

RIG VEDA - BOOK THE FIFTH

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HYMN I. Agni

1. Agni is wakened by the people's fuel to meet the Dawn who cometh like a milch-cow.

Like young trees shooting up on high their branches, his flames are rising to the vault of heaven.

2 For worship of the Gods the Priest was wakened: at morning gracious Agni hath arisen.

Kindled, his radiant might is made apparent, and the great Deity set free from darkness.

3 When he hath stirred the line of his attendants, with the pure milk pure Agni is anointed.

The strength-bestowing gift is then made ready, which spread in front, with tongues, erect, he drinketh.

4 The spirits of the pious turn together to Agni, as the eyes of all to Surya. He, when both Dawns of different hues have borne him, springs up at daybreak as a strong white charger.

5 The noble One was born at days' beginning, laid red in colour mid the well-laid fuel.

Yielding in every house his seven rich treasures, Agni is seated, Priest most skilled in worship.

6 Agni hath sat him down, a Priest most skilful, on a sweet-smelling place, his Mother's bosom.

Young, faithful, sage, preeminent o'er many, kindled among the folk whom he sustaineth.

7 This Singer excellent at sacrifices, Agni the Priest, they glorify with homage.

Him who spread out both worlds by Law Eternal they balm with oil, strong Steed who never faileth.

8. He, worshipful House-Friend, in his home is worshipped, our own auspicious guest, lauded by sages.

That strength the Bull with thousand horns possesses. In might, O Agni, thou excellest others.

9 Thou quickly passest by all others, Agni, for him to whom thou hast appeared most lovely,

Wondrously fair, adorable, effulgent, the guest of men, the darling of the people.

10 To thee, Most Youthful God! to thee, O Agni from near and far the people bring their tribute.

Mark well the prayer of him who best extols thee. Great, high, auspicious,
Agni, is thy shelter.

11 Ascend to-day thy splendid car, O Agni, in splendour, with the Holy Ones
around it.

Knowing the paths by mid-air's spacious region bring hither Gods to feast on
our oblation.

12 To him adorable, sage, strong and mighty we have sung forth our song of
praise and homage.

Gavisthira hath raised with prayer to Agni this laud far-reaching, like gold
light to heaven.

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HYMN II. Agni.

1. THE youthful Mother keeps the Boy in secret pressed to her close, nor yields
him to the Father.

But, when he lies upon the arm, the people see his unfading countenance before
them.

2 What child is this thou carriest as handmaid, O Youthful One? The
Consort-Queen hath borne him.

The Babe unborn increased through many autumns. I saw him born what time his
Mother bore him.

3 I saw him from afar gold-toothed, bright-coloured, hurling his weapons from
his habitation,

What time I gave him Amrta free from mixture. How can the Indraless, the
hymnless harm me?

4 I saw him moving from the place he dwells in, even as with a herd,
brilliantly shining.

These seized him not: he had been born already. They who were grey with age
again grow youthful.

5 Who separate my young bull from the cattle, they whose protector was in truth
no stranger?

Let those whose hands have seized upon them free them. May he, observant, drive
the herd to us-ward.

6 Mid mortal men godless have secreted the King of all who live, home of the
people.

So may the prayers of Atri give him freedom. Reproached in turn be those who
now reproach him.

7 Thou from the stake didst loose e'en Sunahsepa bound for a thousand; for he
prayed with fervour.

So, Agni, loose from us the bonds that bind us, when thou art seated here, O
Priest who knowest.

8 Thou hast sped from me, Agni, in thine anger: this the protector of Gods'
Laws hath told me.

Indra who knoweth bent his eye upon thee: by him instructed am I come, O Agni.

9 Agni shines far and wide with lofty splendour, and by his greatness makes all

things apparent.

He conquers godless and malign enchantments, and sharpens both his horns to gore the Raksas.

10 Loud in the heaven above be Agni's roarings with keen-edged weapons to destroy the demons.

Forth burst his splendours in the Soma's rapture. The godless bands press round but cannot stay him.

11 As a skilled craftsman makes a car, a singer I, Mighty One! this hymn for thee have fashioned.

If thou, O Agni, God, accept it gladly, may we obtain thereby the heavenly Waters.

12 May he, the strong-necked Steer, waxing in vigour, gather the foeman's wealth with none to check him.

Thus to this Agni have the Immortals spoken. To man who spreads the grass may he grant shelter, grant shelter to the man who brings oblation.

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HYMN III. Agni.

1. THOU at thy birth art Varuna, O Agni; when thou art kindled thou becomest Mitra.

In thee, O Son of Strength, all Gods are centred. Indra art thou to man who brings oblation.

2 Aryaman art thou as regardeth maidens mysterious, is thy name, O Self-sustainer.

As a kind friend with streams of milk they balm thee what time thou mak'st wife and lord one-minded.

3 The Maruts deck their beauty for thy glory, yea, Rudra! for thy birth fair, brightly-coloured.

That which was fixed as Visnu's loftiest station-therewith the secret of the Cows thou guardest.

4 Gods through thy glory, God who art so lovely! granting abundant gifts gained life immortal.

As their own Priest have men established Agni; and serve him fain for praise from him who liveth.

5 There is no priest more skilled than thou in worship; none Self-sustainer pass thee in wisdom.

He man within whose house as guest thou dwellest, O God, by sacrifice shall conquer mortals.

6 Aided by thee, O Agni may we conquer through our oblation, fain for wealth, awakened:

May we in battle, in the days' assemblies, O Son of Strength, by riches conquer mortals.

7 He shall bring evil on the evil-plott' who ever turns against us sin and outrage.

Destroy this calumny of him, O Agni, whoever injures us with double-dealing.

8 At this dawn's flushing, God! our ancient fathers served thee with offerings,
making thee their envoy,
When, Agni, to the store of wealth thou goest, a God cnkindled with good things
by mortals.
9 Save, thou who knowest, draw thy father near thee, who counts as thine own
son, O Child of Power.
O sapient Agni, when wilt thou regard us? When, skilled in holy Law, wilt thou
direct us?
10 Adoring thee he gives thee many a title, when thou, Good Lord! acceptest
this as Father.
And doth not Agni, glad in strength of Godhead, gain splendid bliss when he
hath waxen mighty?
11 Most Youthful Agni, verily thou bearest thy praiser safely over all his
troubles.
Thieves have been seen by us and open foemen: unknown have been the plottings
of the wicked.
12 To thee these eulogies have been directed: or to the Vasu hath this sin been
spoken.
But this our Agni, flaming high, shall never yield us to calumny, to him who
wrongs us.

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HYMN IV. Agni.

1. O AGNI, King and Lord of wealth and treasures, in thee is my delight at
sacrifices.
Through thee may we obtain the strength we long for, and overcome the fierce
attacks of mortals.
2 Agni, Eternal Father, offering- bearer, fair to behold, far-reaching,
far-refulgent,
From well-kept household fire beam food to feed us, and measure out to us
abundant glory.
3 The Sage of men, the Lord of human races, pure, purifying Agni, balmed with
butter,
Him the Omniscient as your Priest ye stablish: he wins among the Gods things
worth the choosing.
4 Agni, enjoy, of one accord with Ila, striving in rivalry with beams of Sarya,
Enjoy, O Jatavedas, this our fuel, and bring the Gods to us to taste oblations.
5 As dear House-Friend, guest welcome in the dwelling, to this our sacrifice
come thou who knowest.
And, Agni, having scattered all assailants, bring to us the possessions of our
foemen.
6 Drive thou away the Dasyu with thy weapon. As, gaining vital power for thine
own body,
O Son of Strength, the Gods thou satisfiest, so in fight save us, most heroic
Agni.

