altindisches Leben*, 90.

Marīci in the plural denotes, according to Weber,¹ the 'particles of light' or 'shining motes' that fill the air, as opposed to rays of light (*raśmi*). This meaning adequately suits the passages in the early Vedic literature² where the

¹ *Indische Studien*, 9, 9, accepted by the St. Petersburg Dictionary, s.v.

² Rv. x. 57, 12; 177, 1; Av. iv. 38, 5 (where *raśmi* and *marīci* are opposed); v. 27, 10; vi. 113, 2; Taittiriya Saṃhitā, vi. 4, 5, 5 (*marīci-pa*, 'drinking

atoms of light,' said of the gods); Taittiriya Brāhmaṇa, ii. 2, 9, 2 (where Sāyaṇa's version, *sarvatra - prasṛta - prabhā - dravya*, refers to the light as everywhere diffused), etc.