

"Pour out the pure, the cow-producing wealth, pure gold, pure vegetable, moon plant juice, which is intermingled with the waters. Thou, O Soma, art a most heroic divinity, our priests have seated themselves to perform thy worship, Omniscient one."

"Thou, O Soma, art desired of all men in every quarter ; thou art the purifier . . . of the waters, to which thou proceedest in many drops. Let him strain out to us pure gold, with all kinds of wealth, and may we be ordained to live on earth."

The Yagur Veda Sanhita.

The body of writings known as the Yagur Veda constitutes the liturgical veda *par excellence*. It contains the formulas and verses proper to the priests, who prepared the ground for the sacrifice, dressed the altar, slew the victims, and poured out the libations. Hence the general title Yagur. Yaj-sacrifice.

This Veda exists in two independent texts, the Black and the White. The distinction is the result of an early schism, and has given rise to several explanatory legends, all equally incredible, with the exception of a tradition which finds in the obscurity of the one recension and the clear arrangement of the other, a justification of the titles.

The two texts differ in arrangement. In the Black Yagur each formula is immediately followed by the ritualistic explanation (brahmana). In the White Yagur the Sanhita is entirely separated from the brahmana, as is the case with the other Vedas.

The matter of the two texts is practically the same, and although the Black Yagur is the more ancient, the following outline refers to the White Yagur, which is available in translation, and more readily followed.

The White Yagur Veda Sanhita.

This Sanhita contains texts and formulas for the Adhvaryus (offerers) in a revised, systematic, and clear connection, and constituted a manual for the officiating priesthood. It is ascribed to the famous Vajnavalkya, reputed to be the author