7 May we, O Agni, with our lauds adore thee, and with our gifts, fair-beaming Purifier!

Send to us wealth containing all things precious: bestow upon us every sort of riches.

8 Son of Strength, Agni, dweller in three regions, accept our sacrifice and our oblation.

Among the Gods may we be counted pious: protect us with a triply-guarding shelter.

9 Over all woes and dangers, Jatavedas, bear us as in a boat across a river. Praised with our homage even as Atri praised thee, O Agni, be the guardian of our bodies.

10 As I, remembering thee with grateful spirit, a mortal, call with might on thee Immortal,

Vouchsafe us high renown, O Jatavedas, and may I be immortal by my children.

11 The pious man, O Jatavedas Agni, to whom thou grantest ample room and pleasure,
Gaineth abundant wealth with sons and horses, with heroes and with kine for his well-being.

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HYMN V. Apris.

1. To Agni, Jatavedas, to the flame, the well-enkindled God,
Offer thick sacrificial oil.

2 He, Narasamsa, ne'er beguiled, inspiriteth this sacrifice:
For sage is he, with sweets in hand.

3 Adored, O Agni, hither bring Indra the Wonderful, the Friend,
On lightly-rolling car to aid.

4 Spread thyself out, thou soft as wool The holy hymns have sung to thee.
Bring gain to us, O beautiful!

5 Open yourselves, ye Doors Divine, easy of access for our aid:
Fill, more and more, the sacrifice.

6 Fair strengtheners of vital power, young Mothers of eternal Law,
Morning and Night we supplicate.

7 On the wind's flight come, glorified, ye two celestial Priests of man
Come ye to this our sacrifice.

8 ! Sarasvati, Mahl, three Goddesses who bring us weal,
Be seated harmless on the grass.

9 Rich in all plenty, Tvastar, come auspicious of thine own accord
Help us in every sacrifice.

10 Vanaspati, wherever thou knowest the Gods' mysterious names,
Send our oblations thitherward.

11 To Agni and to Varuna, Indra, the Maruts, and the Gods,
With Svaha be oblation brought.

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HYMN VI. Agni.

1. I VALUE Agni that good Lord, the home to which the kine return:
Whom fleet-foot coursers seek as home, and strong enduring steeds as home.
Bring food to those who sing thy praise.
 - 2 'Tis Agni whom we laud as good, to whom the milch-kine come in herds,
To whom the chargers swift of foot, to whom our well-born princes come. Bring
food to those who sing thy praise.
 - 3 Agni the God of all mankind, gives, verily, a steed to man.
Agni gives precious gear for wealth, treasure he gives when he is pleased.
Bring food to those who sing thy praise.
 - 4 God, Agni, we will kindle thee, rich in thy splendour, fading not,
So that this glorious fuel may send forth by day its light for thee. Bring food
to those who sing thy praise.
 - 5 To thee the splendid, Lord of flame, bright, wondrous, Prince of men, is
brought.
Oblation with the holy verse, O Agni, bearer of our gifts.
Bring food to those who sing thy praise.
 - 6 These Agnis in the seats of the fire nourish each thing most excellent.
They give delight, they spread abroad, they move themselves continually. Bring
food to those who sing thy praise.
 - 7 Agni, these brilliant flames of thine wax like strong chargers mightily,
Who with the treadings of their hoofs go swiftly to the stalls of kine. Bring
food to those who sing thy praise.
 - 8 To us who laud thee, Agni, bring fresh food and safe and happy homes.
May we who have sung hymns to thee have thee for envoy in each house. Bring
food to those who sing thy praise.
 - 9 Thou, brilliant God, within thy mouth warmest both ladies of the oil.
So fill us also, in our hymns, abundantly, O Lord of Strength, Bring food to
those who sing thy praise.
 - 10 Thus Agni have we duly served with sacrifices and with hymns.
So may he give us what we crave, store of brave sons and fleet-foot steeds.
Bring food to those who sing thy praise.
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HYMN VII. Agni.

1. OFFER to Agni, O my friends, your seemly food, your seemly praise;
To him supremest o'er the folk, the Son of Strength, the mighty Lord:
- 2 Him in whose presence, when they meet in full assembly, men rejoice;
Even him whom worthy ones inflame, and living creatures bring to life.
- 3 When we present to him the food and sacrificial gifts of men,
He by the might of splendour grasps the holy Ordinance's rein.
- 4 He gives a signal in the night even to him who is afar,
When he, the Bright, unchanged by eld, consumes the sovrans of the wood.
- 5 He in whose service on the ways they offer up their drops of sweat,
On him is their high kin have they mounted, as ridges on the earth.

6 Whom, sought of many, mortal man hath found to be the Stay of all;
He who gives flavour to our food, the home of every man that lives.
7 Even as a herd that crops the grass he shears the field and wilderness,
With flashing teeth and beard of gold, deft with his unabated might.
8 For him, to whom, bright as an axe he, as to Atri, hath flashed forth,
Hath the well-bearing Mother borne, producing when her time is come.
9 Agni to whom the oil is shed by him thou lovest to support,
Bestow upon these mortals fame and splendour and intelligence.
10 Such zeal hath he, resistless one: he gained the cattle given by thee.
Agni, may Atri overcome the Dasyus who bestow no gifts, subdue the men who give
no food.

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HYMN VIII. Agni.

1. O AGNI urged to strength, the men of old who loved the Law enkindled thee,
the Ancient, for their aid,
Thee very bright, and holy, nourisher of all, most excellent, the Friend and
Master of the home.
2 Thee, Agni, men have stablished as their guest of old, as Master of the
household, thee, with hair of flame;
High-bannered, multiform, distributor of wealth, kind helper, good protector,
drier of the floods.
3 The tribes of men praise thee, Agni, who knowest well burnt offerings, the
Discerner, lavishest of wealth,
Dwelling in secret, Blest One! visible to all, loud-roaring, skilled in
worship, glorified with oil.
4 Ever to thee, O Agni, as exceeding strong have we drawn nigh with songs and
reverence singing hymns.
So be thou pleased with us, Angiras! as a God enkindled by the noble with man's
goodly light.
5 Thou, Agni! multiform, God who art lauded much! givest in every house
subsistence as of old.
Thou rulest by thy might o'er food of many a sort: that light of thine when
blazing may not be opposed.
6 The Gods, Most Youthful Agni, have made thee, inflamed, the bearer of
oblations and the messenger.
Thee, widely-reaching, homed in sacred oil, invoked, effulgent, have they made
the Eye that stirs the thought.
7 Men seeking joy have lit thee worshipped from of old, O Agni, with good fuel
and with sacred oil.
So thou, bedewed and waxing mighty by the plants, spreadest thyself abroad over
the realms of earth.

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HYMN IX. Agni.

