

appears in the Upaniṣads¹ as engaged in philosophical discussions. He is probably identical with the Jaivali of the Jaiminiya Upaniṣad Brāhmaṇa.²

¹ Brhadāranyaka Upaniṣad, vi. 1, | Chāndogya Upaniṣad, i. 8, 1; v. 1. 7 (Mādhyamdina=vi. 2, 1. 4 Kāṇva); | 3, 1.
² i. 38, 4.

Pra-śas in a Mantra in the Aitareya Brāhmaṇa¹ denotes, according to the St. Petersburg Dictionary, an 'axe,' or some similar instrument for cutting.²

¹ ii. 6, 5. Cf. Durga on Nirukta, v. 11.

² From *śas*, 'to cut.'

Pra-śāstr is the name of one of the priests (Ṛtvij) at the Vedic sacrifice. In the lesser sacrifices he plays no part at all, but he appears in the animal (*paśu*) and Soma sacrifices, in the former as the only, in the latter as the main, assistant of the **Hotṛ** priest in the singing of the litanies. He is mentioned by name in the Rigveda,¹ and often later.² He is also in the Rigveda³ called **Upavakṛ**, this name, like **Praśāstr**, being derived from the fact that one of his chief functions was to issue directions (*praiśa*) to the other priests. Another name for him was **Maitrāvaruṇa**, because his litanies were mainly addressed to Mitra and Varuṇa, a connexion already visible in the Rigveda.⁴ The 'two divine Hotṛs' of the Āprī litanies denote, according to Oldenberg,⁵ the heavenly counterparts of the Hotṛ and the **Praśāstr**.

¹ i. 94, 6; ii. 5, 4; *praśāstra*, 'the Soma bowl of the **Praśāstr**,' 36, 6; *praśāstra*, 'the office of the **Praśāstr**,' ii. 1, 2=x. 91, 10.

² Vājasaneyi Samhitā, x. 21; Aitareya Brāhmaṇa, v. 34; Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa, iv. 6, 6, 6; xi. 5, 5, 9, etc.

³ iv. 9, 5; vi. 71, 5; ix. 95, 5. According to Ludwig, Translation of

the Rigveda, 3, 226, the **Upavakṛ** is the earliest equivalent of the **Achāvāka**.

⁴ ii. 36, 6.

⁵ *Religion des Veda*, 391. Ludwig, *op. cit.*, 3, 227, identifies the **Praśāstr** with the **Prastotṛ**, but this is most improbable.

Cf. Oldenberg, *op. cit.*, 383, 390, 391; Weber, *Indische Studien*, 10, 141 *et seq.*

Praśna denotes generally 'enquiry' or 'disputed question,' the phrase *praśnam eti* having the sense 'he asks a person for