Nasadiya Sukta (Rigveda)

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નાસદીયસૂક્તમ્ (ઋગ્વેદ)

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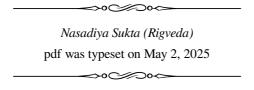


નાસદાસીન્નો સદાસીત્તદાનીં નાસીદ્રજો નો વ્યોમા પુરો યત્ ! કિમાવરીવઃ કુહ કસ્ય શર્મન્નમ્ભઃ કિમાસીદ્ગહનં ગભીરમ્ ॥ ૧॥ Then even nothingness was not, nor existence, There was no air then, nor the heavens beyond it. What covered it? Where was it? In whose keeping Was there then cosmic water, in depths unfathomed? ન મૃત્યુરાસીદ્દમૃતં ન તર્હિ ન રાત્ર્યા અહ્ન આસીત્પ્રકેતઃ I આનીદવાતં સ્વધયા તદેકં તસ્માધ્દાન્યન્ન પરઃ કિંચનાસ ॥ ૨॥ 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. તમ આસીત્તમસા ગૂજ્યમગ્રેડપ્રકેત સલિલ સર્વમા ઇદમ્ ! તુચ્છ્યેનાભ્વપિહિતં યદાસીત્તપસસ્તન્મહિનાજાયતૈકમ્ ॥ ૩॥ 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. કામસ્તદગ્રે સમવર્તતાધિ મનસો રેતઃ પ્રથમં યદાસીત્ ! સતો બન્ધુમસતિ નિરવિન્દન્હૃદિ પ્રતીષ્યા કવયો મનીષા ॥ ૪॥ 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. તિરશ્રીનો વિતતો રશ્મિરેષામધઃ સ્વિદાસીરકુપરિ સ્વિદાસીરત્ !

રેતોધા આસન્મહિમાન આસન્સ્વધા અવસ્તાત્પ્રયતિઃ પરસ્તાત્ ॥ ૫॥ 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. કો અદ્ધા વેદ ક ઇહ પ્ર વોચત્કુત આજાતા કુત ઇયં વિસૃષ્ટિઃ I અર્વાગ્દેવા અસ્ય વિસર્જનેનાથા કો વેદ યત આબભ્વ ॥ ૬॥ 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? ઇયં વિસૃષ્ટિર્યત આબભૂવ યદિ વાદધે યદિ વા ન ! યો અસ્યાધ્યક્ષ પરમે વ્યોમન્સો અડ્ગ વેદ યદિ વા ન વેદ ॥ ૭॥ 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 નાસદીય સૂક્ત 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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