1. BEARING; oblations mortal men, O Agni, worship thee the God.
I deem thee Jatavedas: bear our offerings, thou, unceasingly.
- 2 In the man's home who offers gifts, where grass is trimmed, Agni is Priest,
To whom all sacrifices come and strengthenings that win renown.
- 3 Whom, as an infant newly-born, the kindling-sticks have brought to life,
Sustainer of the tribes of men, skilled in well-ordered sacrifice.
- 4 Yea, very hard art thou to grasp, like offspring of the wriggling snakes,
When thou consumest many woods like an ox, Agni, in the mead.
- 5 Whose flames, when thou art sending forth the smoke, completely reach the
mark,
When Trta in the height of heaven, like as a smelter fanneth thee, e'en as a
smelter sharpeneth thee.
- 6 O Agni, by thy succour and by Mitra's friendly furtherance,
May we, averting hate, subdue the wickedness of mortal men.
- 7 O Agni, to our heroes bring such riches, thou victorious God.
May he protect and nourish us, and help in aining strength: be thou near us in
brht for our success.

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HYMN X. Agni.

1. BRING us most mighty splendour thou, Agni, resistless on thy way.
With overflowing store of wealth mark out for us a path to strength.
- 2 Ours art thou, wondrous Agni, bywisdom and bounteousness of power.
The might of Asuras rests on thee, like Mitra worshipful in act.
- 3 Agni, increase our means of life, increase the house and home of these,
The men, the princes who have won great riches through our hymns of praise.
- 4 Bright Agni, they who deck their songs for thee have horses as their meed.
The men are mighty in their might, they whose high laud, as that of heaven,
awakes thee of its own accord.
- 5 O Agni, those resplendent flames of thine go valorously forth,
Like lightnings flashing round us, like a rattling car that seeks the spoil.
- 6 Now, Agni, come to succour us; let priests draw nigh to offer gifts;
And let the patrons of our rites subdue all regions of the earth.
- 7 Bring to us, Agni, Angiras, lauded of old and lauded now,
Invoker! wealth to quell the strong, that singers may extol thee. Be near us in
fight for our success.

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HYMN XI. Agni.

1. THE watchful Guardian of the people hath been born, Agni, the very strong,
for fresh prosperity.
With oil upon his face, with high heaventouching flame, he shineth splendidly,

pure, for the Bharatas.

2 Ensign of sacrifice, the earliest Household-Priest, the men have kindled
Agni in his threefold seat,
With Indra and the Gods together on the grass let the wise Priest sit to
complete the sacrifice.

3 Pure, unadorned, from thy two Mothers art thou born: thou camest
from Vivasvan as a charming Sage.

With oil they strengthened thee, O Agni, worshipped God: thy banner was the
smoke that mounted to the sky.

4 May Agni graciously come to our sacrifice. The men bear Agni here and there
in every house.

He hath become an envoy, bearer of our gifts: electing Agni, men choose one
exceeding wise.

5 For thee, O Agni, is this sweetest prayer of mine: dear to thy spirit be this
product of my thought.

As great streams fill the river so our song of praise fill thee, and make thee
yet more mighty in thy strength.

6 O Agni, the Angirases discovered thee what time thou layest hidden, fleeing
back from wood to wood.

Thou by attrition art produced as conquering might, and men, O Angiras, call
thee the Son of Strength.

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HYMN XII. Agni.

I. To Agni, lofty Asura, meet for worship, Steer of eternal Law, my prayer I
offer;

I bring my song directed to the Mighty like pure oil for his mouth at
sacrifices.

2 Mark the Law, thou who knowest, yea, observe it: send forth the full streams
of eternal Order.

I use no sorcery with might or falsehood the sacred Law of the Red Steer I
follow.

3 How hast thou, follower of the Law eternal, become the knower of a new song,
Agni?

The God, the Guardian of the seasons, knows me: the Lord of him who won this
wealth I know not.

4 Who, Agni, in alliance with thy foeman, what splendid helpers won for them
their riches?

Agni, who guard the dwelling-place of falsehood? Who are protectors of the
speech of liars?

5 Agni, those friends of thine have turned them from thee: gracious of old,
they have become ungracious.

They have deceived themselves by their own speeches, uttering wicked words
against the righteous.

6 He who pays sacrifice to thee with homage, O Agni, keeps the Red Steer's Law

eternal;

Wide is his dwelling. May the noble offspring of Nahusa who wandered forth come hither.

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HYMN XIII. Agni.

1. WITH songs of praise we call on thee, we kindle thee with songs of praise, Agni, -with songs of praise, for help.
- 2 Eager for wealth, we meditate Agni's effectual praise to-day, Praise of the God who touches heaven.
- 3 May Agni, Priest among mankind, take pleasure in our songs of praise, And worship the Celestial Folk.
- 4 Thou, Agni, art spread widely forth, Priest dear and excellent; through thee Men make the sacrifice complete.
- 5 Singers exalt thee, Agni, well lauded, best giver of our strength: So grant thou us heroic might.
- 6 Thou Agni, as the felly rings the spokes, encompassest the Gods. 1 yearn for bounty manifold.

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HYMN XIV. Agni.

1. ENKINDLING the Immortal, wake Agni with song of praise: may he bear our oblations to the Gods.
- 2 At high solemnities mortal men glorify him the Immortal, best At sacrifice among mankind.
- 3 That he may bear their gifts to heaven, all glorify him Agni, God, With ladle that distilleth oil.
- 4 Agni shone bright when born, with light killing the Dasyus and the dark: He found the Kine, the Floods, the Sun.
- 5 Serve Agni, God adorable, the Sage whose back is balmed with oil: Let him approach, and hear my call.
- 6 They have exalted Agni, God of all mankind, with oil and hymns Of praise, devout and eloquent.

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HYMN XV. Agni.

1. To him, the far-renowned, the wise Ordainer, ancient and glorious, a song I offer. Enthroned in oil, the Asura, bliss-giver, is Agni, firm support of noble, riches.
- 2 By holy Law they kept supporting Order, by help of sacrifice, in loftiest heaven,-

They who attained with born men to the unborn, men seated on that stay,
heaven's firm sustainer.

3 Averting woe, they labour hard to bring him, the ancient, plenteous food as
power resistless.

May he, born newly, conquer his assailants: round him they stand as round an
angry lion.

4 When, like a mother, spreading forth to nourish, to cherish and regard each
man that liveth,-

Consuming all the strength that thou hast gotten, thou wanderest round,
thyself,
in varied fashion.

5 May strength preserve the compass of thy vigour, God! that broad stream of
thine that beareth riches.

Thou, like a thief who keeps his refuge secret, hast holpen Atri to great
wealth, by teaching.

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HYMN XVI. Agni.

1. GREAT power is in the beam of light, sing praise to, Agni, to the God
Whom men have set in foremost place like Mitra with their eulogies.

2 He by the splendour of his arms is Priest of every able man.

Agni conveys oblation straight, and deals, as Bhaga deals, his boons.

3 All rests upon the laud and love of him the rich, high-flaming God,
On whom, loud-roaring, men have laid great strength as on a faithful friend.

4 So, Agni, be the Friend of these with liberal gift of hero strength.

Yea, Heaven and Earth have not surpassed this Youthful One in glorious fame.

5 O Agni, quickly come to us, and, glorified, bring precious wealth.

So we and these our princes will assemble for the good of all. Be near in fight
to prosper us.

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HYMN XVII. Agni.

1. GOD, may a mortal call the Strong hither, with solemn rites, to aid,
A man call Agni to protect when sacrifice is well prepared.

2 Near him thou seemest mightier still in native glory, set to hold
Apart yon flame-hued vault of heaven, lovely beyond the thought of man.

3 Yea, this is by the light of him whom powerful siong hath bound to act,
Whose bearns of splendour flash on high as though they sprang from heavenly
seed.

4 Wealth loads the Wonder-Worker's car through his, the very wise One's power.
Then, meet to be invoked among all tribes, is Agni ghorified.

