

III. Names of Rīshis

ऋषीणां नामानि

We list the names of rīshis who had had the revelation of three or more sūktās among the 1028 sūktās. The appendix contains the names of **all** rīshis in the alphabetic order. For sūktās in which different mantrās are revealed to different rīshis, the sūkta is assigned to all those rīshis. There is repeated mention of the seven rīshis in the tradition. RV (10.137) names the seven rīshis as Bharadvāja, Kashyapa, Gotama, Atri, Vishvāmitra, Jamadagni and Vasīṣṭha. This list is same as that of the Sapta rīshis in the Vaivasvata Manvantara given in Purāṇa. Jamadagni Bhārgava has several hymns in 9th Maṇḍala. Several other rīshis like Kavi have the lineage of Bhārgava. Sūkta (10.110) is due to the rīshi Rāma Jāmadagnya belonging to the lineage of Jamadagni.

Even though Aṅgīrasa is not mentioned in Rig Veda, 46 of his descendents, Āṅgīrasās, are rīshis such as Kutsa, Hiranyastūpa. Similarly eleven Bhāradvāja are rīshis in the Rig Veda.

The list of women Rīshis (R̥shikā) is given separately.

Maṇḍala 1

This Maṇḍala has 191 sūktās. The hymns 65-72 of Parāshara are the most lyrical in the Rig Veda. The first Aṣṭaka having 121 hymns serves as an excellent introduction to the entire Rig Veda. This Maṇḍala has several mantrās which are quoted in the Upanishads.

Sūktās	Rīshis
1-10	Madhuchchhandā Vaishvāmitra
12-23	Medhātithi Kāṇva
24-30	Shunaṣshepa Ājigarti

31-35	Hiranyastūpa Āṅgīrasa
36-43	Kaṇva Ghaura
44-50	Praskaṇva Kāṇva
51-57	Savya Aṅgīrasa
58-64	Nodha Gautama
65-73	Parāshara Shāktya
74-93	Gotama Rāhūgaṇa
94-98, 101-115	Kutsa Āṅgīrasa
99	Kashyapa Mārīcha
116-126	Kakṣhīvān Dairghatamas
127-139	Paruchchhepa Daivodāsī
140-164	Dīrghatamā Auchathya
165-191	Agasthya Maitrāvaruṇi
165, 170	Indra

Maṇḍala 2

All the 43 sūktās have been revealed to the rīshi Gṛtsamada Bhārgava Shaunaka or to his descendents or disciples.

1-3, 8-43	Gṛtsamada Bhārgava
4-7	Somāhuti Bhārgava

Maṇḍala 3

All the 62 sūktās have been revealed to Vishvāmitra Gāthin, his 8 descendents Vaishvāmitra and his father. This Maṇḍala has the famous Gāyatri mantra (3.62.10) of Vishvāmitra whose meaning is in part VI. More than 500 mantrās are ascribed to him. His name is mentioned in other Veda books like Aitareya Āraṇyaka, Taittirīya Samhitā etc. His mantra (3.53.12) is said to protect the clan of Bharatās or the people of Bhārat (*bhāratam janam*). His father, Gāthi Kaushika, is also a rīshi of Rig Veda. There

is no mention of the supposed enmity between the ṛṣhis Vishvāmitra and Vasīṣṭha in the Rig Veda Samhitā. The mantrās (3.53.21-24) directed to the non-physical hostile forces are interpreted by commentators like Durga as directed against Vasīṣṭha. There is no basis in Rig Veda for such an interpretation.

1-12, 24-53, 57-62	Vishvāmitra Gāthin
19-22	Gāthī Kaushikā
54-56	Prajāpati Vaishvāmitra

Maṇḍala 4

All the 58 sūktās have been revealed to Vāmadeva or to his 3 descendents Vāmadevyaḥ. The hymns have a high degree of symbolism.

1-41, 45-58	Vāmadeva Gautama
-------------	------------------

Maṇḍala 5

All the 87 sūktās have been revealed to the Ṛṣhi Atri Bhauma and his 35 descendents, Ātreyaḥ.

3-6	Vasushruta Ātreya
11-14	Sutambhara Ātreya
27, 37-43, 76, 77, 83-86	Atri Bhauma
52-61, 81-82	Shyāvāshva Ātreya

Maṇḍala 6

All the 75 sūktās have been revealed to the Ṛṣhi Bharadvāja or his descendents.

