

special rite, was performed in the course of the **Rājasūya** or 'royal consecration.' The list given in the **Taittirīya Saṃhitā**¹ and the **Taittirīya Brāhmaṇa**² consists of the **Brahman** (*i.e.*, the **Purohitā**), the **Rājanya**, the **Mahiṣī** (the first wife of the king), the **Vāvāta** (the favourite wife of the king), the **Parivrkti** (the discarded wife), the **Senānī**, 'commander of the army'; the **Sūta**, 'charioteer'; the **Grāmaṇī**, 'village headman'; the **Kṣattr**, 'chamberlain'; the **Samgrahitr**, 'charioteer' or 'treasurer'; the **Bhāgadugha**, 'collector of taxes' or 'divider of food'; and the **Akṣāvāpa**, 'superintendent of dicing' or 'thrower of dice.' In the **Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa**³ the order is **Senānī**; **Purohita**; **Mahiṣī**; **Sūta**; **Grāmaṇī**; **Kṣattr**; **Samgrahitr**; **Bhāgadugha**; **Akṣāvāpa**; **Go-nikartana**, 'slayer of cows' or 'hunter'; and **Pālāgala**, 'courier'; the 'discarded wife' being mentioned as forbidden to stay at home⁴ on the day of the ceremony of offering a pap for **Nirṛti** in her house. In the **Maitrāyaṇī Saṃhitā**⁵ the list is **Brahman** (*i.e.*, **Purohita**); **Rājan**; **Mahiṣī**; **Parivrkti**; **Senānī**; **Samgrahitr**; **Kṣattr**; **Sūta**; **Vaiśyagrāmaṇī**; **Bhāgadugha**; **Takṣa-Rathakārau**, 'carpenter and chariot-maker'; **Akṣāvāpa**; and **Go-vikarta**. The **Kāthaka Saṃhitā**⁶ substitutes **Go-vyacha** for **Govikarta**, and omits **Takṣa-Rathakārau**.

It will be seen that the list is essentially that of the royal household, and of the king's servants in the administration of the country, though the exact sense of **Samgrahitr**, **Bhāgadugha**, **Sūta**, **Grāmaṇī**, **Kṣattr**, is open to reasonable doubt, mainly as to whether public officers or private servants⁷ are meant, for the names are of uncertain significance. A briefer list of eight **Vīras**, 'heroes,' as among the friends of the king,

¹ i. 8, 9, 1 *et seq.*

² i. 7, 3, 1 *et seq.*

³ v. 3, 1, 1 *et seq.*

⁴ According to **Kātyāyana Śrauta Sūtra**, xv. 3. 35, she goes to a Brahmin's house, where she shares his inviolability and exemption from jurisdiction.

⁵ ii. 6, 5; iv. 3, 8.

⁶ xv. 4.

⁷ Similarly **Akṣāvāpa** is either the

man who dices for the king—*i.e.*, a professional dicer who plays with the king or watches his play—or a public officer who superintends the gambling halls of the state and collects the revenue, as was regularly done later on. Early English history shows similar evolution of household officers into ministers of state.