5 Now, too, the princes shall obtain excellent riches by our lips.

Protect us for our welfare: lend thy succour, O thou Son of Strength. Be near
in fight to prosper us.

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HYMN XVIII. Agni.

1. AT dawn let: Agni, much-beloved guest of the house, be glorified;
Immortal who delights in all oblations brought by mortal men.
- 2 For Dvita who receives through wealth of native strength maimed offerings,
Thy praiser even gains at once the Soma-drops, Immortal Gods!
- 3 Nobles, with song I call that car of yours that shines with lengthened life,
For, God who givest steeds! that car hither and thither goes unharmed.
- 4 They who have varied ways of thought, who guard, the lauds within their lips,
And strew the grass before the light, have decked themselves with high renown.
- 5 Immortal Agni, give the chiefs, heroes who institute the rite,
Heroes' illustrious, lofty fame, who at the synod met for praise presented me
with fifty steeds.

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HYMN XIX. Agni.

1. ONE state begets another state: husk is made visible from husk:
Within his Mother's side he speaks.
- 2 Discerning, have they offered gifts: they guard the strength that never
wastes.
To a strong fort have they pressed in.
- 3 Svaitreya's people, all his men, have gloriously increased in might.
A gold chain Brhaduktha wears, as, through this Soma, seeking spoil.
- 4 I bring, as 'twere, the longed-for milk, the dear milk of the Sister-Pair.
Like to a caldron filled with food is he, unconquered, conquering all.
- 5 Beam of light, come to us in sportive fashion, finding thyself close to the
wind that fans thee.
These flames of his are wasting flames, like arrows keen-pointed, sharpened, on
his breast.

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HYMN XX. Agni.

1. AGNI, best winner of the spoil, cause us to praise before the Gods
As our associate meet for lauds, wealth which thou verily deemest wealth.
- 2 Agni, the great who ward not off the anger of thy power and might
Stir up the wrath and hatred due to one who holds an alien creed.
- 3 Thee, Agni, would we choose as Priest, the perfecter of strength and skill;
We who bring sacred food invoke with song thee Chief at holy rites.
- 4 Here as is needful for thine aid we toil, O Conqueror, day by day,
For wealth, for Law. May we rejoice, Most Wise One! at the feast, with kine,
rejoice, with heroes, at the feast.

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HYMN XXI. Agni.

1. WE stablish thee as Manus used, as Manus used we kindle thee.
Like Manus, for the pious man , Angiras, Agni, worship Gods.
- 2 For well, O Agni, art thou pleased when thou art kindled mid mankind.
Straight go the ladles unto thee, thou highborn God whose food is oil.
- 3 Thee have all Gods of one accord established as their messenger.
Serving at sacrifices men adore thee as a God, O Sage.
- 4 Let mortal man adore your God, Agni, with worship due to Gods.
Shine forth enkindled, Radiant One. Sit in the chamber of the Law, sit in the chamber of the food.

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HYMN XXII. Agni.

1. LIKE Atri, Visvasaman! sing to him of purifying light,
Who must be praised in holy rites, the Priest most welcome in the house.
- 2 Set Jatavedas in his place, Agni the God and Minister.
Let sacrifice proceed to-day duly, comprising all the Gods.
- 3 All mortals come to thee for aid, the God of most observant mind.
Of thine excelling favour we bethink us as we long for it.
- 4 Mark with attention this our speech, O Agni, thou victorious One.
Thee, Strong-jawed! as the homestead's Lord, the Atris with their lauds exalt,
the Atris beautify with songs.

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HYMN XXIII. Agni.

1. By thy fair splendour's mighty power, O Agni, bring victorious wealth,
Wealth that o'ercometh all mankind, and, near us, conquereth in fight.
- 2 Victorious Agni, bring to us the wealth that vanquisheth in war;
For thou art wonderful and true, giver of strength in herds of kine.
- 3 For all the folk with one accord, whose sacred grass is trimmed and strewn,
Invite thee to their worship-halls, as a dear Priest, for choicest wealth.
- 4 For he, the God of all men, hath gotten him might that quelleth foes.
O Agni, in these homes shine forth, bright God! for our prosperity, shine,
Purifier! splendidly.

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HYMN XXIV. Agni.

1. O AGNI, be our nearest Friend, be thou a kind deliverer and a gracious Friend.

2 Excellent Agni, come thou nigh to us, and give us wealth most splendidly renowned.

3 So hear us, listen to this call of ours, and keep us far from every sinful man.

4 To thee then, O Most Bright, O Radiant God, we come with prayer for happiness for our friends.

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HYMN XXV. Agni.

1. I WILL sing near, for grace, your God Agni, for he is good to us.

Son of the Brands, may he give gifts, and, righteous, save us from the foe.

2 For be is true, whpm men of old enkindled, and the Gods themselves,
The Priest with the delicious tongue, rich with the light of glorious beams.

3 With wisdom that surpasseth all, with gracious will most excellent,
O Agni, worthy of our choice, shine wealth on us through hymns of praise.

4 Agni is King, for he extends to mortals and to Gods alike.

Agni is bearer of our gifts. Worship ye Agni with your thoughts.

5 Agni gives to the worshipper a son, the best, of mightiest fame,
Of deep devotion, ne'er subdued, bringer of glory to his sire.

6 Agni bestows the hero-lord who conquers with the men in fight.
Agni bestows the fleet-foot steed, the victor never overcome.

7 The mightiest song is Agni's: shine on high, thou who art rich in light.
Like the Chief Consort of a King, riches and strength proceed -from thee.

8 Resplendent are thy rays of light: loud is thy voice like pressing-stones.
Yea, of itself thy thunder goes forth like the roaring of the heaven.

9 Thus, seeking riches, have we paid homage to Agni Conqueror.
May he, most wise, as with a ship, carry us over all our foes.

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HYMN XXVI. Agni.

1. O AGNI, Holy and Divine, with splendour and thy pleasant tongue
Bring hither and adore the Gods.

2 We pray thee, thou who droppest oil, bright-rayed! who lookest on the Sun,
Bring the Gods hither to the feast.

3 We have enkindled thee, O Sage, bright caller of the Gods to feast.
O Agni, great in Sacrifice.

4 O Agni, come with all the Gods, come to our sacrificial gift:
We choose thee as Invoking Priest.

5 Bring, Agni, to the worshipper who pours the juice, heroic strength:
Sit with the Gods upon the grass.

6 Victor of thousands, Agni, thou, enkindled, cherishest the laws,
Laud-worthy, envoy of the Gods.

7 Set Agni Jatavedas down, the bearer of our sacred gifts,
Most Youthful, God and Minister.

8 Duly proceed our sacrifice, comprising all the Gods, to-day:
Strew holy grass to be their seat.
9 So may the Maruts sit thereon, the Asvins, Mitra, Varuna:
The Gods with all their company.

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HYMN XXVII. Agni.

1. THE Godlike hero, famous of nobles, hath granted me two oxen with a wagon.
Trvrsan's son Tryaruna hath distinguished himself, Vaisvanara Agni! with ten thousands.
2 Protect Tryaruna, as thou art waxing strong and art highly praised, Vaisvanara Agni!
Who granteth me a hundred kine and twenty, and two bay horses, good at draught, and harnessed.
3 So Trasadasyu served thee, God Most Youthful, craving thy favour for the ninth time, Agni;
Tryaruya who with attentive spirit accepteth many a song from me the mighty.
4 He who declares his wish to me, to Asvamedha, to the Prince,
Pays him who with his verse seeks gain, gives power to him who keeps the Law.
5 From whom a hundred oxen, all of speckled hue, delight my heart,
The gifts of Asvamedha, like thrice-mingled draughts of Soma juice.
6 To Asvamedha who bestows a hundred gifts grant hero power,
O Indra-Agni! lofty rule like the unwasting Sun in heaven.

