

1. **Kṣatra**, in the general sense of 'dominion,' 'rule,' 'power,' as exercised by gods and men, occurs frequently from the Rigveda¹ onwards. The word is also found in the concrete sense of 'rulers' in the Rigveda² and later;³ but in no case does it in the Rigveda certainly⁴ mean what it regularly denotes in the later Saṃhitās,⁵ the ruling class as opposed to the priests (**Brahman**), the subject people (**Viś, Vaiśya**), and the servile class (**Śūdra**). See also **Kṣatriya**. A Kṣatra-pati is several times mentioned⁶ as an equivalent of 'king.'

¹ i. 24, 11; 136, 1, 3; iv. 17, 1; v. 62, 6, etc.; Av. iii. 5, 2; v. 18, 4, etc. So *kṣatra-śrī*, Rv. i. 25, 5; vi. 26, 8; *kṣatra-bhṛt*, 'bringers of lordship.' Taittirīya Saṃhitā, ii. 4, 7, 2; Taittirīya Brāhmaṇa, ii. 4, 6, 12; 7, 6, 3; Vājasaneyi Saṃhitā, xxvii. 7, etc.

² Singular: i. 157, 2; viii. 35, 17.

³ Plural: Av. iv. 22, 2; Vājasaneyi Saṃhitā, x. 17; Taittirīya Brāhmaṇa, ii. 7, 6, 3.

⁴ See Roth, St. Petersburg Dictionary, s.v., and Varṇa.

⁵ Av. ii. 15, 4; ix. 7, 9; xii. 5, 8; xv. 10, 5, etc.; Taittirīya Saṃhitā, i. 6, 1, 2; ii. 2, 11, 2, etc.; Vājasaneyi Saṃhitā, v. 27; xiv. 24; xviii. 38, etc. See other citations under Varṇa.

⁶ Taittirīya Saṃhitā, i. 8, 14, 2; Vājasaneyi Saṃhitā, x. 17; Taittirīya Brāhmaṇa, i. 7, 8, 5; Śātaṭpatha Brāhmaṇa, v. 4, 2, 2.

2. **Kṣatra** seems to be the name of a man mentioned with others, including **Manasa**, **Yajata**, and **Avatsāra**, in one quite obscure passage of the Rigveda.¹

¹ v. 44, 10. Cf. Ludwig, Translation of the Rigveda, 3, 138.

Kṣatra-vidyā, 'the science of the ruling class,' is mentioned in the Chāndogya Upaniṣad.¹ Śāṅkara glosses the term with *dhanur-veda*, 'the science of the bow,' which is the most probable sense.²

¹ vii. 1, 2, 4; 2, 1; 7, 1.

² Hopkins, *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 13, 104.

Kṣatriya.—As the origin of caste, the relation of the castes, intermarriage, and cognate matters may most conveniently be discussed under **Varṇa**, this article will be confined to determining, as far as possible, the real character of the class called **Kṣatriyas**, or collectively **Kṣatra**.

The evidence of the Jātakas¹ points to the word **Khattiya**

¹ See Fick, *Die sociale Gliederung im nordöstlichen Indien zu Buddhas Zeit*, 59 et seq.; Rhys Davids, *Dialogues of the*

Buddha, 1, 95 et seq.; *Buddhist India*, 52 et seq.