1-30, 37-43, 53-74	Bharadvāja Bārhaspatya
44-46, 48	Shamyu Bārhaspatya
49-52	Rjishvā Bhāradvāja

Maṇḍala 7

This Maṇḍala has 104 sūktās revealed to Vasīṣṭha or his 12 descendents Vāsiṣṭha.

1-104	Vasīṣṭha Maitrāvāruṇi
-------	-----------------------

Maṇḍala 8

The 103 sūktās have been revealed to various Ṛṣhis.

1, 2, 32	Medhātithi Kāṇva
2, 68, 69, 87	Priyamedha Āṅgīrasa
1, 3, 33	Medhyātithi Kāṇva
1, 10, 48, 62-65	Pragātha Gaura Kāṇva
16-18	Irimbīthi Kāṇva
19-22, 103	Sobhari Kāṇva
27-31	Manu Vaivasvata
29	Kashyapa Mārīcha
35-38	Shyāvāshva Ātreya
39-42	Nābhāka Kāṇva
47	Trita Āptya
49	Praskaṇva Kāṇva
76-78	Kurusuti Kāṇva
81-83	Kusīdī Kāṇva
84	Ushanā Kāvya
85-87	Kṛṣṇa Āṅgīrasa
88	Nodhā Gautama

Maṇḍala 9

The 114 sūktās have been revealed to various Ṛṣhis. All sūktās have same deity.

1	Madhuchhandā Vaishvāmitra
2	Medhātithi Kāṇva
3	Shunaḥshepa Ājigarti
4, 69	Hiraṇyastūpa Āṅgīrasa
5-24	Asita Devala Kāshyapa
33, 34, 102	Trita Āptya
41-43	Medhyātithi Kāṇva
44-46	Āyāsya Āṅgīrasa
47-49, 75-79	Kavi Bhārgava
50-52	Uchatya Āṅgīrasa
53-60	Avatsāra Kāshyapa
62, 65, 67	Jamadagni Bhargava
65	Bhṛgurvāruṇi

64, 67, 91, 92, 113, 114	Kashyapa Mārīcha
67, 90, 97	Vasiṣṭha Maitrāvaruṇi
80-82	Vasu Bhāradvāja
87-89	Uṣhana Kāvya
90, 97	Vasiṣṭha Maitrāvaruṇi
93	Nodha Gautama
94	Kaṇva Ghaura
95	Praskaṇva Kāṇva
102	Trita Āptya
107	Sapta R̥shayaḥ

Maṇḍala 10

This Maṇḍala has 191 sūktās. This Maṇḍala has many famous sūktās; however the listing below has only a few names since many r̥shis had received only one or two sūktās. The r̥shi of the famous Puruṣha hymn (10.90) is Nārāyaṇa.

1-7	Trita Āptya
19	Bhṛgurvāruṇi
20-26	Vimaḍa Aindra
27-29	Vasukra Aindra
28, 86	Indra
30-34	Kavaṣha Ailūṣha
42-44	Kṛṣṇa Āngirasa
48-50	Indra Vaikuṇṭha
51-53, 79, 80	Agni Sauchika
54-56	Bṛhaduktha Vāmadevya
57-60	Bandhu Gopāyana
67, 68	Ayāsyā Āngirasa
81, 82	Vishvakarmā Bhauvana
110, 167	Jamadagni Bhārgava
137	Sapta R̥shayaḥ

Women R̥shis (r̥shikā) in the Rig Veda Samhitā

Aditi	4.18
Aditirdākshāyaṇī	10.72
Agastyasvasā	10.60.6
Apālā Ātreya	8.91
Dakṣiṇā Prājāpatya	10.107
Godhā	10.134
Goshā Kākshīvati	10.39, 10.40
Indrāṇī	10.86, 10.145
Indra Mātaraḥ	10.153
Jaritā Sharṅā	10.142
Juhūrbrahmajāyā	10.109
Kāshyapī	9.104
Lopāmudrā	1.179
Rātrīrbhāradvājī	10.127
Romashā	1.126
Sūryā Sāvitrī	10.85
Saramā Devashunī	10.108
Sārparājñī	10.189
Sashvatyaṅgīrasī	8.1
Shachī Paulomi	10.159
Shradhdā Kāmāyāni	10.151
Sikatā Nivāvari	9.86
Sudītīrangirasa	8.71
Tvaṣṭā Garbhakartā	10.184
Urvashī	10.95
Vāgambhṛṇī	10.125
Vasukrapatnī	10.28
Vishvavārā Ātreya	5.28
Yamī Vaivasvatī	10.10
Yamī	10.154

(The list is not exhaustive)