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HYMN XXVIII. Agni.

1. AGNI inflamed hath sent to heaven his lustre: he shines forth widely turning unto Morning.
Eastward the ladle goes that brings all blessing, praising the Gods with homage and oblation.
2 Enkindled, thou art King of the immortal world: him who brings offerings thou attendest for his weal.
He whom thou urgest on makes all possessions his: he sets before thee, Agni, gifts that guests may claim.
3 Show thyself strong for mighty bliss, O Agni, most excellent be thine effulgent splendours.
Make easy to maintain our household lordship, and overcome the might of those who hate us.
4 Thy glory, Agni, I adore, kindled, exalted in thy strength.
A Steer of brilliant splendour, thou art lighted well at sacred rites.
5 Agni, invoked and kindled, serve the Gods, thou skilled in sacrifice:
For thou art bearer of our gifts.
6 Invoke and worship Agni while the sacrificial rite proceeds:

For offering-bearer choose ye him.

HYMN XXIX. Agni.

1. MAN'S worship of the Gods hath three great lustres, and three celestial lights have they established
The Maruts gifted with pure strength adore thee, for thou, O Indra, art their sapient Rsi.
- 2 What time the Maruts sang their song to Indra, joyous when he had drunk of Soma juices,
He grasped his thunderbolt to slay the Dragon, and loosed, that they might flow, the youthful Waters.
- 3 And, O ye Brahmans, Maruts, so may Indra drink draughts of this my carefully pressed Soma;
For this oblation found for man the cattle, and Indra, having quaffed it, slew the Dragon.
- 4 Then heaven and earth he sundered and supported: wrapped even in these he struck the Beast with terror.
So Indra forced the Engulfer to disgorgement, and slew the Danava. panting against him.
- 5 Thus all the Gods, O Maghavan, delivered to thee of their free will the draught of Soma;
When thou for Etasa didst cause to tarry the flying mares of Surya racing forward.
- 6 When Maghavan with the thunderbolt demolished his nine-and-ninety castles all together,
The Maruts, where they met, glorified Indra: ye with the Trstup hymn obstructed heaven.
- 7 As friend to aid a friend, Agni dressed quickly three hundred buffaloes, even as he willed it.
And Indra, from man's gift, for Vrtra's slaughter, drank ofr at once three lakes of pressed-out Soma.
- 8 When thou three hundred buffaloes' flesh hadst eaten, and drunk, as Maghavan, three lakes of Soma,
All the Gods raised as 'twere a shout of triumph to Indra praise because he slew the Dragon.
- 9 What time ye came with strong steeds swiftly speeding, O Usana and Indra, to the dwelling,
Thou camest thither -conquering together with Kutsa and the Gods: thou slewest Susna.
- 10 One car-wheel of the Sun thou rolledst forward, and one thou settest free to move for Kutsa.
Thou slewest noseless Dasyus with thy weapon, and in their home o'erthrewest hostile speakers.
- 11 The lauds of Gauriviti made thee mighty to Vidathin's son, as prey, thou

gavest Pipru.

Rjisivan drew thee into friendship dressing the sacred food, and thou hast drunk his Soma.

12 Navagvas and Dasgvas with libations of Soma juice sing hymns of praise to Indra.

Labouring at their task the men laid open the stall of Kine though firmly closed and fastened.

13 How shall I serve thee, Maghavan, though knowing full well what hero deeds thou hast accomplished?

And the fresh deeds which thou wilt do, Most Mighty! these, too, will we tell forth in sacred synods.

14 Resistless from of old through hero courage, thou hast done all these many acts, O Indra.

What thou wilt do in bravery, Thunder-wielder! none is there who may hinder this thy prowess.

15 Indra, accept the prayers which now are offered, accept the new prayers, Mightiest! which we utter.

Like fair and well-made robes, I, seeking riches, as a deft craftsman makes a car, have wrought them.

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HYMN XXX. Indra.

1. WHERE is that Hero? Who hath looked on Indra borne on light-rolling car by Tawny Coursers,

Who, Thunderer, seeks with wealth the Soma-presser, and to his house goes, much-invoked, to aid him?

2 I have beheld his strong and secret dwelling, longing have sought the Founder's habitation.

I asked of others, and they said in answer, May we, awakened men, attain to Indra.

3 We will tell, Indra, when we pour libation, what mighty deeds thou hast performed to please us.

Let him who knows not learn, who knows them listen: hither rides Maghavan with all his army.

4 Indra, when born, thou madest firm thy spirit: alone thou seekest war to fight with many.

With might thou clavest e'en the rock asunder, and foundest out the stable of the Milch-kine.

5 When thou wast born supremest at a distance, bearing a name renowned in far-off regions,

Since then e'en Gods have been afraid of Indra: he conquered all the floods which served the Dasa.

6 These blissful Maruts sing their psalm to praise thee, and pour to thee libation of the Soma.

Indra with wondrous powers subdued the Dragon, the guileful lurker who beset

the waters.

7 Thou, Maghavan, from the first didst scatter foemen, speeding, while joying
in the milk, the Giver.

There, seeking man's prosperity, thou torest away the head of Namuci the Dasa.

8 Pounding the head of Namuci the Dasa, me, too thou madest thine associate,
Indra!

Yea, and the rolling stone that is in heaven both worlds, as on a car, brought
to the Maruts.

9 Women for weapons hath the Dasa taken, What injury can his feeble armies To
me?

Well he distinguished his two different voices, and Indra then advanced to
fight the Dasyu.

10 Divided from their calves the Cows went lowing around, on every side, hither
and thither.

These Indra re-united with his helpers, what time the well-pressed Soma made
him joyful.

11 What time the Somas mixed by Babhru cheered him, loud the Steer bellowed in
his habitations.

So Indra drank thereof, the Fort-destroyer, and gave him guerdon, in return, of
milch-kine.

12 This good deed have the Rusamas done, Agni! that they have granted me four
thousand cattle.

We have received Rnancaya's wealth, of heroes the most heroic, which was freely
offered.

13 The Rusamas, O Agni, sent me homeward with fair adornment and with kine in
thousands.

The strong libations have made Indra joyful, when night, whose course was
ending, changed to morning.

14 Night, well-nigh ended, at Rnancaya's coming, King of the Rusamas, was
changed to morning.

Like a strong courser, fleet of foot, urged onward, Babhru hath gained four
thousand as his guerdon.

15 We have received four thousand head of cattle presented by the Rusamas, O
Agni.

And we, the singers, have received the caldron of metal which was heated for
Pravargya.

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HYMN XXXI. Indra.

1. MAGHAVAN Indra turns his chariot downward, the strength-displaying car which
he hath mounted.

Even as a herdsman driveth forth his cattle, he goeth, first, uninjured, fain
for treasure.

2. Haste to us, Lord of Bays; be not ungracious: visit us, lover of gold-hued
oblation.

There is naught else better than thou art, Indra: e'en to the wifeless hast thou given spouses.

3 When out of strength arose the strength that conquers, Indra displayed all powers that he possesses.

Forth from the cave he drove the milky mothers, and with the light laid bare investing darkness.

