

Study of Rig-Veda II.23, Hymn to Brahmanaspati

Text in Devanagari.

ṛṣi: gr̥tsamada (āṅgirasa śaunahotra paścād) bhārgava śaunaka; devatā: br̥haspati, 1-5,9,11,17,19 brahmaṇaspati; chanda: jagatī, 15,19 triṣṭup; Anuvāka III

गणानां त्वा गणपतिं हवामहे कविं कवीनाम् उपमश्रवस्तमम् ।
 ज्येष्ठराजम् ब्रह्मणाम् ब्रह्मणस् पत आ नः शृणवन्न ऊतिभिः सीद् सादनम् ॥ २-२३-१
 देवाश् चित् ते असुर्य प्रचेतसो बृहस्पते यज्ञियम् भागम् आनशुः ।
 उम्मा इव सूर्यो ज्योतिषा महो विश्वेषाम् इज् जनिता ब्रह्मणाम् असि ॥ २-२३-२
 आ विबाध्या परिरापस् तमांसि च ज्योतिष्मन्तं रथम् ऋतस्य तिष्ठसि ।
 बृहस्पते भीमम् अमित्रदम्भनं रक्षोहणं गोत्रभिदं स्वर्विदम् ॥ २-२३-३
 सुनीतिभिर् नयसि त्रायसे जनं यस् तुभ्यं दाशान् न तम् अंहो अश्ववत् ।
 ब्रह्मद्विषस् तपनो मन्युमीर् असि बृहस्पते महि तत् ते महित्वनम् ॥ २-२३-४
 न तम् अंहो न दुरितं कुतश् चन नारातयस् तितिरु न द्व्याविनः ।
 विश्वा इद् अस्माद् ध्वरसो वि बाधसे यं सुगोपा रक्षसि ब्रह्मणस् पते ॥ २-२३-५
 त्वं नो गोपाः पथिकृद् विचक्षणस् तव व्रताय मतिभिर् जरामहे ।
 बृहस्पते यो नो अभि ह्वरो दधे स्वा तम् मर्मर्तु दुच्छुना हरस्वती ॥ २-२३-६
 उत वा यो नो मर्चयाद् अनागसो ऽरातीवा मर्तः सानुको वृकः ।
 बृहस्पते अप तं वर्तया पथः सुगं नो अस्यै देववीतये कृधि ॥ २-२३-७
 त्रातारं त्वा तनूनां हवामहे ऽवस्पर्तर् अधिवक्तारम् अस्मयुम् ।
 बृहस्पते देवनिदो नि बर्हय मा दुरेवा उत्तरं सुम्नम् उन् नशन् ॥ २-२३-८
 त्वया वयं सुवृधा ब्रह्मणस् पते स्पार्हा वसु मनुष्या ददीमहि ।
 या नो दूरे तळितो या अरातयो ऽभि सन्ति जम्भया ता अनम्नसः ॥ २-२३-९

त्वया वयम् उत्तमं धीमहे वयो बृहस्पते परिणा सत्त्विना युजा ।
 मा नो दुःशंसो अभिदिप्सुर ईशत प्र सुशंसा मतिभिस् तारिषीमहि ॥ २-२३-१०
 अनानुदो वृषभो जग्मिर आहवं निष्टसा शत्रुम् पृतनासु सासहिः ।
 असि सत्य ऋण्या ब्रह्मणस् पत उग्रस्य चिद् दमिता वीलुहर्षिणः ॥ २-२३-११
 अदेवैन मनसा यो रिषण्यति शासाम् उग्रो मन्यमानो जिधांसति ।
 बृहस्पते मा प्रणक् तस्य नो वधो नि कर्म मन्युं दुरेवस्य शर्हतः ॥ २-२३-१२
 भरेषु हव्यो नमसोपसद्यो गन्ता वाजेषु सनिता धनं-धनम् ।
 विश्वा इद् अर्यो अभिदिप्स्वो मृयो बृहस्पतिर् वि ववर्हा रथाँइव ॥ २-२३-१३
 तेजिष्या तपनी रक्षसस् तप ये त्वा निदे दधिरे दृष्ट्वीर्यम् ।
 आविस् तत् कृष्व यद् असत् त उक्ष्यम् बृहस्पते वि परिरापो अर्दय ॥ २-२३-१४
 बृहस्पते अति यद् अर्यो अहाद् द्युमद् विभाति क्रतुमज् जनेषु ।
 यद् दीदयच् छवस ऋतप्रजात तद् अस्मासु द्रविणं धेहि चित्रम् ॥ २-२३-१५
 मा न स्तेनेभ्यो ये अभि द्रुहस् पदे निराभिणो रिपवो ऽन्नेषु जागृयुः ।
 आ देवानाम् ओहते वि व्रयो हृदि बृहस्पते न परः साम्नो विदुः ॥ २-२३-१६
 विश्वेभ्यो हि त्वा भुवनेभ्यस् परि त्वष्टाजनत् साम्नः साम्नः कविः ।
 स ऋष्णचिद् ऋण्या ब्रह्मणस् पतिर् द्रुहो हन्ता मह ऋतस्य धर्तरि ॥ २-२३-१७
 तव श्रिये व्य अजिहीत पर्वतो गवां गोत्रम् उदसृजो यद् अङ्गिरः ।
 इन्द्रेण युजा तमसा परीवृतम् बृहस्पते निर् अपाम् औज्ञो अर्णवम् ॥ २-२३-१८
 ब्रह्मणस् पते त्वम् अस्य यन्ता सूक्तस्य बोधि तनयं च जिन्व ।
 विश्वं तद् भद्रं यद् अवन्ति देवा बृहद् वदेम विदथे सुवीराः ॥ २-२३-१९

