

This possibly adumbrates the misfortunes of the Kauravas in the epic tradition.

In the Rigveda the Kurus do not appear under that name as a people. But mention is made of a prince, **Kuruśravaṇa** ('Glory of the Kurus'),²⁵ and of a **Pākasthāman Kaurayāṇa**.²⁶ In the Atharvaveda²⁷ there occurs as a king of the Kurus **Parikṣit**, whose son, **Janamejaya**, is mentioned in the Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa²⁸ as one of the great performers of the horse sacrifice.

It is a probable conjecture of Oldenberg's²⁹ that the Kuru people, as known later, included some of the tribes referred to by other names in the Rigveda. Kuruśravaṇa, shown by his name to be connected with the Kurus, is in the Rigveda called **Trāsadasya**, 'descendant of **Trasadasyu**,' who is well known as a king of the **Pūrus**. Moreover, it is likely that the **Trtsu-Bharatas**, who appear in the Rigveda as enemies of the Pūrus, later coalesced with them to form the Kuru people.³⁰ Since the Bharatas appear so prominently in the Brāhmaṇa texts as a great people of the past, while the later literature ignores them in its list of nations, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that they became merged in some other tribe. Moreover, there is evidence that the Bharatas occupied the territory in which the Kurus were later found. Two of them are spoken of in a hymn of the Rigveda³¹ as having kindled fire on the **Dr̥ṣadvatī**, the **Āpayā**, and the **Sarasvatī**—that is to say, in the sacred places of the later Kurukṣetra. Similarly, the goddess **Bhārati** ('belonging to the Bharatas') is constantly mentioned in the **Āpri** ('propitiatory') hymns together with **Sarasvatī**.³² Again, according to the **Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa**, one Bharata king was victorious over the **Kāśis**,³³ and another made offerings to **Gaṅgā** and **Yamunā**,³⁴ while raids of the Bharatas against the **Satvants** are mentioned in the **Aitareya Brāhmaṇa**.³⁵ Nor is it

²⁵ Rv. x. 33, 4.

²⁶ Rv. viii. 3, 21.

²⁷ xx. 127, 7 et seq.; Khila, v. 10.

²⁸ xiii. 5, 4.

²⁹ *Buddha*, 403, 404.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, 406-409.

³¹ iii. 23.

³² Cf. Scheftelowitz, *Die Apokryphen des Rigveda*, 145.

³³ xiii. 5, 4, 11.

³⁴ *Ibid.*, 21.

³⁵ *Aitareya Brāhmaṇa*, ii. 25 (cf. Haug's edition, 2, 128, n. 3); Oldenberg, *Buddha*, 407, note *.