

ripened in autumn, being sown in the beginning of the rains; beans and sesamum, planted at the time of the summer rains, ripened in the winter and the cool season. There were two harvests (**Sasya**) a year according to the Taittiriya Saṃhitā;²⁰ the winter crop was ripe by the month of Caitra (March-April) according to the Kauṣītaki Brāhmaṇa.²¹

The farmer had plenty of trouble of his own: moles destroyed the seed, birds and various kinds of reptiles (**Upakvasa, Jabhya, Tarda, Pataṅga**) injured the young shoots, excessive rain or drought might damage the crops. The Atharvaveda contains spells to prevent these evils.²²

²⁰ v. 1, 7, 3.

²¹ xix. 3. Cf. Keith, *Śāṅkhāyana Aranyaka*, 81, n. 1.

²² See Av. vi. 50. 142; vii. 11.

Cf. Zimmer, *Altindisches Leben*, 235-243.

Kṛṣṭi denotes 'people' in general from the Rigveda¹ onwards. Its common and regular use in this sense appears to show that the Āryans, when they invaded India, were already agriculturists, though the employment of the words referring to ploughing mentioned under Kṛṣi indicates that not all of the people devoted themselves equally to that occupation. Indra and Agni are *par excellence* the lords of men (Kṛṣṭi).² Sometimes the word is further defined by the addition of an adjective meaning 'belonging to mankind,' 'of men' (*mānuṣiḥ*,³ *mānaviḥ*).⁴

Special mention is frequently⁵ made of the 'five peoples' (*pañca kṛṣṭayah*). The exact sense of this expression is doubtful. See **Panca Janāsaḥ**.

¹ i. 52, 11; 100, 10; 160, 5; 189, 3; iii. 49, 1; iv. 21, 2, etc.; Av. xii. 1, 3-4.

² i. 177, 1; iv. 17, 5; vii. 26, 5; viii. 13, 9 (Indra); i. 59, 5; vi. 18, 2; vii. 5, 5 (Agni).

³ Rv. i. 59, 5; vi. 18, 2.

⁴ Av. iii. 24, 3.

⁵ Rv. ii. 2, 10; iii. 53, 16; iv. 38, 10; x. 60, 4; 119, 6; 178, 3; Av. iii. 24, 2; xii. 1, 42.

Cf. Zimmer, *Altindisches Leben*, 141.

I. **Kṛṣṇa** ('black') denotes a dark-coloured animal or bird. In some passages,¹ as the context shows, an antelope is certainly

¹ Taittiriya Saṃhitā, v. 2, 6, 5; vi. 1, 3, 1; Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa, i. 1, 4, 1; iii. 2, 1, 28. So *kṛṣṇa-viṣāṇā*; 'horn of the black antelope,' *ibid.*, iii. 2, 1, 18. 28; 2, 20; iv. 4, 5, 2;

v. 4, 2, 5; Taittiriya Saṃhitā, vi. 1, 3, 7. See also the Aśvamedha passages, Maitrāyaṇī Saṃhitā, iii. 14, 17; Vājāsaneī Saṃhitā, xxiv. 36 (cf. ii. 1).