Metrically Restored Text in Tahoma.

gaṇānām tvā gaṇāpatim havāmahe, kavīm kavīnām upamáśravastamam
 jyeṣṭharājam brāhmaṇām brahmaṇas pata, ā nah śṛṅvānn ūtibhiḥ sīda sādanam 2.23.1

devāś cit te asuriya prácetaso, bṛhaspate yajñiyam bhāgám ānaśuh
usrā iva sūriyo jyotiṣā mahó, víśveṣām íj janitā bráhmaṇām asi 2.23.2

ā vibādhyā parirāpas támāṁsi ca, jyotiṣmantam rátham ḥtásya tiṣṭhasi
bṛhaspate bhīmám amitradámbhanam, rakṣoháṇam gotrabhídam suvarvídam 2.23.3

sunītibhir nayasi tráyase jánam, yás túbhyam dāśān ná tám áṁho aśnavat
brahmadvíśas tápano manyumír asi, bṛhaspate máhi tát te mahitvanám 2.23.4

ná tám áṁho ná duritám kútaś caná, nārātayas titirur ná dvayāvínaḥ
vísvā íd asmād dhvaráso ví bādhase, yám sugopá rákṣasi brahmaṇas pate 2.23.5

tuvám no gopāḥ pathikŕd vicakṣaṇás, tāva vratāya matíbhir jarāmahe
bṛhaspate yó no abhí hváro dadhé, svā tám marmartu duchúnā hárasvatī 2.23.6

utá vā yó no marcáyād ánāgaso, arātīvā mórtiaḥ sānukó vṛkaḥ
bṛhaspate ápa tám vartayā patháḥ, sugám no asyaí devávītaye kŕdhi 2.23.7

trātāram tvā tanūnāṁ havāmahe, ávaspartar adhivaktāram asmayúm
bṛhaspate devanido ní barhaya, mā durévā úttaram sumnám ún naśan 2.23.8

tváyā vayám suvṛdhā brahmaṇas pate, spārhá vásu manuṣiyá dadīmahī
yā no dūré talíto yā árātayo, abhí sánti jambháyā tā anapnásah 2.23.9

tváyā vayám uttamám dhīmahe váyo, bṛhaspate pápriṇā sásnīnā yujā
mā no duḥsáṁso abhidipsúr ísata, prá susáṁsā matíbhīs tāriṣīmahi 2.23.10

anānudó vṛṣabhbó jágmīr āhavám, níṣṭaptā sátrum pṛtanāsu sāsaḥīḥ
ási satyá ḥnayā brahmaṇas pata, ugrásya cid damitā vīluharṣīṇah 2.23.11

ádevena mánasā yó riṣaṇyáti, sāsām ugró mányamāno jíghāmsati
bṛhaspate mā prāṇak tásya no vadho, ní karma manyúm durévasya sárdhataḥ 2.23.12

bháreṣu hávyo námasopasádyo, gántā vājeṣu sánitā dhánām-dhanam
vísvā íd aryó abhidipsúvo mŕdho, bṛhaspátir ví vavarhā ráthāṁ iva 2.23.13

téjisthayā tapaní rakṣásas tapa, yé tvā nidé dadhiré dr̄ṣṭavīriyam
āvis tát kṛṣva yád ásat ta ukthiyam, bṛhaspate ví parirāpo ardaya 2.23.14