4. Anus have wrought a chariot for thy Courser, and Tvastar, Much-invoked! thy bolt that glitters.

The Brahmans with their songs exalting Indra increased his strength that he might slaughter Ahi.

5 When heroes sang their laud to thee the Hero, Indra! and stones and Aditi accordant,

Without or steed or chariot were the fellies which, sped by Indra, rolled upon the Dasytis.

6 I will declare thine exploits wrought aforetime, and, Maghavan, thy deeds of late achievement,

When, Lord of Might, thou sunderedst earth and heaven, winning for man the moistly-gleaming waters.

7 This is thy deed, e'en this, Wonderful! Singer! that, slaying Ahi, here thy strength thou showedst,

Didst check and stay e'en gusna's wiles and magic, and, drawing nigh, didst chase away the Dasytis.

8 Thou, Indra, on the farther bank forYadu and Turvaga didst stay the gushing waters.

Ye both assailed the fierce: thou barest Kutsa: when Gods and Usana came to you together.

9 Let the steeds bring you both, Indra and Kutsa, borne on the chariot within hearing-distance.

Ye blew him from the waters, from his dwelling, and chased the darkness from the noble's spirit.

10 Even this sage hath come looking for succour even to Vata's docile harnessed horses.

Here are the Maruts, all, thy dear companions: prayers have increased thy power and might, O Indra.

11 When night was near its close he carried forward e'en the Sun's chariot backward in its running.

Etaga brought his wheel and firmly stays it: setting it eastward he shall give us courage.

12 This Indra, O ye men, hath come to see you, seeking a friend who hath expressed the Soma.

The creaking stone is laid upon the altar, and the Adhvaryus come to turn it quickly.

13 Let mortals who were happy still be happy; let them not come to sorrow, O Immortal.

Love thou the pious, and to these thy people-with whom may we be numbered-give thou vigour.

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HYMN XXXII. Indra.

1. THE well thou clavest, settest free the fountains, and gavest rest to floods that were obstructed.

Thou, Indra, laying the great mountain open, slaying the Danava, didst loose the torrents.

2 The fountain-depths obstructed in their seasons, thou, Thunderer! madest flow, the mountain's udder.

Strong Indra, thou by slaying e'en the Dragon that lay extended there hast shown thy vigour.

3 Indra with violence smote down the weapon, yea, even of that wild and mighty creature.

Although he deemed himself alone unequalled, another had been born e'en yet more potent.

4 Him, whom the heavenly food of these delighted, child of the mist, strong waxing, couched in darkness,

Him the bolt-hurling Thunderer with his lightning smote down and slew, the Danava's wrath-fire, Susna.

5 Though he might ne'er be wounded still his vitals felt that, the God's bolt, which his powers supported,

When, after offered draughts, Strong Lord, thou laidest him, fain to battle, in the pit in darkness.

6 Him as he lay there huge in length extended, still waxing in the gloom which no sun lightened,

Him, after loud-voiced threats, the Hero Indra, rejoicing in the poured libation, slaughtered.

7 When 'gainst the mighty Danava his weapon Indra uplifted, power which none could combat,

When at the hurling of his bolt he smote him, he made him lower than all living creatures.

8 The fierce God seized that huge and restless coiler, insatiate, drinker of the sweets, recumbent,

And with his mighty weapon in his dwelling smote down the footless evil-speaking ogre.

9 Who may arrest his strength or cheek his vigour? Alone, resistless, he bears off all riches.

Even these Twain, these Goddesses, through terror of Indra's might, retire from his dominion.

10 E'en the Celestial Axe bows down before him, and the Earth, lover-like, gives way to Indra.

As he imparts all vigour to these people, straightway the folk bend them to him the Godlike.

11 I hear that thou wast born sole Lord of heroes of the Five Races, famed among the people.

As such my wishes have most lately grasped him, invoking Indra both at eve and

morning.

12 So, too, I hear of thee as in due season urging to action and enriching singers.

What have thy friends received from thee, the Brahmans who, faithful, rest their hopes on thee, O Indra?

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HYMN XXXIII. Indra.

1. GREAT praise to Indra, great and strong mid heroes, I ponder thus, the feeble to the Mighty,

Who with his band shows favour to this people, when lauded, in the fight where spoil is gathered.

2 So made attentive by our hymns, Steer! Indra! thou fastenedst the girth of thy Bay Coursers,

Which, Maghavan, at thy will thou drivest hither. With these subdue for us the men who hate us.

3 They were not turned to us-wtrd, lofty Indra! while yet through lack of prayer they stood unharnessed.

Ascend this chariot, thou whose hand wields thunder, and draw the rein, O Lord of noble horses.

4 Thou, because many lauds are thine, O Indra, wast active warring in the fields

for cattle.

For Surya in his own abode thou, Hero, formedst in fights even a Dasa's nature.

5 Thine are we, Indra; thine are all these people, conscious of might, whose cars are set in motion.

Some hero come to us, O Strong as Ahi beauteous in war, to be invoked like Bhaga.

6 Strength much to be desired is in thee, Indra: the Immortal dances forth his hero exploits.

Such, Lord of Treasure, give us splendid riches. I praise the Friend's gift, his whose wealth is mighty.

7 Thus favour us, O Indra, with ihy succour; Hero, protect the bards who sing thy praises.

Be friendly in the fray to those who offer the skin of beautiful and well-pressed Soma.

8 And these ten steeds which Trasadasyu gives me, the goldrich chief, the son of Purukutsa,

Resplendent in their brightness shall convey me. Gairiksita willed it and so came I hither.

9 And these, bestowed as sacrificial guerdon, the powerful tawny steeds of Marutasva;

And thousands which kind Cyavatana gave me, abundantly bestowed for my adornment.

10 And these commended horses, bright and active, by Dhvanya son of Laksmana

presented,

Came unto me, as cows into the Rsi Samvarana's stall, with magnitude of riches.

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HYMN XXXIV. Indra.

1. BOUNDLESS and wasting not, the heavenly food of Gods goes to the foeless One, doer of wondrous deeds.

Press out, make ready, offer gifts with special zeal to him whom many laud, acceptor of the prayer.

2 He who filled full his belly with the Soma's juice, Maghavan, was delighted with the meath's sweet draught,
When Usana, that he might slay the monstrous beast, gave him the mighty weapon with a thousand points.

3 Illustrious is the man whoever presseth out Soma for him in sunshine or in cloud and rain.

The mighty Maghavan who is the sage's Friend advanceth more and more his beauteous progeny.

4 The Strong God doth not flee away from him whose sire, whose mother or whose brother he hath done to death.

He, the Avenger, seeketh this man's offered gifts: this God, the source of riches, doth not flee from sin.

5 He seeks no enterprise with five or ten to aid, nor stays with him who pours no juice though prospering well.

The Shaker conquers or slays in this way or that, and to the pious gives a stable full of kine.

6 Exceeding strong in war he stays the chariot wheel, and, hating him who pours not, prospers him who pours.

Indra the terrible, tamer of every man, as Arya leads away the Dasa at his will.

7 He gathers up for plunder all the niggardís gear: excellent wealth he gives to him who offers gifts.

Not even in wide stronghold may all the folk stand firm who have provoked to anger his surpassing might.

8 When Indra Maghavan hath marked two wealthy men fighting for beauteous cows with all their followers,

He who stirs all things takes one as his close ally, and, Shaker, with his Heroes, sends the kine to him.

