

**Yama** denotes 'twins,' the birth of which is frequently alluded to in Vedic literature.<sup>1</sup> Twins of different sex seem to be indicated by the expression *yamau mithunau*.<sup>2</sup> There are traces of the belief—widely spread among negro and other races—that twins are uncanny and of evil omen,<sup>3</sup> but there are also vestiges of the opposite opinion, that twins are lucky.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Rv. i. 66, 4; i64, 15; ii. 39, 2; iii. 39, 3; v. 57, 4; vi. 59, 2; x. 13, 2; ii7, 9; Pañcaviṃśa Brāhmaṇa, xvi. 4, 10, etc.

<sup>2</sup> Kāthaka Saṃhitā, xiii. 4; Nirukta, xii. 10.

<sup>3</sup> Av. iii. 28; Aitareya Brāhmaṇa, vii. 9, 8; Kātyāyana Śrauta Sūtra,

xxv. 4, 35; Śāṅkhāyana Śrauta Sūtra, iii. 4, 14, etc. Cf. **Yamasū**; **Yuktāśva**.

<sup>4</sup> Taittiriya Saṃhitā, vii. 1, 1, 3; Pañcaviṃśa Brāhmaṇa, xxiv. 12, 3; Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa, v. 3, 1, 8, and cf. Rv. iii. 39, 3.

Cf. Weber, *Indische Studien*, 17, 298-300; *Naxatra*, 2, 314, n.

**Yama-nakṣatra.** See **Nakṣatra**.

**Yama-sū**, a 'bearer of twins,' is one of the victims at the **Puruṣamedha** ('human sacrifice') in the **Yajurveda**.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Vājasaneyi Saṃhitā, xxx. 15; Taittiriya Brāhmaṇa, iii. 4, 11, 1.

**Yamunā**, 'twin,' the name of a river, so called as running parallel with the Ganges, is mentioned thrice in the **Rigveda**,<sup>1</sup> and not rarely later. According to the **Rigveda**,<sup>2</sup> the **Tr̥tsus** and **Sudās** won a great victory against their foes on the **Yamunā**; there is no reason<sup>3</sup> whatever to accept Hopkins'<sup>4</sup> view that the **Yamunā** here was another name of the **Paruṣṇī** (**Ravi**). In the **Atharvaveda**<sup>5</sup> the salve (**Āñjana**) of the **Yamunā** (**Yāmuna**) is mentioned along with that of **Trikakud** (**Traikakuda**) as of value. In the **Aitareya**<sup>6</sup> and the **Śatapatha**<sup>7</sup> **Brāhmaṇas** the **Bharatas** are famed as victorious on the **Yamunā**. Other **Brāhmaṇas**<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> v. 52, 17; vii. 18, 19; x. 75, 5.

<sup>2</sup> vii. 18, 19. See **Bharata** and **Kuru**.

<sup>3</sup> The **Tr̥tsus**' territory lay between the **Yamunā** and the **Sarasvatī** on the east and the west respectively.

<sup>4</sup> *India, Old and New*, 52.

<sup>5</sup> iv. 9, 10.

<sup>6</sup> viii. 23.

<sup>7</sup> xiii. 5, 4, 11.

<sup>8</sup> Pañcaviṃśa Brāhmaṇa, ix. 4, 11 (cf. **Pārāvata**); xxv. 10, 24; 13, 4; Śāṅkhāyana Śrauta Sūtra, xiii. 29, 25, 33; Kātyāyana Śrauta Sūtra, xxiv. 6, 10, 39; Lāṭyāyana Śrauta Sūtra, x. 19, 9, 10; Āśvalāyana Śrauta Sūtra, xii. 6, 28, etc.