

still seething with discontent, and Rudra was worshipped as the patron god of all sorts of evil doers.²⁰

This version of the development of caste has received a good deal of acceptance in its main outlines, and it may almost be regarded as the recognized version.²¹ It has, however, always been opposed by some scholars, such as Haug,²² Kern,²³ Ludwig,²⁴ and more recently by Oldenberg²⁵ and by Geldner.²⁶ The matter may be to some extent simplified by recognizing at once that the caste system is one that has progressively developed, and that it is not legitimate to see in the Rigveda the full caste system even of the Yajurveda; but at the same time it is difficult to doubt that the system was already well on its way to general acceptance. The argument from the non-brahminical character of the *Vrātyas* of the Indus and Panjab loses its force when it is remembered that there is much evidence in favour of placing the composition of the bulk of the Rigveda, especially the books²⁷ in which *Sudās* appears with *Vasiṣṭha* and *Viśvāmitra*, in the east, the later *Madhyadeśa*, a view supported by Pischel,²⁸ Geldner,²⁹ Hopkins,³⁰ and Macdonell.³¹ Nor is it possible to maintain that Brahman in the Rigveda merely means a 'poet' or 'sage.' It is admitted by Muir that in some passages it must mean a hereditary profession; in fact, there is not a single passage in which it occurs where the sense of 'priest' is not allowable, since the priest was of course the singer. Moreover, there are traces in the Rigveda of the threefold³² or fourfold³³ division of the people

²⁰ Weber, *Indische Studien*, 2, 22 et seq.; *Indian Literature*, 110, 111.

²¹ See, e.g., von Schroeder, *Indiens Literatur und Cultur*, 152 et seq.; Macdonell, *Sanskrit Literature*, 159 et seq.; Weber, *Indische Studien*, 10, 1 et seq.; Kaegi, *Rigveda*, n. 58.

²² *Brahma und die Brahmanen*, 1871.

²³ *Indische Theorien over de Standen-verdeeling*, 1871. Cf. for this, and the preceding work, Muir, *op. cit.*, 2², 454 et seq.

²⁴ *Die Nachrichten des Rig und Atharvaveda über Geographie, Geschichte und Verfassung des alten Indien*, 36 et seq.; Translation of the Rigveda, 3, 237-243, etc.

²⁵ *Religion des Veda*, 373 et seq., and cf. *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft*, 51, 267 et seq.

²⁶ *Vedische Studien*, 2, 146, n.

²⁷ iii. and vii.

²⁸ *Vedische Studien*, 2, 218.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, 3, 152.

³⁰ *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 19, 18.

³¹ *Sanskrit Literature*, 145.

³² *Rv.* viii. 35, 16-18.

³³ *Rv.* i. 112. 6. More doubtful are the references seen by Ludwig to the three castes in ii. 27. 8; vi. 51, 2; vii. 66, 10