

use of Niṣkas as a sort of currency, for a singer celebrates the receipt of a hundred Niṣkas and a hundred steeds: he could hardly require the Niṣkas merely for purposes of personal adornment. Later the use of Niṣkas as currency is quite clear.⁷ Cf. also Kṛṣṇala.

⁷ Av. xx. 127, 3; Lāṭyāyana Śrauta Sūtra, ix. 9, 20, etc. In the Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa, xi. 4, 1, 1. 8; Gopatha Brāhmaṇa, i. 3, 6; the sense of 'coin' is seen by Eggeling, *Sacred Books of the East*, 44, 50, 51, and by Geldner, *Vedische Studien*, 2, 185.

Cf. Zimmer, *Altindisches Leben*, 51, 259, 263; Geldner, *op. cit.*, 1, 268, n. 2; *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft*, 40, 127.

Niṣkiriya is the name of a school of priests who are mentioned in the Pañcaviṃśa Brāhmaṇa¹ as holding a Sattra, or 'sacrificial session.'

¹ xii. 5, 14. Cf. Hopkins, *Transactions of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences*, 15, 58.

Niṣṭya means in the Rigveda¹ and later² an outsider or stranger. Hence the constellation usually known as Svāti (see Nakṣatra) is named Niṣṭyā in the Taittirīya Brāhmaṇa,³ because it occupies a position markedly away from the ecliptic.

¹ vi. 75, 19; viii. 1, 13; x. 133, 5.

² Av. iii. 3, 6; Vājasaneyi, v. 23; Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa, i. 6, 4, 17, etc.

³ i. 5, 2, 2. 3; iii. 1, 1, 13.

Cf. Max Müller, *Sacred Books of the East*, 32, 215.

Nihākā in the Rigveda¹ and the Taittirīya Saṃhitā² appears to denote some phenomenon of a storm, perhaps the 'whirlwind.'

¹ x. 97, 13.

² vii. 5, 11, 1 (following *nihāra*).

Nikṣaṇa. See Nekṣaṇa.

Nīcya ('living below') is a designation of certain nations of the west. The Nīcya are mentioned in the Aitareya Brāhmaṇa (viii. 14) as distinguished from the people of Madhyadeśa, and no doubt mean the inhabitants of the Indus and Panjab regions.