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Vedic Literature - Tvasta and Ritvij

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Tvasta: First Distributors

- According to Sayana, who has written commentary on Rig Veda: Saneru means distribution or Sambhaktra; Sanugi was woman distributor; vajasati mentioned distribution of foods
- Asvins used to protect from wolf (vrka)
- Parivesaka was the distributor of food in Atharvaveda
- Vrata means custom and conduct, it also means race called Panchavrata
- Khadira or Khair also called Kattha was commonly found.
- Babul most common.
- Simsapa mentioned in Atharvaveda.
- Skandhavaras means military camps
- Atranjikhhera, Hastinapur were Painted Grey Ware sites.
- 7 types of brick found in Taittiriya samhita, 9 in Kathaka samhita, 11 in Maitrayani samhita
- Royal share was 1/12 to 1/10 of the produce.
- According to Gautama royal share in the beginning was 1/12 but gradually reduced to 1/6m.
- Vaisya were mostly agriculturist called Balihrt or Balikrt.
- **Ananyasukham (indebtedness)** , Jumgita (**untouchables**) , Aghnya (**not to be killed**)

Ritvij

- Specialists who participated in the yajna and helped in its completion
- There were four types of Ritvij each for the four Vedas:
 1. Hotra Rigveda
 2. Adhvaryu Yajurveda
 3. Udgatra Samveda
 4. Brahmana Atharvaveda

- First convert to monasticism were 5 persons called the **Panchvargiya bhikshu** who converted and formed the basis of monks:
 1. Yasa, first
 2. Vimala
 3. Subahu
 4. Purnjina
 5. Gavampati
- The Maruts are regarded to be sons of Rudra, but they became the companions of Indra and are called **Indrasakha**.
- Rig Veda has tribal character: Important heads: Caidya of Kasu,
- Ugra and Jivagrbha (to deal with criminals) , Madh-yamasi (mediator of disputes)
- Vedas are also known as **Shruti** (to hear) .
- Each Veda has three parts:
 - i. Samhita meaning mantra.
 - ii. Brahmana meaning Chapter (Each chapter deals with different people) .
 - iii. Aryanaka meaning Appendix (Called thus as they were compiled in the forests) .