9 Agni! I laud the liberal Agnivesi, Satri the type and standard of the pious. May the collected waters yield him plenty, and his be powerful and bright dominion.

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HYMN XXXV. Indra.

1. INDRA, for our assistance bring that most effectual power of thine,

Which conquers men for us, and wins the spoil, invincible in fight.
2 Indra, whatever aids be thine, four be they, or, O Hero, three,
Or those of the Five Tribes of men, bring quickly all that help to us.
3 The aid most excellent of thee the Mightiest hitherward we call,
For thou wast born with hero might, conquering, Indra, with the Strong.
4 Mighty to prosper us wast thou born, and mighty is the strength thou hast.
In native power thy soul is firm: thy valour, Indra, slays a host.
5 O Satakratu, Lord of Strength, O Indra, Caster of the Stone.
With all thy chariot's force assail the man who shows himself thy foe.
6 For, Mightiest Vrtra-slayer, thee, fierce, foremost among many, folk
Whose sacred grass is trimmed invite to battle where the spoil is won.
7 Indra, do thou protect our car that mingles foremost in the fights,
That bears its part in every fray, invincible and seeking spoil.
8 Come to us, Indra, and protect our car with thine intelligence.
May we, O Mightiest One, obtain excellent fame at break of day, and meditate
our hymn at dawn.

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HYMN XXXVI. Indra.

1. MAY Indra come to us, he who knows rightly to give forth treasures from his
store of riches.
Even as a thirsty steer who roams the deserts may he drink eagerly the
milked-out Soma.
2 Lord of Bay Horses, Hero, may the Soma rise to thy cheeks and jaws like
mountain-ridges.
May we, O King, as he who driveth coursers, all joy in thee with hymns, invoked
of many!
3 Invoked of many, Caster of the Stone my heart quakes like a rolling wheel for
fear of penury.
Shall not Puruvasu the singer give thee praise, O ever-prospering Maghavan,
mounted on thy car?
4 Like the press-stone is this thy praiser, Indra. Loudly he lifts his voice
with strong endeavour.
With thy left hand, O Maghavan, give us riches: with thy right, Lord of Bays,
be not reluctant.
5 May the strong Heaven make thee the Strong wax stronger: Strong, thou art
borne by thy two strong Bay Horses.
So, fair of cheek, with mighty chariot, mighty, uphold us, strong-willed,
thunderarmed, in battle.
6 Maruts, let all the people in obeisance bow down before this youthful
Srutaratha,
Who, rich in steeds, gave me two dark red horses together with three hundred
head of cattle.

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HYMN XXXVII. Indra.

1. BEDEWED with holy oil and meetly worshipped, the Swift One vies with Surya's beam in splendour.

For him may mornings dawn without cessation who saith, Let us press Soma out for Indra.

2 With kindled fire and strewn grass let him worship, and, Soma-presser, sing with stones adjusted:

And let the priest whose press-stones ring forth loudly, go down with his oblation to the river.

3 This wife is coming near who loves her husband who carries to his home a vigorous consort.

Here may his car seek fame, here loudly thunder, and his wheel make a thousand revolutions.

4 No troubles vex that King in whose home Indra drinks the sharp Soma juice with milk commingled.

With heroes he drives near, he slays the foeman: Blest, cherishing that name, he guards his people.

5 May he support in peace and win in battle: he masters both the hosts that meet together.

Dear shall he be to Surya, dear to Agni, who with pressed Soma offers gifts to India.

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HYMN XXXVIII. Indra.

1. WIDE, Indra Satakratu, spreads the bounty of thine ample grace:

So, Lord of fair dominion, Friend of all men, give us splendid wealth.

2 The food which, Mightiest Indra, thou possessest worthy of renown
Is bruited as most widely famed, invincible, O Golden-hued!

3 O Darter of the Stone, the powers which readily obey thy will,-
Divinities, both thou and they, ye rule, to guard them, earth and heaven.

4 And from whatever power of thine, O Vrtra-slayer, it may be,
Bring thou to us heroic strength: thou hast a man's regard for us.

5 In thy protection, with these aids of thine, O Lord of Hundred Powers,
Indra, may we be guarded well, Hero, may we be guarded well.

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HYMN XXXIX. Indra.

1. STONE-DARTING Indra. Wondrous One, what wealth is richly given from thee,
That bounty, Treasure-Finder! bring filling both thy hands, to us.

2 Bring what thou deemest worth the wish, O Indra, that which is in heaven.

So may we know thee as thou art, boundless in thy munificence.

3 Thy lofty spirit, far-renowned as fain to give and prompt to win,-

With this thou rendest e'en the firm, Stone-Darter! so to gain thee strength.

4 Singers with many songs have made Indra propitious to their fame,
Him who is King of human kind, most liberal of your wealthy ones.
5 To him, to Indra must be sung the poet's word, the hymn of praise.
To him, accepter of the prayer, the Atris raise their songs on high, the Atris
beautify their songs.

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HYMN XL. Indra. Surya. Atri.

1. COME thou to what the stones have pressed, drink Soma, O thou Soma's Lord,
Indra best Vrtra-slayer Strong One, with the Strong.
2 Strong is the stone, the draught is strong, strong is this Soma that is
pressed,
Indra, best Vrtra-slayer, Strong One with the Strong.
3 As strong I call on thee the Strong, O Thunder-armed, with various aids,
Indra, best Vrtra-slayer, Strong One with the Strong.
4 Impetuous, Thunderer, Strong, quelling the mighty, King, potent,
Vrtra-slayer, Soma-drinker,
May he come hither with his yoked Bay Horses; may Indra gladden him at the noon
libation.
5 O Surya, when the Asura's descendant Svarbhanu, pierced thee through and
through with darkness,
All creatures looked like one who is bewildered, who knoweth not the place
where he is standing.
6 What time thou smotest down Svarbhanu's magic that spread itself beneath the
sky, O Indra,
By his fourth sacred prayer Atri discovered Surya concealed in gloom that
stayed his function.
7 Let not the oppressor with this dread, through anger swallow me up, for I am
thine, O Atri.
Mitra art thou, the sender of true blessings: thou and King Varuna be both my
helpers.
8 The Brahman Atri, as he set the press-stones, serving the Gods with praise
and adoration,
Established in the heaven the eye of Surya, and caused Svarbhanu's magic arts
to vanish.
9 The Atris found the Sun again, him whom Svarbhanu of the brood
Of Asuras had pierced with gloom. This none besides had power to do.

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HYMN XLI. Visvedevas

1. WHO, Mitra-Varuna, is your pious servant to give you gifts from earth or
mighty heaven?
Preserve us in the seat of holy Order, and give the offerer power that winneth
cattle.

2 May Mitra, Varuna, Aryaman, and Ayu, Indra Rbhuksan, and the Maruts, love us,
And they who of one mind with bounteous Rudra accept the hymn and laud with
adorations.

3 You will I call to feed the car-horse, Asvins, with the wind's flight
swiftest of those who travel:

Or also to the Asura of heaven, Worshipful, bring a hymn as 'twere libation.

4 The heavenly Victor, he whose priest is Kanva, Trta with Dyaus accordant,
Vata, Agni,

All-feeding Pusan, Bhaga sought the oblation, as they whose steeds are fleetest
seek the contest.

5 Bring ye your riches forward borne on horses: let thought be framed for help
and gain of treasure.

Blest he the priest of Ausija through courses, the courses which are yours the
fleet, O Maruts.