bṛhaspate áti yád aryó árhād, dyumád vibhāti krátumaj jáneṣu
yád dīdāyac chávasa rtaprajāta, tát asmāsu dráviṇam dhehi citrám 2.23.15

mā na stenébhyo yé abhí druhás padé, nirāmíno ripávó 'nneṣu jāgrdhúḥ
ā devānām óhate ví vráyo hr̄dī, bṛhaspate ná paráḥ sámano viduḥ 2.23.16

víśvebhyo hí tvā bhúvanebhyis pári, tváṣṭājanat sámanah-sámanah kavíḥ
sá ḥnacíd ḥnayā bráhmaṇas pátir, druhó hantā mahá ḥtásya dhartári 2.23.17

táva śriyé ví ajihīta párvato gávām gotrám udásrjo yád aṅgiraḥ
índreṇa yujā támāsa páriṇītam bṛhaspate nír apām aubjo arṇavám 2.23.18

bráhmaṇas pate tuvám asyá yantā, sūktásya bodhi tánayam ca jinva
vísvam tát bhadrám yád ávanti devā, bṛhád vadema vidáthe suvīrāḥ 2.23.19

Text, Translations, Comments and Vocabulary.

गणानां त्वा गणपतिं हवामहे कविं कवीनाम् उपमश्रवस्तमम् ।
ज्येष्ठराजम् ब्रह्मणाम् ब्रह्मणस् पत आ नः शृण्वन् ऊतिभिः सीद सादनम् ॥ २-२३-१

gaṇānām tvā gaṇapatiṁ havāmahe, kavīm kavīnām upamáśravastamam
jyeṣṭharājam bráhmaṇām brahmaṇas pata, ā nah śṛṇvān ūtibhiḥ sīda sādanam |1|

Interpretation:

We invoke you, the Lord of hosts (havāmahe tvā gaṇapatiṁ) over the hosts (of divine powers) (gaṇānām), the seer of seers with the uppermost inspired knowledge (kavīm kavīnām upamáśravastamam), the greatest (eldest) king of the expressive powers of the soul (jyeṣṭharājam bráhmaṇām), O Lord of the soul (brahmaṇas pate). Hearing us (śṛṇvān nah), sit down upon the seat (of our embodied being) (ā sīda sādanam) with your powers of expansion (ūtibhiḥ). (1)

Comments:

As we can see in the vocabulary below, there is made a distinction between the neuter and the masculine form of the word “brahman”. But Sri Aurobindo does not always draw a clear-cut line between these two forms, meaning he relates the neuter not only to the word that arises from the depth of the soul but to the soul itself. He therefore translates even the neuter (plural) as “gods of the soul” . In his comment on IV.50.5 we read further: “It is by the powers of the Word, by the rhythmic army of the soul-forces that Brihaspati brings all into expression and dispelling all the darknesses that encompass us makes an end of the Night. These are the “Brahma’s of the Veda, charged with the word, the brahman, the mantra; it is they in the sacrifice who raise heavenward the divine Rik, the Stuh or Stoma ... The “Brahma’s or Brahmana forces are the priests of the Word, the creators by the divine rhythm. It is by their cry that Brihaspati breaks Vala into fragments.”

Vocabulary:

ganapati, (-na-) m. (g. aśvapaty-ādi) *the leader of a class or troop or assemblage* VS.; (Brihaspati) RV. ii,23,1; (Indra) x,112,9; Siva L.; Ganesa (cf. also mahā-g-) Pancat.

upamaśravas, (upama-) mfn. *of highest fame, highly renowned;*

-tama mfn. *highly renowned, illustrious* RV. ii,23,1.

Sri Aurobindo translates this name “most rich in the supreme inspired knowledge” and points out in his work that the term “śravas” (from the root śru, to hear) in the Veda does not simply signify fame but inspired knowledge (inner hearing) like the more known term “śruti”. In the spiritual psychologic interpretation of the Veda this meaning is coherent throughout.

jyeṣṭharāj, m. *a sovereign* RV. ii,23,1; viii,16,3 MaitrS. i,3,11.

jyeṣṭha, mfn. (Pan. 5-3,61) *most excellent, pre-eminent, first, chief, best, greatest, (m.) the chief.* RV. &c.; (Pan. 5-3,62; -ṣṭha) *eldest, (m.) the eldest brother* RV. iv,33,5

brahman, n. (*lit. "growth", "expansion", "evolution", "development", "swelling of the spirit or soul"*, fr. 2. bṛh) *pious effusion or utterance, outpouring of the heart in worshipping the gods, prayer* RV. AV. VS. TS.;

religious or spiritual knowledge (opp. to religious observances and bodily mortification such as tapas &c.) AV. Br. Mn. R.;

n. the class of men who are the repositories and communicators of sacred knowledge, the Brahmanical caste as a body (rarely an individual Brahman) AV. TS. VS. SBr. Mn. BhP.;

m. (brahman, in nom. sg. brahmā), one who prays, a devot or religious man, a Brahman who is a knower of Vedic texts or spells, one versed in sacred knowledge RV. &c.; [cf. Lat., flamen];

