

Bhikṣā, 'begging,' is one of the duties of the **Brahmacārin** according to the *Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa*.¹ The word has also the sense of 'alms,' as that which is obtained by begging, in the *Atharvaveda*.² According to the *St. Petersburg Dictionary*,³ it has this sense in the *Chāndogya Upaniṣad*⁴ also, but the correct reading there is probably **Āmikṣā**.

¹ xi. 3, 3, 7. Cf. a Mantra in *Āśvalāyana Gṛhya Sūtra*, i. 9, etc.; and *bhikṣācārya*, *Brhadāranyaka Upaniṣad*, iii. 4, 1; iv. 4, 26.

² xi. 5, 9.

³ s.v. 2.

⁴ viii. 8, 5, where the scholiast explains the word by 'perfumes, garlands, food,' etc. (*gandhamālyānnādī*).

Bhikṣu, 'beggar,' is a term not found in Vedic literature. The begging of the **Brahmacārin** is quite a different thing from the duties of the **Bhikṣu** in the later system of the *Āśramas* (religious stages of life), when the Brahmin in the last stage of his life, after leaving his home and family, lives on alms alone. See **1. Brāhmaṇa**.

Bhitti in the *Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa*¹ denotes a mat made of split reeds.

¹ iii. 5, 3, 9. Cf. *Sāṅkhāyana Śrauta Sūtra*, viii. 3, 24.

Bhīṣaj, 'physician,' is a word of common occurrence in the *Rigveda*¹ and later.² There is no trace whatever in the former text of the profession being held in disrepute: the *Asvins*,³ *Varuṇa*,⁴ and *Rudra*⁵ are all called physicians. On the other hand, in the *Dharma literature*⁶ this profession is utterly

¹ ii. 33, 4; vi. 50, 7; ix. 112, 1; *bhīṣaja*, adjective, ii. 33, 7; x. 137, 6; substantive, i. 23, 19, 20; ii. 33, 2, 4; vi. 74, 3; vii. 46, 3, etc.

² *Av. v. 29, 1; vi. 24, 2; Taittiriya Saṁhitā*, vi. 4, 9, 2; *Vājasaneyi Saṁhitā*, xvi. 5; xix. 12, 88; xxx. 10, etc.; *bhīṣaja*, adjective, *Av. vi. 109, 3; Vājasaneyi Saṁhitā*, xvi. 45, etc.; substantive, *Av. v. 29, 1; vi. 21, 2; xi. 1, 9, etc.*

³ *Rv. i. 116, 16; 157, 6; viii. 18, 8; 86, 1; x. 39, 3, 5; Av. vii. 53, 1; Aitareya Brāhmaṇa*, i. 18.

⁴ See *Rv. i. 24, 9.*

⁵ *Rv. ii. 33, 4, 7.*

⁶ See *Āpastamba Dharma Sūtra*, i. 6, 18, 20; 19, 15; *Gautama Dharma Sūtra*, xvii. 17; *Vasiṣṭha Dharma Sūtra*, xiv. 2, 19; *Viṣṇu*, li. 10; lxxxii. 9; Bloomfield, *Hymns of the Atharvaveda*, l.