

But the penances for breach of duty are, in the Sūtras, of a very light and unimportant character.⁶⁸

7. *Brahminical Studies*.—The aim of the priest is to obtain pre-eminence in sacred knowledge (*brahma-varcasam*), as is stated in numerous passages of Vedic literature.⁶⁹ Such distinction is not indeed confined to the Brahmin: the king has it also, but it is not really in a special manner appropriate to the Kṣatriya.⁷⁰ Many ritual acts are specified as leading to *Brahmavarcasa*,⁷¹ but more stress is laid on the study of the sacred texts: the importance of such study is repeatedly insisted upon.⁷²

The technical name for study is *Svādhyāya*: the *Satapatha Brāhmaṇa* is eloquent upon its advantages,⁷³ and it is asserted that the joy of the learned Śrotriya, or 'student,' is equal to the highest joy possible.⁷⁴ *Nāka Maudgalya* held that study and the teaching of others were the true penance (*tapas*).⁷⁵ The object was the 'threefold knowledge' (*trayī vidyā*), that of the *Rc*, *Yajus*, and *Sāman*,⁷⁶ a student of all three Vedas being called *tri-śukriya*⁷⁷ or *tri-śukra*,⁷⁸ 'thrice pure.' Other objects of study are enumerated in the *Satapatha Brāhmaṇa*,⁷⁹ in the *Taittiriya Āraṇyaka*,⁸⁰ the *Chāndogya Upaniṣad*,⁸¹ etc. (See *Itihāsa*, *Purāṇa*; *Gāthā*, *Nārāsaṃsi*; *Brahmodya*; *Anuśāsana*, *Anuvyākhyāna*, *Anvākhyāna*, *Kalpa*, 2. *Brāhmaṇa*; *Vidyā*, *Kṣatравид्या*, *Devajanavidyā*, *Nakṣatравид्या*, *Bhūta-vidyā*, *Sarpavidyā*; *Atharvāṅgirasah*, *Daiva*, *Nidhi*, *Pitrya*, *Rāsi*; *Sūtra*, etc.)

⁶⁸ *Taittiriya Āraṇyaka*, ii. 18, etc.

⁶⁹ *Taittiriya Saṃhitā*, iv. 1, 7, 1; vii. 5, 18, 1; *Kāthaka Saṃhitā*, *Aśvamedha*, v. 14; *Vājasaneyi Saṃhitā*, xxii. 22; xxvii. 2; *Taittiriya Brāhmaṇa*, iii. 8, 13, 1; *Aitareya Brāhmaṇa*, iv. 11, 6-9; *Satapatha Brāhmaṇa*, xiii. 2, 6, 10; x. 3, 5, 16; xi. 4, 4, 1; *Pañcaviṃśa Brāhmaṇa*, vi. 3, 5.

⁷⁰ *Satapatha Brāhmaṇa*, ii. 1, 3, 6; xiii. 1, 5, 3, 5; 2, 6, 9.

⁷¹ *Kāthaka Saṃhitā*, xxxvii. 7; *Taittiriya Brāhmaṇa*, ii. 7, 1, 1; *Pañcaviṃśa Brāhmaṇa*, xxiii. 7, 3, etc.; *Satapatha Brāhmaṇa*, ii. 3, 1, 31, etc.

⁷² *Satapatha Brāhmaṇa*, i. 7, 2, 3; xi. 3, 3, 3-6; 5, 7, 10.

⁷³ *Satapatha Brāhmaṇa*, xi. 5, 6, 3-9; 7, 1; *Taittiriya Āraṇyaka*, ii. 13.

⁷⁴ *Bṛhadāraṇyaka Upaniṣad*, iv. 3, 35-39; *Taittiriya Āraṇyaka*, ix. 8.

⁷⁵ *Ibid.*, vii. 8, 10.

⁷⁶ *Satapatha Brāhmaṇa*, i. 1, 4, 2, 3; ii. 6, 4, 2-7; iv. 6, 7, 1, 2; v. 5, 5, 9; vi. 3, 1, 10, 11, 20; x. 5, 2, 1, 2; xi. 5, 4, 18; xii. 3, 3, 2, etc.

⁷⁷ *Kāthaka Saṃhitā*, xxxvii. 7.

⁷⁸ *Taittiriya Brāhmaṇa*, ii. 7, 1, 2.

⁷⁹ xi. 5, 7, 5-8. ⁸⁰ ii. 9, 10.

⁸¹ vii. 1, 2, 4; 2, 1; 7, 1.