N. of Brihas-pati (as the priest of the gods) RV. x,141,3

ūti, 1 f. help, protection, promoting, refreshing favour; kindness, refreshment RV. AV.; means of helping or promoting or refreshing, goods, riches (also plur.) RV. AV. SBr. xii

Sri Aurobindo: by manifestations in our beings (II.23.1); expansion, increase, safekeeping, protection; sad, cl. 1. or 6. P. sīdati Ved. sadati or sīdati, to sit down (esp. at a sacrifice), sit upon or in or at (acc. or loc.) RV. AV. VS. SBr.;

*sādana, (= sadana) a seat, house, dwelling, place, home MBh. R. BhP.;
a vessel, dish BhP.;*

Old Translators:

1. WE call thee, Lord and Leader of the heavenly hosts, the wise among the wise, the famousest of all,
The King supreme of prayers, O Brahmanaspati: hear us with help; sit down in place of sacrifice.

1. Wir rufen dich, den Herrn der Sängerscharen an, den hochberühmtesten Weisen der Weisen, den Oberherrn der Segensworte, o Brahmanaspati. Höre uns an und setz dich mit deinen Hilfen auf den Sitz!

देवाश्चित् ते असुर्य प्रचेतसो बृहस्पते यज्ञियम् भागम् आनशुः ।
उस्ता इव सूर्यो ज्योतिषा महो विश्वेषाम् इज् जनिता ब्रह्मणाम् असि ॥ २-२३-२

devāś cit te asuriya práctaso, bṛhaspate yajñiyam bhāgám ānaśuh
usrā iva sūriyo jyotiṣā mahó, vísveṣām íj janitā bráhmaṇām asi |2|

Interpretation:

O almighty Lord of the creative Word (asuriya bṛhaspate), even the conscious gods (devāś cit práctasah) have gained from you their sacrificial share (of enjoyment) (te yajñiyam bhāgám ānaśuh). As the great Sun (generates) by its light the illumining rays (usrā iva sūriyo jyotiṣā mahó), you are (asi) indeed the generator of all expressive powers of the soul (íj janitā vísveṣām bráhmaṇām). (2)

(Or: ... even the conscious gods have enjoyed your sacrificial share (of delight). As the Sun by the light of the Vast (generates) the illumining rays (usrā iva sūriyo jyotiṣā mahó), you are ...)

Vocabulary:

asuryā, 1 (4) mfn. *incorporeal, spiritual, divine* RV. (Pan. 4-4,1 23)

(ās) m. (= asura m. q.v.) *the supreme spirit* RV. ii,35,2.

pracetas, mfn. *attentive, observant, mindful, clever, wise (said of the gods, esp. of Agni and the Adityas)* RV. AV. VS. TS.;

aś, 1 aśnute, Vedic forms are: aśnoti, **perf. 3. pl. ānaśuh** (frequently in RV.) *to reach, come to, arrive at, get, gain, obtain* RV. &c.; *to master, become master of.* RV.; *to offer* RV.; *to enjoy* MBh. xii,12136; usra, (ā) f. (Un. ii,13) *morning light, daybreak, brightness* RV. (*personified as a red cow*) *a cow* RV. AV. xii ,3,73 MBh. xiii Nir. &c.;

m. *a ray of light* RV. i,87,1 Ragh. Kir. &c.; *the sun, day; an ox, bull* RV. vi , 12 , 4 VS. iv , 33; *N. of the Asvins* RV. ii , 39 , 3

maha, 1 mfn. *great, mighty, strong, abundant* RV.

mah, 2 mf(ī or = m.)n. great, strong, powerful; mighty, abundant RV. VS.

Old Translators:

2 Brhaspati, God immortal! verily the Gods have gained from thee, the wise, a share in holy rites.
As with great light the Sun brings forth the rays of morn, so thou alone art Father of all sacred prayer.
2. Die weisen Götter selbst haben von dir, du asurischer Brihaspati, ihren Anteil am Opfer empfangen.
Wie die große Sonne durch ihr Licht die Morgenröte, so erzeugest du alle Segensworte.

