

the right hand of the dead man.⁴ The weapon was composed of a stout staff bent into a curved shape (*vakra*),⁵ and of a bow-string (*Jyā*) made of a strip of cowhide⁶ which joined the ends. The tips of the bow, when the string was fastened, were called *Ārtnī*. Relaxed when not in actual use, the bow was specially strung up when needed for shooting.⁷ The stages of the process are given in detail in the *Vājasaneyi Samhitā*:⁸ the stringing (*ā-tan*) of the bow, the placing (*prati-dhā*) of the arrow, the bending (*ā-yam*) of the bow, and the shooting (*as*). The arrow was discharged from the ear,⁹ and is hence called *karna-yoni*,¹⁰ 'having the ear as its point of origin.'¹⁰ The making of bows was a regular profession (*dhanuṣ-kāra*,¹¹ *dhanuṣ-kṛt*).¹² For the arrow see *Iṣu*, and for the handguard *Hastaghna*.

⁴ Rv. x. 18, 9.

⁵ Av. iv. 6, 4.

⁶ Rv. vi. 75, 11; Av. i. 2, 3.

⁷ Rv. x. 166, 3; Av. vi. 42, 1.

⁸ xvi. 22.

⁹ Rv. vi. 75, 2 *et seq.* So also in the Epic, Hopkins, *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 13, 271. The Homeric

method is to draw to the breast—*e.g.*, *Iliad*, iv. 123.

¹⁰ Rv. ii. 24, 8.

¹¹ xxx. 7. 12 xvi. 46.

Cf. Zimmer, *Altindisches Leben*, 298, 299; Hopkins, *op. cit.*, 13, 270 *et seq.* The Epic bow is about 5½ feet, and the arrow 3 feet in length.

1. **Dhanvan**, 'bow,' is found frequently in the *Rigveda*¹ and later.² It also occurs in the compounds *iṣu-dhanva*, 'bow and arrow,'³ *ājya-dhanva*,⁴ 'having clarified butter for its bow,'⁵ *adhījya-dhanva*, 'bow with string fixed,' etc. *Cf.* *Dhanus*.

¹ ii. 24, 8; 33, 10; vi. 59, 7; 75, 2; viii. 20, 2; ix. 69, 1; *Nirukta*, ix. 17.

² Av. i. 3, 9; iv. 4, 7; xi. 9, 1, etc.; *Vājasaneyi Samhitā*, xvi. 9, etc.

³ *Aitareya Brāhmaṇa*, vii. 19; *iṣu-dhanvin*, *Taittiriya Samhitā*, v. 1, 2.

⁴ *Aitareya Brāhmaṇa*, i. 25.

⁵ *Satapatha Brāhmaṇa*, ix. 1, 1, 6.

2. **Dhanvan**, 'desert,' is repeatedly mentioned in the *Rigveda*¹ and later.² Death from thirst in the desert was not rare,³ and

¹ ii. 38, 7; iii. 45, 1; iv. 17, 2; 19, 7; 33, 7; v. 53, 6; 83, 10, etc. In i. 116, 4, the strand of the ocean (*Samudra*) is mentioned.

² Av. v. 13, 1; vi. 100, 1; vii. 41, 1, etc.

³ *Aitareya Brāhmaṇa*, ii. 19.