

the Kaivarta or Kevarta, Pauñjiṣṭha, Dāśa, Maināla, 'fisher man,' and perhaps the Bainda and the Ānda,⁵ who seem to have been some sort of fishermen.

It is not probable that even in the earliest Vedic period hunting formed the main source of livelihood for any of the Vedic tribes: pastoral pursuits and agriculture (Kṛṣi) were, no doubt, the mainstay of their existence. But it would be unreasonable to suppose that not much hunting was done, both for recreation and for purposes of food, as well as for protection of flocks from wild beasts. The Rigveda is naturally our chief source of information in regard to hunting. The arrow was sometimes employed,⁶ but, as is usual with primitive man, the normal instruments of capture were nets and pitfalls. Birds were regularly caught in nets (Pāśa,⁷ Nidhā,⁸ Jāla⁹), the bird-catcher being called *nidhā-pati*,¹⁰ 'master of snares.' The net was fastened on pegs¹¹ (as is done with modern nets for catching birds). Another name of net is apparently *Mukṣijā*.

Pits were used for catching antelopes (*Rśya*), and so were called *rśya-da*,¹² 'antelope-catching.' Elephants were captured as in Greek times, perhaps through the instrumentality of tame females (see *Mrga Hastin*). Apparently the boar was captured in the chase, dogs being used,¹³ but the passage from which this view is deduced is of uncertain mythological content. There is also an obscure reference¹⁴ to the capture of the buffalo (*Gaura*), but it is not clear whether the reference is to shooting with an arrow or capturing by means of ropes, perhaps a lasso, or a net. The lion was captured in pitfalls,¹⁵ or was surrounded by the hunters and slain;¹⁶ one very obscure passage refers to the lion being caught by ambuscade, which perhaps merely alludes to the use of the hidden pit.¹⁷

The modes of catching fish are little known, for the only evidence available are the explanations of the various names

⁵ Vājasaneyi Saṃhitā, xxx. 16; Taittiriya Saṃhitā, iii. 4, 12, 1.

⁶ Rv. ii. 42, 2.

⁷ Pāśin, 'hunter,' Rv. iii. 45, 1.

⁸ Rv. ix. 83, 4; x. 73, 11.

⁹ Av. x. 1, 30.

¹⁰ Rv. ix. 83, 4.

¹¹ Av. viii. 8, 5.

¹² Rv. x. 39, 8.

¹³ Rv. x. 86, 4.

¹⁴ Rv. x. 51, 6.

¹⁵ Rv. x. 28, 10.

¹⁶ Rv. v. 15, 3.

¹⁷ Rv. v. 74, 4. Cf. Griffith, *Hymns of the Rigveda*, I, 542, n.