

(b) A more usual division of the Samaveda is that which separates it into six Chapters, and twenty-two Lessons. Chapters 1-5 each contain ten hymns. Chapter 6 has nine.

The first twelve invocations (chaps. 1-2<sup>3</sup>) are addressed to Agni, "the god who sits on the sacred grass." These beseech him, who is "the messenger and herald of the gods, the possessor of all wealth, that he may prosperously conduct" the sacrifices (1<sup>3</sup>).

Then follows a series of hymns (chaps. 2<sup>3</sup>-5<sup>8</sup>) in which Indra, to whom the Soma sacrifice was offered, receives worshipful praise.

"While the moon plant sacrifice is in progress do thou, O my soul, in unison with the other chanters, sing the happiness of Indra" (chap. 2, hymn 3<sup>1</sup>).

"Indra is celebrated from the times of old, therefore let might be ascribed to us by the holder of the thunderbolt, for his strength is equal to the heavens in greatness" (chap. 2, hymn 8<sup>2</sup>)—

are typical of the strain of these hymns.

The sacrifice is referred to most frequently as a morning sacrifice, and there are many indications to show that, originally, it was celebrated as a domestic rite by the head of the family, probably in connection with the morning meal.

Chaps. 5<sup>9</sup>-6 contain the hymns used for the consecration of the liquid during the process of distillation.

"O Soma, do thou consecrate the pressed moon plant juice, by the flavouring, inebriating, dripping process of distillation" (chap. 5, hymn 9<sup>2</sup>).

"O Indra, consecrate the spirituous liquor, prepared by our active exertions" (chap. 5, hymn 9<sup>8</sup>).

"O Soma, pressed by the resounding sacrificial stones, thou art placed on the two goat skins" (chap. 6, hymn 5<sup>9</sup>).

"Be sanctified, O Soma, by this purifying operation."

**The Lessons.**—The twenty-two lessons (Adhyaya) are the hymns proper to the worship of Soma, during the acts by which the sacrifice was prepared and offered. They vary little in style and interest. Their character and quality may be gathered from the following extract from the sixth lesson.