6 Bring hither him who yokes the car, your Vayu, who praises with his songs,
the God and Singer;

And, praying and devout, noble and prudent, may the Gods' Spouses in their
thoughts retain us.

7 I speed to you with powers that should be honoured, with songs distinguishing
Heaven's mighty Daughters,

Morning and Night, the Two, as 'twere all-knowing: these bring the sacrifice
unto the mortal.

8 You I extol, the nourishers of heroes bringing you gifts, Vastospati and
Tvastar-

Rich Dhisana accords through our obeisance - and Trees and Plants, for the swift
gain of riches.

9 Ours be the Parvatas, even they, for offspring, free-moving, who are Heroes
like the Vasus.

May holy Aptya, Friend of man, exalted, strengthen our word for ever and be
near us.

10 Trta praised him, germ of the earthly hero, with pure songs him the
Offspring of the Waters.

Agn; with might neighs loudly like a charger: he of the flaming hair destroys
the forests.

11 How shall we speak to the great might of Rudra? How speak to Bhaga who takes
thought for riches?

May Plants, the Waters, and the Sky preserve us, and Woods and Mountains with
their trees for tresses.

12 May the swift Wanderer, Lord of refreshments listen to our songs, who speeds
through cloudy heaven:

And may the Waters, bright like castles, hear us, as they flow onward from the
cloven mountain.

13 We know your ways, ye Mighty Ones receiving choice meed, ye Wonderful, we
will proclaim it.

Even strong birds descend not to the mortal who strives to reach them with
swift blow and weapons.

14 Celestial and terrestrial generations, and Waters will I summon to the

feasting.

May days with bright dawns cause my songs to prosper, and may the conquered streams increase their waters.

15 Duly to each one hath my laud been offered. Strong be Varutri with her powers to succour.

May the great Mother Rasa here befriend us, straight-handed, with the princes, striving forward.

16 How may we serve the Liberal Ones with worship, the Maruts swift of course in invocation, the Maruts far-renowned in invocation?

Let not the Dragon of the Deep annoy us, and gladly may he welcome our addresses.

17 Thus thinking, O ye Gods, the mortal wins you to give him increase of his herds of cattle: the mortal wins him, O ye Gods, your favour.

Here he wins wholesome food to feed this body: as for mine old age, Nirrti consume it

18 O Gods, may we obtain from you this favour, strengthening food through the Cow's praise, ye Vasus.

May she who gives good gifts, the gracious Goddess, come speeding nigh to us for our well-being.

19 May Ila, Mother of the herds of cattle, and Urvasi with all the streams accept us;

May Urvasi in lofty heaven accepting, as she partakes the oblation of the living,

20 Visit us while she shares Urjavya's food.

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HYMN XLII. Visvedevas.

1. Now may our sweetest song with deep devotion reach Varuna, Mitra, Aditi, and Bhaga.

May the Five Priests' Lord, dwelling in oblations, bliss-giving Asura, hear, whose paths are open.

2 May Aditi welcome, even as a mother her dear heart-gladdening son, my song that lauds her.

The prayer they love, bliss-giving, God-appointed, I offer unto Varuna and Mitra.

3 In spirit him, the Sagest of the Sages; with sacrificial oil and meath bedew him

So then let him, God Savitar, provide us excellent, ready, and resplendent treasures.

4 With willing mind, Indra, vouchsafe us cattle, prosperity, Lord of Bays! and pious patrons;

And, with the sacred prayer by Gods appointed, give us the holy Deities' lovingkindness.

5 God Bhaga, Savitar who deals forth riches, Indra, and they who conquer Vrtra's treasures,

And Vaja and Rbhuksan and Purandhi, the Mighty and Immortal Ones, protect us!

6 Let us declare his deeds, the undecaying unrivalled Victor whom the Maruts follow.

None of old times, O Maghavan, nor later, none of these days hath reached thy hero prowess.

7 Praise him the Chief who gives the boon of riches, Brhaspati distributor of treasures,

Who, blessing most the man who sings and praises, comes with abundant wealth to his invoker.

8 Tended, Brhaspati, with thy protections, the princes are unharmed and girt by heroes.

Wealth that brings bliss is found among the givers of horses and of cattle and of raiment.

9 Make their wealth flee who, through our hymns enjoying their riches, yield us not an ample guerdon.

Far from the sun keep those who hate devotion, the godless, prospering in their vocation.

10 With wheelless chariots drive down him, O Maruts, who at the feasts of Gods regards the demons.

May he, though bathed in sweat, form empty wishes, who blames his sacred rite who toils to serve you.

11 Praise him whose bow is strong and sure his arrow, him who is Lord of every balm that bealeth.

Worship thou Rudra for his great good favour: adore the Asura, God, with salutations.

12 May the House-friends, the cunning-handed Artists, may the Steer's Wives, the streams carved out by Vibhvan,

And may the fair Ones honour and befriend us, Sarasvati, Brhaddiva, and Raka.

13 My newest song, thought that now springs within me, I offer to the Great, the Sure Protector,

Who made for us this All, in fond love laying each varied form within his Daughter's bosom.

14 Now, even now, may thy fair praise, O Singer, attain Idaspati who roars and thunders,

Who, rich in clouds and waters with his lightning speeds forth bedewing both the earth and heaven.

15 May this my laud attain the troop of Maruts, those who are youths in act, the Sons of Rudra.

The wish calls me to riches and well-being: praise the unwearied Ones whose steeds are dappled.

16 May this my laud reach earth and air's mid-region, and forest trees and plants to win me riches.

May every Deity be swift to listen, and Mother Earth with no ill thought regard me.

17 Gods, may we dwell in free untroubled bliss.

18 May we obtain the Asvins' newest favour, and gain their health-bestowing happy guidance.

Bring riches hither unto us, and heroes, and all felicity and joy, Immortals!

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HYMN XLIII. Visvedevas.

1. MAY the Milch-cows who hasten to their object come harmless unto us with liquid sweetness.

The Singer, lauding, calls, for ample riches, the Seven Mighty Ones who bring enjoyment.

2 With reverence and fair praise will I bring hither, for sake of strength, exhaustless Earth and Heaven.

Father and Mother, sweet of speech, fairhanded, may they, far-famed, in every fight protect us.

3 Adhvaryus, make the sweet libations ready, and bring the beautiful bright juice to Vayu.

God, as our Priest, be thou the first to drink it: we give thee of the mead to make thee joyful.

4 Two arms-the Soma's dexterous immo. lators-and the ten fingers set and fix the press-stone.

The stalk hath poured, fair with its spreading branches, the mead's bright glittering juice that dwells on mountains.

5 The Soma hath been pressed for thee, its lover, to give thee power and might and high enjoyment.

Invoked, turn hither in thy car, O Indra, at need, thy two well-trained and dear Bay Horses.

6 Bring by God-traversed paths, accordant, Agni, the great Aramati, Celestial Lady,

Exalted, worshipped with our gifts and homage, who knoweth holy Law, to drink sweet Soma.

7 As on his father's lap the son, the darling, so on the fire is set the sacred caldron,

Which holy singers deck, as if extending and heating that which holds the fatty membrane.

8 Hither, as herald to invite the Asvins, come the great lofty song, most sweet and pleasant!

Come in one car, joy-givers! to the banquet, like the bolt binding pole and nave, come hither.

9 I have declared this speech of adoration to mightiest Pusan and victorious Vayu,

Who by their bounty are the hymns' inspirers, and of themselves give power as a possession.

10 Invoked by us bring hither, jatavedas the Maruts all under their names and figures.

Come to