

varnāh) and the Niṣādas, and the commentator Mahīdhara explains the word where it occurs in the Vājasaneyi Saṃhitā³ as meaning a Bhilla, or Bhīl. A village of Niṣādas is mentioned in the Lātyāyana Śrauta Sūtra,⁴ and a Niṣāda Sthapati, a leader of some kind, is referred to in the Kātyāyana Śrauta Sūtra⁵ and in a Brāhmana cited by the scholiast on that passage. Weber⁶ thinks that the Niṣādas were the settled aborigines (from *ni*, 'down,' and *sad*, 'settle'), a view supported by the fact that the ritual of the Viśvajit sacrifice⁷ requires a temporary residence with Niṣādas; for the Niṣādas who would permit an Āryan to reside temporarily amongst them must have been partially amenable to Āryan influence. But the name might easily be applied to the whole body of aborigines outside the Āryan organization. Von Schroeder⁸ thinks that the Niṣādas were most probably identical with the Nysæans, who, according to the Greek account, sent an embassy to Alexander when he was in the territory of the Aśvakas, but this identification is doubtful.

³ xvi. 27. Cf. xxx. 8.

⁴ viii. 2, 8.

⁵ i. 1, 12; Weber, *Indische Studien*, 10, 13.

⁶ *Indische Studien*, 9, 340. Cf. 10, 13, 16.

⁷ See Kauṣītaki Brāhmana, xxv. 15; Lātyāyana, *loc. cit.*; Pañcaviṃśa Brāhmana, *loc. cit.*

⁸ *Indiens Literatur und Cultur*, 366.

Cf. Zimmer, *Altindisches Leben*, 39,

119. In the later system (Manu, x. 8) the Niṣāda is the offspring of a Brāhmana and of a Śūdra woman, while the Bṛhatsaṃhitā of Varāhamihira (xiv. 10) recognizes a kingdom (*vāṣṭra*) of Niṣādas in the south-east of Madhyadeśa. In the Pāli texts (Fick, *Die sociale Gliederung*, 12, 160, 206 *et seq.*) they are wild hunters and fishers. Cf. also Muir, *Sanskrit Texts*, 1², 301, 303, 366, n. 164, 403, 481.

Niṣka is frequently found in the Rigveda¹ and later² denoting a gold ornament worn on the neck, as is shown by the two epithets *niṣka-karṇiḥa*³ and *niṣka-grīva*,⁴ 'having a gold ornament on the neck.' A Niṣka of silver is mentioned in the Pañcaviṃśa Brāhmana.⁵ As early as the Rigveda⁶ traces are seen of the

¹ ii. 33, 10; viii. 47, 15, etc.

² Av. v. 14, 3; vii. 99, 1; xx. 131, 8; Chāndogya Upaniṣad, iv. 2, 1, 2; v. 13, 2; Jaiminiya Upaniṣad Brāhmana, i. 36, 7, 8; Śatapatha Brāhmana, xiii. 4, 1, 7, 11, etc.

³ Aitareya Brāhmana, viii. 22.

⁴ Rv. v. 19, 3; Av. v. 17, 14.

⁵ xvii. 1, 14, as worn by the Vṛātya Cf. Av. xv. 3.

⁶ i. 126, 2.