

nAsadIya sUkta (Rigveda) ——⊸ை∞் நாஸதீ³ய ஸூக்த (ரு'க்³வேத³)

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There was no air then, nor the heavens beyond it.

What covered it? Where was it? In whose keeping

Was there then cosmic water, in depths unfathomed?

ந ம்ரு'த்யுராஸீத³ம்ரு'தம் ந தா்ஹி ந ராத்ா்யா அஹ்ந ஆஸீத்ப்ரகேத: l ஆநீத³வாதம் ஸ்வத⁴யா ததே³கம் தஸ்மாத்³தா⁴ந்யந்ந பர: கிம் சநாஸ l 2 ll

Then there was neither death nor immortality nor was there then the torch of night and day.

The One breathed windlessly and self-sustaining.

There was that One then, and there was no other. தம ஆஸீத்தமஸா கூ³ள்ஹமக்³ரே**S**ப்ரதேதம் ஸலிலம் ஸர்வமா இத³ம் **J** துச்ச்²யேநாப்⁴வபிஹிதம் யதா³ஸீத்தபஸ்ஸ்தந்மஹிநாஜாயதைகம் **II** 3 **II**

At first there was only darkness wrapped in darkness.

All this was only unillumined water.

That One which came to be, enclosed in nothing,

arose at last, born of the power of heat.

காமஸ்தத 3 க் 3 ரே ஸம்வர்ததாதி 4 மந்ஸோ ரேத்: ப்ரத 2 மம் யதா 3 ஸீத் 1 ஸ்தோ ப 3 ந்து 4 மஸ்தி நிரவிந்த 3 ந்ஹ்ரு 3 தி 3 ப்ரதீஷ்யா கவயோ மநீஷா 1 4 1 In the beginning desire descended on it -

that was the primal seed, born of the mind.

The sages who have searched their hearts with wisdom know that which is is kin to that which is not.

திரம்சீநோ விததோ ரம்மிரேஷாமுத: ஸ்விதா³ஸீ3து³பரி ஸ்விதா³ஸீ3த் \mathbf{I} ரேதோதா ஆஸந்மஹிமாந ஆஸந்ஸ்வதா அவஸ்தாத்ப்ரயதி: பரஸ்தாத் \mathbf{II}

And they have stretched their cord across the void,

and know what was above, and what below.

Seminal powers made fertile mighty forces.

Below was strength, and over it was impulse.

கோ அத்³தா⁴ வேத³ க இஹ ப்ர வோசுத்குத ஆஜாதா குத இயம் விஸ்ரு'ஷ்டி: ↓

அர்வாக்³தே³வா அஸ்ய விஸர்ஜநேநாதா² கோ வேத³ யத ஆப³பூ⁴வ № 6 № But, after all, who knows, and who can say

Whence it all came, and how creation happened?

the gods themselves are later than creation,

so who knows truly whence it has arisen?

இயம் விஸ்ரு'ஷ்டிர்யத ஆபு³பூ⁴வ யதி³ வா தூ³தே⁴ யதி³ வா ந ெயோ ஆஸ்யாத்⁴யக்ஷ: பரமே வ்யோமந்ஸோ ஆங்க³ வேதூ யதி³ வா ந வேத³ ル

Whence all creation had its origin,

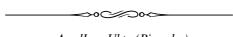
he, whether he fashioned it or whether he did not,

he, who surveys it all from highest heaven,

he knows - or maybe even he does not know.

This is the famous நாஸ்தீப் ஸூக்த the 129-th sUkta of the 10-th mandala of the Rigveda . It has been translated and discussed by many scholars and there have been volumes dedicated to just this one sUkta . The current translation is by A . L. Basham, from his book entitled "The Wonder that was India".

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