आ विबाध्या परिरापस् तमांसि च ज्योतिष्मन्तं रथम् ऋतस्य तिष्ठसि ।
बृहस्पते भीमम् अमित्रदम्भनं रक्षोहणं गोत्रभिदं स्वर्विदम् ॥ २-२३-३

ā vibādhyā parirāpas támāmsi ca, jyotiṣmantam rátham ṛtásya tiṣṭhasi
bṛhaspate bhīmám amitradámbhanam, rakṣoháṇam gotrabhídam suvarvídam |3|

Interpretation:

O Brihaspati, repelling all insinuities (or, the powers that besiege us) and darknesses (vibādhyā parirāpas támāmsi ca), you mount (ā tiṣṭhasi) your luminous car of the truth (jyotiṣmantam rátham ṛtásya), - your terrifying (car), that quells the hostile forces (bhīmám amitradámbhanam), destroys all confining powers (rakṣoháṇam), breaks open the enclosures of the herds of light (gotrabhídam), and finds the Sun-world (suvarvídam). (3)

Comments:

With insinuities are meant the adverse suggestions of the powers of the inconscient darkness that try to take hold of the human nature, which should be occupied by the luminous positive inspirations of the soul.

Vocabulary:

vi-bādh, A. -bādhate, *to press or drive asunder in different directions, drive or scare away* RV. AV.;
parirāpas, (Padap. -rap) m. pl. (rap) *crying or talking all around; N. of a class of demons* RV.
SA: plunderer
parirāpin, mfn. *whispering to, talking over, persuading* AV.
ā sthā, 1 P. A. -tiṣṭhati, -te, *to stand or remain on or by to ascend, mount; to stay near, go towards, resort to* RV. AV. SBr. AsvGr. MBh. R. BhP. Kum. &c.
bhīma, mf(ā)n. *fearful, terrific, terrible; awful, formidable, tremendous* RV. &c.
amitradambhana, mfn. *hurting enemies* RV. ii, 23, 3 and iv, 15, 4.
dambhana, mfn. ifc. "damaging" see amitra and sapatna-dambh-dabh, *to hurt, injure, destroy* RV. AV. TS.
rakṣohan, mf(ghnī)n. *killing or destroying Rakshasas* RV. VS. SBr.
gotra, n. (trai) *protection or shelter for cows, cow-pen, cow-shed, stable for cattle, stable (in general), hurdle, enclosure* RV. (once m. viii, 50, 10)
bhid, 2 mfn. (ifc.) *breaking, splitting, piercing, destroying* Kav. Kathas. Pur. (cf. áśma-, giri-, tamo-, pura-bhid &c.)

Old Translators:

3 When thou hast chased away revilers and the gloom, thou mountest the resplendent car of sacrifice;
The awful car, Brhaspati, that quells the foe, slays demons, cleaves the stall of kine, and finds the light.
3. Indem du die Ausreden und die Finsternis des Herzens zerstreut, besteigst du den lichten Wagen
des Gesetzes, o Brihaspati, den furchtbaren, der die Feinde überlistet, die Unholde tötet, die Kuhhöhle
aufsprengt, das Himmelslicht findet.

सुनीतिभिर् नयसि त्रायसे जनं यस् तुभ्यं दाशान् न तम् अंहो अश्वत् ।
 ब्रह्मद्विषस् तपनो मन्युमीर् असि बृहस्पते महि तत् ते महित्वनम् ॥ २-२३-४

sunītibhir nayasi trāyase jánam, yás túbhyam dāśān ná tám ámho aśnavat
 brahmadvíṣas tápano manyumír asi, bṛhaspate máhi tát te mahitvanám |4|

Interpretation:

You guide with perfect leadings (sunītibhir nayasi) and rescue the man (trāyase jánam) who serves (or, gives himself to) you (yás túbhyam dāśān), and no narrowness can reach (or, posses) him (ná tám ámho aśnavat). You are (asi) the chastiser (or, afflicter) of him who opposes (the expression of) the soul (brahmadvíṣas tápano) and the eradicator of anger (or, of the passion-mind) (manyumír). O Brihaspati, such is the extent of your expansive might (máhi tát te mahitvanám). (4)

Comments:

The term brahma-dviṣ could also be translated as dualizer, hater or rejecter of the soul (and its growing influence); and the term manyu perhaps more literally as mental seeking, but here in a wrong or exaggerated sense. (In II.24.14 the same seer speaks even of Brahmanaspati's satya manyu, or true mental movement.)

