

Rasā is found in three passages of the Rigveda,<sup>1</sup> clearly as the name of a real stream in the extreme north-west of the Vedic territory. Elsewhere<sup>2</sup> it is the name of a mythic stream at the ends of the earth, which as well as the atmosphere it encompasses. It is reasonable to assume that, as in the case of the Sarasvatī, the literal is the older sense, and to see in the river a genuine stream, perhaps originally the Araxes or Jaxartes, because the Vendidad mentions the Rañhā, the Avestan form of Rasā. But the word seems originally to allude merely to the 'sap' or 'flavour' of the waters,<sup>3</sup> and so could be applied to every river, like Sarasvatī.

<sup>1</sup> i. 112, 12; v. 53, 9; x. 75, 6. In v. 53, 9, the phrase *rasānitabhā* is found. Ludwig, Translation of the Rigveda, 3, 202, is inclined to regard *anitabhā* as an epithet of Rasā, perhaps for *amitabhā*, 'of unmeasured splendour,' but this is hardly probable. It seems better to take *Anitabhā* as the name of an otherwise unknown river. Cf. Max Müller, *India*, 166, 173, n.

<sup>2</sup> Rv. v. 41, 15; ix. 41, 6; x. 100, 1. 2 (cf. Jaiminiya Brāhmaṇa, ii. 348; *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 19, 100 *et seq.*); 121, 4.

<sup>3</sup> Rv. iv. 43, 6; viii. 72, 13. Cf. Zimmer, *Altindisches Leben*, 15, 16; Max Müller, *Sacred Books of the East*, 32, 323; Brunnhofer, *Iran und Turan*, 86; Weber, *Proceedings of the Berlin Academy*, 1898, 567-569.

Rasāsīr as an epithet of Soma in the Rigveda<sup>1</sup> means 'mixed with juice'—i.e., with milk.

<sup>1</sup> iii. 48, 1, where Sāyana explains *rasa* as 'milk.' Cf. Hillebrandt, *Vedische Mythologie*, 1, 211, n. 5.

Raha-sū, 'bearing in secret,' is a term applied in one passage of the Rigveda (ii. 29, 1) to an unmarried mother. Cf. Pati and Dharma.

Rahasyu Deva-malimluc is the name, in the Pañcavimśa Brāhmaṇa (xiv. 4, 7), of a mythical person who at Munimarapa slew the saintly Valkhānases.

Rahū-gaṇa is the name of a family mentioned in the plural in one passage of the Rigveda.<sup>1</sup> According to Ludwig,<sup>2</sup> they were connected with the Gotamas, as is shown by the name Gotama Rāhūgaṇa.

<sup>1</sup> i. 78, 5.

<sup>2</sup> Translation of the Rigveda, 3, 110.

Cf. Oldenberg, *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft*, 42, 236, n. 1.