

of a father the brother was looked to for aid, and that brotherless maidens were apt to be ruined, though religious terrors were believed to await the man who took advantage of their defencelessness.⁸ Moreover, women could not take an inheritance,⁹ and were not independent persons in the eyes of the law, whether married or not. Presumably before marriage they lived on their parents or brothers, and after that on their husbands, while in the event of their husbands predeceasing them, their relatives took the property, burdened with the necessity of maintaining the wife.¹⁰ Their earnings would be appropriated by their nearest relative—usually father or brother—in the few cases in which unmarried women could earn anything, as in the case of courtezans.

⁸ Rv. iv. 5, 5.

⁹ Taittiriya Samhitā, vi. 5, 8, 2; Maitrāyaṇī Samhitā, iv. 6, 4; Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa, iv. 4, 2, 13; Nirukta, iii. 4.

¹⁰ Cf. the Attic *ἐπίκληρος*, Keilh., *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 1912, 427.

Stha-pati is the name of a royal official mentioned in the Atharvaveda,¹ and often later.² **Revottaras Cākra** was the Sthapati of the exiled **Duṣṭaritu Paumsāyana**, a king of the **Srñjayas**, and succeeded in restoring him to his royal dignity.³ The exact sense of the term is not certain: 'governor'⁴ is possible, but perhaps 'chief judge'⁵ is more likely; as in the case of the early English judges, his functions may have been both executive and judicial. He is inferior in position to the king's brother.⁶

¹ ii. 32, 4; v. 23, 11 (of the chief of the worms in both cases).

² Taittiriya Samhitā, iv. 5, 2, 2; Kāthaka Samhitā, xvii. 12; Maitrāyaṇī Samhitā, ii. 9, 3; Vājasaneyi Samhitā, xvi. 19; Pañcaviṃśa Brāhmaṇa, xvii. 11, 6, 7; xxiv. 18, 2; Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa, v. 4, 4, 17, etc.

³ Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa, xii. 8, 1, 17; 9, 3, 1 *et seq.* Sthapati here is part, as it were, of the name of the man.

⁴ In the Kātyāyana Śrauta Sūtra, i. 1, 12; Āpastamba Śrauta Sūtra, ix. 14, 12, is found Niṣāda-sthapati; perhaps 'governor of Niṣādas.' But it may also mean (*cf.* Weber, *Indische*

Studien, i. 207, n.) a Niṣāda as a Sthapati; thus, little can be deduced from this passage in particular. Eggeling, *Sacred Books of the East*, 41, 111, renders it 'governor.' Cf. also St. Petersburg Dictionary, s.v., and *Aupoditi*.

⁵ Weber, *Indische Studien*, 10, 13, n. 3; 13, 203; 17, 200; 18, 260; *Über den Rājasūya*, 15, n. 6; *Über den Vājapya*, 9, 10. Cf. Kātyāyana Śrauta Sūtra, xxii. 5, 28; 11, 11; Lātyāyana Śrauta Sūtra, viii. 7, 11; Āpastamba Śrauta Sūtra, xxii. 7, 6.

⁶ Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa, v. 4, 4, 17.