

but there is no necessity to attribute to the word the sense of 'lunar mansion' in these passages.

On the other hand, the names of at least three of the Nakṣatras in the later sense occur in the Rigveda. *Tiṣya*,¹² however, does not seem to be mentioned as a lunar mansion. With *Aghās* (plur.) and *Arjunī* (dual)¹³ the case is different: it seems probable that they are the later lunar mansions called *Maghās* (plur.) and *Phalgunī* (dual). The names appear to have been deliberately changed in the Rigveda, and it must be remembered that the hymn in which they occur, the wedding hymn of *Sūryā*, has no claim to great age.¹⁴ *Ludwig*¹⁵ and *Zimmer*¹⁶ have seen other references to the Nakṣatras as 27 in the Rigveda,¹⁷ but these seem most improbable. Nor do the adjectives *revatī* ('rich') and *punarvasū* ('bringing wealth again') in another hymn¹⁸ appear to refer to the Nakṣatras.

The Nakṣatras as Lunar Mansions.—In several passages of the later *Samhitās* the connexion of the moon and the Nakṣatras is conceived of as a marriage union. Thus in the *Kāthaka*¹⁹ and *Taittirīya Samhitās*²⁰ it is expressly stated that Soma was wedded to the mansions, but dwelt only with *Rohiṇī*; the others being angry, he had ultimately to undertake to live with them all equally. *Weber*²¹ hence deduced that the Nakṣatras were regarded as of equal extent, but this is to press the texts unduly, except in the sense of approximate equality. The number of the mansions is not stated as 27 in the story told in the two *Samhitās*: the *Taittirīya* has 33, and the *Kāthaka* no

¹² Rv. v. 59, 13; x. 64, 8; *Weber*, 2, 290.

¹³ x. 85, 13; *Weber*, 364-367, and see references under *Aghā* and *Arjunī*.

¹⁴ Cf. *Arnold, Vedic Metre*, 322.

¹⁵ Translation of the Rigveda, 3, 184 et seq.

¹⁶ *Altindisches Leben*, 354. Cf. *Tilak, Orion*, 158.

¹⁷ i. 162, 18 (the 34 ribs of the horse = moon, sun, 5 planets, 27 Nakṣatras); x. 55, 3 (34 lights).

¹⁸ x. 19, 1.

¹⁹ xi. 3 (*Indische Studien*, 3, 467).

²⁰ ii. 3, 5, 1-3. Cf. also iii. 4, 7, 1; *Kāthaka Samhitā*, xviii. 14; *Vājasaneyi Samhitā*, xviii. 40; *Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa*, ix. 4, 1, 9; *Śaṅkṣha Brāhmaṇa*, iii. 12. The dwelling of the moon in a Nakṣatra is mentioned, *Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa*, x. 5. 4, 17; *Nirukta*, v. 21; a Mantra in *Kausika Sūtra*, 135; *Taittirīya Aranyaka*, i. 11, 6; v. 12, 1, etc.

²¹ *Op. cit.*, 277. Cf. the later system of the *Siddhāntas*, *Whitney, Oriental and Linguistic Studies*, 2, 372, and see *Tilak, Orion*, 33 et seq.