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# Nasadiya Sukta (Rigveda)

नासदीयसूक्तम् (ऋग्वेद)

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## Nasadiya Sukta (Rigveda)

### नासदीयसूक्तम् (ऋग्वेद)



नासदासीत्रो सदासीत्तदानीं नासीद्रजो नो व्योमा परो यत् ।  
किमावरीचः कुलु कस्य शर्मत्रम्भः किमासीद्रुडनं गभीरम् ॥ १ ॥

Then even nothingness was not, nor existence,  
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?

न मृत्युरासीदमृतं न तर्हि न रात्र्या अह्ना आसीत्प्रकेतः ।  
आनीदवातं स्वधया तदेकं तस्माद्भुवन्न परः किं यनास ॥ २ ॥

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.

तम आसीत्तमसा गुण्डमग्रेऽप्रकेतं सलिलं सर्वमा ष्टमम् ।  
तुच्छ्येनाभ्वपिडितं यदासीत्तपसस्तन्मडिनाजयतैकम् ॥ ३ ॥

At first there was only darkness wrapped in darkness.

All this was only unilluminated water.

That One which came to be, enclosed in nothing,

arose at last, born of the power of heat.

कामस्तदग्रे समवर्तताधि मनसो रेतः प्रथमं यदासीत् ।  
सतो बन्धुमसति निरविन्दन्वृद्धि प्रतीच्या कुवयो मनीषा ॥ ४ ॥

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 kin to that which is not.

तिरश्चीनो विततो रश्मिरेषामधः स्विदासीउद्गुरि स्विदासीउत् ।

रेतो॑धा आ॒सन्म॒डि॒मान॑ आ॒सन्स्व॒धा अ॒वस्ता॒त्प्रय॑तिः प॒रस्ता॑त् ॥ ५ ॥

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.

को अ॒ध्ना वे॒द क॒ ष॒ड॒प्र वो॒यत्कु॒त आ॒जाता॑ कु॒त ष्यं॑ विसृष्टिः ।

अ॒र्वाग्दे॒वा अ॒स्य वि॒सर्ज॑ने॒नाथा॑ को वे॒द यत् आ॒ब॒भूव॑ ॥ ६ ॥

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?

ष्यं॑ विसृष्टि॒र्यत् आ॒ब॒भूव॑ य॒दि वा॒ दृ॒षे य॒दि वा॒ न ।

यो अ॒स्याध॑क्षः प॒रमे॒ व्योम॑सो अ॒ङ्ग वे॒द य॒दि वा॒ न वे॒द ॥ ७ ॥

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 नासदीय सूक्त 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”.

Encoded and proofread by Avinash Sathaye sohum at ms.kyu.edu

*Nasadiya Sukta (Rigveda)*

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