Vocabulary:

trai, cl. 1. A. *to protect, preserve, cherish, defend; rescue from (gen. or abl.)*
 dāś, 1 (the finite forms only in RV. and once in SBr. see below) cl. 1. P. dāśti *to serve or honour a god (dat. or acc.);*
 2 f. *worship, veneration RV. i,127,7; m. worshipper, vi,16,26 (cf. dū- and puro-).*
 amhas, n. *anxiety, trouble RV. &c. sin L. [cf. agha, āgas]*
brahmadvīṣ, mfn. hostile to sacred knowledge or religion, impious (said of men and demons) RV.
tapana, mfn. warming, burning, shining (the sun) MBh. i,v R. vi,79,57 causing pain or distress RV. ii,23,4
manyumī, mfn. "destroying hostile fury" or "destroying in fury" RV.
manyu, m. spirit, mind, mood, mettle (as of horses) RV. TS. Br.;
high spirit or temper, ardour, zeal, passion RV. &c.; rage, fury, wrath, anger, indignation ib. (also personified, esp. as Agni or Kāma or as a Rudra;
mahi, 1 mfn. (only nom. acc. sg. n.) = mahat, great RV. AV. VS.; ind. greatly, very, exceedingly, much ib. SankhSr.;
mahitvana, n. id. (ā ind. by greatness) RV.;

Old Translators:

4 Thou leadest with good guidance and preservest men; distress o'ertakes not him who offers gifts to thee.

Him who hates prayer thou punishest, Brhaspati, quelling his wrath: herein is thy great mightiness.

4. Mit guten Weisungen leitest du, schützest du den Mann, der dir zu spenden pflegt; ihn soll keine Not treffen. Du schaffst brennende Pein, du vereitelst den bösen Eifer des Feindes des Priesterworts: Das ist deine hehre Größe, o Brihaspati.

न तम् अंहो न दुरितं कुतश् चन नारात्यस् तितिरू न द्व्याविनः ।

विश्वा इद् अस्माद् ध्वरसो वि बाधसे यं सुगोपा रक्षसि ब्रह्मणस् पते ॥ २-२३-५

ná tám áṁho ná duritám kútaś caná, nārātayas titirur ná dvayāvínah
vísvā íd asmād dhvaráso ví bādhase, yám sugopā rákṣasi brahmaṇas pate |5|

Interpretation:

O Lord of the Soul (brahmaṇas pate), whom you, the perfect guardian, protect (yám sugopā rákṣasi), from him surely you repel (or, avert) (asmād íd ví bādhase) all crookedness (vísvā hvaráso); him overcome (titirur) neither the powers of selfishness (nārātayas) nor those of a divided being (ná dvayāvínah) - him no narrowness (ná tám áṁho) and no wrong movement from anywhere (ná duritám kútaś caná). (5)

Vocabulary:

durita, (dur- RV. i,125,7) n. *bad course, difficulty, danger; discomfort, evil, sin (also personified)* RV. AV. Hariv. Kav. &c.;

Sri Aurobindo: Duritam means literally stumbling or wrong going, figuratively all that is wrong and evil, all sin, error, calamity; false going, which means all evil and suffering...

tř, cl. 1. P. tarati **pf.** tatāra RV. &c.; **3. pl. titirur** *to pass across or over, cross over (a river), sail across RV. &c.; to surpass, overcome, subdue, escape RV. &c.*

dvayāvin, mfn. *false, dishonest* RV. AV.

literally: *one who has duplicity, or who is divided;*

hvaras, n. (pl.) *crookedness, deceit, intrigue ib. VS.; a trap, snare (?)* RV. **ii,23,5;**

Old Translators:

5 No sorrow, no distress from any side, no foes, no creatures double-tongued have overcome the man,-
Thou drivest all seductive fiends away from him whom, careful guard, thou keepest Brahmanaspati.

5. Über ihn kommen weder Not noch Gefahr von irgend einer Seite, nicht Mißgunst noch Doppelzüngige;
alle Tücken scheuchst du von dem hinweg, den du als guter Hirte behütest, o Brahmanaspati.

