

In the plural Hiraṇya denotes 'ornaments of gold.'¹¹

A gold currency was evidently beginning to be known in so far as definite weights of gold are mentioned: thus a weight, *aṣṭā-prūd*, occurs in the Saṃhitās,¹² and the golden *śatamāna*, 'weight of a hundred (Kṛṣṇālas)' is found in the same texts.¹³ In several passages,¹⁴ moreover, *hiraṇya* or *hiraṇyāni* may mean 'pieces of gold.'

Gold is described sometimes as *harita*,¹⁵ 'yellowish,' sometimes as *rajata*,¹⁶ 'whitish,' when probably 'silver' is alluded to. It was obtained from the ore by smelting.¹⁷ Megasthenes¹⁸ bears testimony to the richness in gold of India in his time.

¹¹ Rv. i. 122, 2; 162, 16; ii. 33, 9; v. 60, 4; Av. iv. 10, 6; Vājasaneyi Saṃhitā, xv. 50; xx. 37; also in the singular, Av. i. 35, 1; xviii. 4, 56.

¹² Taittirīya Saṃhitā, iii. 4, 1, 4; Kāthaka Saṃhitā, xi. 1; xiii. 10; von Schroeder, *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft*, 49, 164.

¹³ Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa, v. 5, 5, 16; xii. 7, 2, 13; 9, 1, 4. Cf. xiii. 1, 1, 4; 2, 3, 2; 4, 1, 13; 2, 7, 13; xiv. 3, 1, 32; Taittirīya Saṃhitā, ii. 3, 11, 5; Kāthaka Saṃhitā, viii. 5; xxii. 8; Weber, *Indische Streifen*, 1, 101. Geldner, *Vedische Studien*, 1, 268, is inclined to think that a gold unit is alluded to in the vague phrases 'thousands,' etc., of the Rīgveda. See viii. 1, 13; 65, 12; x. 95, 3, etc.

¹⁴ Taittirīya Brāhmaṇa. i. 4, 7, 4;

iii. 8, 2, 2; Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa, xii. 7, 1, 7; xiii. 4, 1, 6, etc.

¹⁵ Kāthaka Saṃhitā, x. 4; Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa, xii. 4, 4, 6; Śaṅgaviṃśa Brāhmaṇa, ii. 9.

¹⁶ Taittirīya Saṃhitā, i. 5, 1, 2; Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa, xii. 4, 4, 7; xiii. 4, 2, 10, etc.

¹⁷ Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa, vi. 1, 3, 5. Cf. ii. 2, 3, 28; xii. 4, 3, 1; Pañcaviṃśa Brāhmaṇa, xvii. 6, 4 (*niṣ-ṭap*, 'heat'); Jaiminīya Brāhmaṇa, i. 10 (*Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 16, 234, ccxliii); Lāṭyāyana Śrauta Sūtra, iii. 1, 9, etc.; Jaiminīya Upaniṣad Brāhmaṇa, iii. 34, 6.

¹⁸ See Diodorus Siculus, ii. 36; Strabo, pp. 703, 711.

Cf. Zimmer, *Altindisches Leben*, 49-51; Macdonell, *Sanskrit Literature*, 151.

Hiraṇya-kaṣipu in the Brāhmaṇas¹ denotes a 'golden seat,' probably one covered with cloth of gold.

¹ Taittirīya Brāhmaṇa, iii. 9, 20, 1; Aitareya Brāhmaṇa, vii. 18, 12. Cf. the word as an adjective with the sense of 'having a golden cloth,' Av. v. 7, 10.

Hiraṇya-kāra denotes a 'worker in gold' mentioned in the list of victims at the Puruṣamedha ('human sacrifice') in the Yajurveda.¹

¹ Vājasaneyi Saṃhitā, xxx. 17; Taittirīya Brāhmaṇa, iii. 4, 14, 1.