

Śaka-dhūma is found in one hymn of the Atharvaveda,¹ where it is celebrated as the king of the asterisms. The word seems to mean the 'smoke of (burning) cow-dung,' or else the 'smoke (rising) from (fresh) cow-dung': it may well be, as Weber² thinks, that this was deemed to be significant of the weather. Bloomfield,³ however, considers that the word is to be rendered as 'weather prophet,' that is, one who foretells the weather by means of the smoke of a fire. Whitney⁴ objects to this view with reason. It is not at all improbable that, as Roth⁵ believed, an asterism of some sort is meant, probably the 'milky way.'

¹ vi. 128, i. 3, 4, and in the Nakṣatra Kalpa.

² *Omina and Portenta*, 363; *Indische Studien*, 5, 257; 10, 65; *Nakṣatra*, 2, 272, n.; 293.

³ *American Journal of Philology*, 7, 484 et seq.; *Journal of the American Oriental*

Society, 13, cxxxiii; *Hymns of the Atharvaveda*, 532, 533.

⁴ Translation of the Atharvaveda, 377, 378.

⁵ *St. Petersburg Dictionary*, s.v.

Cf. Zimmer, Altindisches Leben, 353; *Caland, Altindisches Zauberritual*, 175, n. 3.

Śakan. See Śakṛt.

Śaka-pūta ('purified by cow-dung') is the name, apparently, of a prince, in one hymn of the Rigveda (x. 132, 5).

Śakam-bhara, 'bearer of dung,' is found in one passage of the Atharvaveda,¹ where the sense is doubtful. Ludwig² and Grill³ see in it a tribal name, Bloomfield⁴ the personification of excessive evacuation (diarrhoea), while Whitney⁵ considers that it may refer to the Mahāvṛṣas, despised as having to collect dung for fuel in the absence of wood in their country.

¹ v. 22, 4.

² Translation of the Rigveda, 3, 510.

³ *Hundert Lieder*,² 154.

⁴ *Hymns of the Atharvaveda*, 445, 445.

⁵ Translation of the Atharvaveda, 259.

Cf. Weber, Indische Studien, 18, 253.

Śakā is the name of one of the victims at the Aśvamedha ('horse sacrifice') in the Yajurveda Saṃhitās.¹ It is uncer-

¹ *Taittirīya Saṃhitā*, v. 5, 12, 1; 18, 1; *Maitrāyaṇi Saṃhitā*, iii. 14, 13; *Vājasaneyi Saṃhitā*, xxiv. 32.