त्वं नो गोपाः पथिकृद् विचक्षणस् तव व्रताय मतिभिर् जरामहे ।
बृहस्पते यो नो अभि ह्वरो दधे स्वा तम् मर्मर्तु दुच्छुना हरस्वती ॥ २-२३-६

tuvám no gopáḥ pathikŕd vicakṣanás, táva vratāya matíbhír jarāmahe
bṛhaspate yó no abhí hváro dadhé, svā tám marmartu duchúnā hárasvatī |6|

Interpretation:

You are our guardian (tuvám no gopáḥ) and the builder of our path, who has the clear vision (pathikŕd vicakṣanás). With our thoughts we honour (or, adhere to) (matíbhír jarāmahe) the law of your working (táva vratāya). O Brihaspati, he who puts on us his crooked way (yó abhí dadhé no hváro), - his own violent malicious act (svā hárasvatī duchúnā) may destroy (or, torture) him (tám marmartu). (6)

Comments:

The first half of this verse shows us again the aspiration of following the right inner guidance with the condition of adhering to its higher law.

Vocabulary:

pathikṛt, mfn. *making a way or road, preparing a way* RV. AV. SBr. SrS.;
 vicakṣaṇa, mfn. *conspicuous, visible, bright, radiant, splendid* RV. AV. Br. GrSrS.; *distinct, perceptible*
ParGr.; clear-sighted (lit. and fig.), sagacious, clever, wise, experienced or versed in, familiar with (loc. or comp.) RV. &c.;

vrata, n. (ifc. f. ā; fr. 2. vr) *will, command, law, ordinance, rule* RV.; *obedience, service* ib. AV. AsvGr.;
dominion, realm RV.; *sphere of action, function, mode or manner of life* (e.g. śuci-vr-, pure manner of
life Sak.), *conduct, manner, usage, custom* RV. &c.;

jī, 2 (= gṛ) cl. 1. A. jarate (p. jaramāṇa) *to crackle (as fire)* RV.; (Naigh. iii , 14) *to call out to, address,*
invoke, praise RV.

jr, 2 cl. 1. A. (2. du. jarethe and Impv. -thām; p. jaramāṇa) *to come near, approach* RV. i-iv, vii f.
 x,40,3.;

SA: adore, woo, approach;

hvaras, n. (pl.) *crookedness, deceit, intrigue* ib. VS.; *a trap, snare (?)* RV. ii, 23, 6.;
 abhi-dhā, *to bring upon (dat.)* RV. ii ,23,6: A. (rarely P.) *to put on or round, put on the furniture of a*
horse (cf. abhi-hīta below) RV. &c.;

ducchuna, f. (prob. fr. dus and śuna) *misfortune, calamity, harm, mischief (often personified as a demon)*
 RV. AV. VS.

SA: suffering, unease, affliction, mischief; compare with V.45.5

śuna, 1 m. (prob. fr. śū or śvi, and connected with śūra, śūṣa &c.) "the Auspicious one", N. of Vayu, Nir.;
 (am) ind. *happily, auspiciously, for growth or prosperity* RV. AV.;

du, 2 (also written dū), cl.5. dunoti, dūyate, *to be burnt, to be consumed with internal heat or sorrow*
 (only dunoti) *to burn, consume with fire, cause internal heat, pain, or sorrow, afflict, distress* AV. ix,4 ,18;
 Lit. davyti, *to torment* Sl. daviti, *to worry.*

mr, *to die, decease* RV. &c. Intens. memīyate, **marmarti**

harasvat, (haras-), mfn. *seizing (or "fiery")* RV. ii ,23,6

SA: violent and troubled

Old Translators:

6 Thou art our keeper, wise, preparer of our paths: we, for thy service, sing to thee with hymns of
 praise.

Bṛhaspati, whoever lays a snare for us, him may his evil fate, precipitate, destroy.

6. Du bist ein weitblickender Hirte und Wegebereiter. Zu deinem Dienste sind wir mit Liedern wach.
 Brihaspati, wer uns eine Falle stellt, den soll sein eigenes Unheil wutentbrannt zermalmen.

उत वा यो नो मर्चयाद् अनागसो ऽरातीवा मर्तः सानुको वृकः ।
 वृहस्पते अप तं वर्तया पथः सुगं नो अस्यै देववीतये कृधि ॥ २-२३-७

utá vā yó no marcáyād ánāgasо, arātīvā mártiaḥ sānukó vŕkah
 břhaspate ápa tám vartayā patháḥ, sugám no asyaí devávítaye kŕdhi |7|

Interpretation:

And also (utá vā) that selfish mortal (arātīvā mártiaḥ) - a wolf on the mountain-ridge (sānukó vŕkah) - who would seek to hinder (or, hurt) us (yó no marcáyād), who are free from blame (or, narrowness) (ánāgasо), - him, O Brihaspati, turn off from the path (tám ápa vartayā patháḥ) and create for us an easy going (sugám no kŕdhi) to the manifestation of (or, meeting with) the Divine (asyaí devávítaye). (7)

