

3. **Kośa**.—The exact sense of this word in **Kośa-kārī**, the designation of a female victim at the **Puruṣamedha**, or human sacrifice,¹ is uncertain. It may be 'sheath.'

¹ *Vājasaneyi Saṃhitā*, xxx. 14; *Taittirīya Brāhmaṇa*, iii. 4, 10, 1.

Koṣa.—The **Koṣas** appear as a priestly family in the **Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa**, where one of them, **Suśravas**, is mentioned by name.²

¹ x. 5, 5, 8.

² x. 5, 5, 1.

Kosala is the name of a people not occurring in the earliest Vedic literature. In the story of the spread of Āryan culture told in the **Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa**,¹ the **Kosala-Videhas**, as the offspring of **Videgha Māthava**, appear as falling later than the **Kuru-Pañcālas** under the influence of Brahminism. The same passage gives the **Sadānirā** as the boundary of the two peoples—**Kosala** and **Videha**. Elsewhere² the **Kausalya**, or **Kosala** king, **Para Ātṅara Hairaṇyanābha**, is described as having performed the great **Aśvamedha**, or horse sacrifice. Connexion with **Kāśī** and **Videha** appears also from a passage of the **Śāṅkhāyana Śrauta Sūtra**.³ **Weber**⁴ points out that **Āśvalāyana**, who was very probably a descendant of **Aśvala**, the **Hotṛ** priest of **Videha**, is called a **Kosala** in the **Praśna Upaniṣad**.⁵ The later distinction of North and South **Kosala** is unknown to both Vedic and **Buddhist** literature.⁶

Kosala lay to the north-east of the **Ganges**, and corresponded roughly to the modern **Oudh**.

¹ i. 4, 1, 1 *et seq.*

² *Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa*, xiii. 5, 4, 4. Cf. **Hiraṇya-nābha**, a **Rājaputra**, in **Praśna Upaniṣad**, iii. 2, and **Śāṅkhāyana Śrauta Sūtra**, xvi. 9, 13, as a **Kausalya**, while *ibid.*, xi, **Para** is styled **Vaideha**.

³ xvi. 29, 5.

⁴ *Indische Studien*, i, 182, 441.

⁵ vi. 1.

⁶ **Oldenberg**, *Buddha*, 393, n.

Cf. **von Schroeder**, *Indians Literatur und Cultur*, 167; **Eggeling**, *Sacred Books of the East*, 12, xlii; **Weber**, *Indian Literature*, 39, 132 *et seq.*; **Macdonell**, *Sanskrit Literature*, 213-215; **Rhys Davids**, *Buddhist India*, 25.

Kaukūsta is mentioned in the **Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa**¹ as a giver of a **Dakṣiṇā**, or gift to the priests officiating at a sacrifice. The **Kāṇva** recension reads the name **Kaukṭhāsta**.²

¹ iv. 6, 1, 13.

² **Eggeling**, *Sacred Books of the East*, 26, 426, n. 1. Cf. **Weber**, *Indian Literature*, 134.