Vocabulary:

mṛc, 1 (cf. marc) cl. 10. P. marcayati (cl. 4. P. mṛcyati [?] JaimBr.; Prec. mṛkṣīṣṭa}), *to hurt, injure, annoy RV. AV. GrS.*
 marc, (cf. mṛc) cl. 10. P. marcayati, *to sound* (v.l. for mārj) *to seize, take* (cf. Un. iii. 43).
 SA: oppress (limit);
 anāgas, mfn. *sinless, blameless RV. &c.;* (an-āgas) mfn. *not injuring RV. x, 165, 2.*
 arātīvan, mfn. *hostile, inimical RV.*
 sānuka, mfn. *eager for prey RV.;*
 mfn. *elevated, arrogant (Say.);*
 SA: of the plateau;
 sānu, m. n. (accord. to Un. i, 3 fr. san; collateral form 3. snu) *a summit, ridge, surface, top of a mountain, (in later language generally) mountain-ridge, table-land RV. &c.*
 vṛka, m. (prob. "the tearer" connected with vrasc, cf. vṛkṇa), *a wolf RV. &c.; (L. also "a dog; a jackal; a crow; an owl; a thief; a Kshatriya");*
a plough RV. i, 117, 21; a thunderbolt Naigh. ii, 20
 apa-vṛt, *to turn away, depart; to move out from, get out of the way, slip off; Caus. P. (Ved. Imper. 2. sg. -vartayā) to turn or drive away from RV. ii, 23, 7 &c.;*
 suga, 1 mf(ā)n. (i.e. 5. su + 2. ga; gam) *going well or gracefully, having a graceful gait W.; easily passed, easy to traverse RV. AV. TBr. Laty.; easy of access Kathas. Hcat.; easy to obtain RV. TS. Pancat.;*
 n. *a good path easy or successful course RV. VS.*
 devavīti, f. *a feast or enjoyment for the gods RV.*
 Sri Aurobindo renders this term generally as: manifestation of the gods;

Old Translators:

7 Him, too, who threatens us without offence of ours, the evilminded, arrogant, rapacious man,-
 Him turn thou from our path away, Brhaspati: give us fair access to this banquet of the Gods.
 7. Oder wenn ein mißgünstiger Sterblicher, ein Wolf uns schuldlosen Abbruch tun will, so lenke ihn
 vom Wege ab, o Brihaspati; schaff uns guten Weg für diese Götterladung!

त्रातारं त्वा तनूनां हवामहे ऽवस्पर्तर् अधिवक्तारम् अस्मयुम् ।
 बृहस्पते देवनिदो नि बर्हय मा दुरेवा उत्तरं सुम्नम् उन् नशन् ॥ २-२३-८

trātāram tvā tanūnām havāmahe, ávaspartar adhivaktāram asmayúm
 břhaspate devanido ní barhaya, mā durévā úttaram sumnám ún našan |8|

Interpretation:

O Deliverer, we call to you (ávaspartar havāmahe tvā), the saviour of our bodies (trātāram tanūnām), the speaker, who seeks us (adhivaktāram asmayúm). O Brihaspati, remove (ní barhaya) the limiters (or, confiners) of the Divine (devanido). May those with wrong movements (or, evil intentions) (durévā) not reach up (mā ún našan) to the higher fulfilled mind (úttaram sumnám). (8)

Comments:

Saviour of our bodies could here mean our whole embodied being, or even the fallen self; because in the Veda the term tanu means self and body. The word adhivaktri one could see here as meaning the superintending deity of speech, who seeks us to guide us with the inner voice of the soul. In the second half of the verse we have perhaps a further elaboration of the picture of the symbolic "wolf on the mountain-plateau", who would hurt us or just block our passage beyond at the higher altitudes of the mind.

Vocabulary:

trāṭr̄, m. a protector, defender, one who saves from (abl. or gen.) RV. (with deva applied to Bhaga or Savitri) VS. AV. TS. (Indra) MBh. &c.

SA: saviour

ava-sparṭr̄, (only Voc. -rtar) m. a preserver, saviour RV. **ii,23,8.**

SA: deliverer

adhibakṭr̄, m. an advocate, protector, comforter RV. VS.

SA: revealer, spokesman;

asmayu, mfn. endeavouring to attain us, desiring us, liking us RV.

devanid, mfn. hating the gods, a god-hater RV.;

SA: those who limit the god in us; obstructor of the gods;

ni-bṛh, (vṛh) P. -bṛhati (aor. -barhīt), to throw down, overthrow, crush, destroy RV;

dureva, mfn. ill-disposed, malignant; m. evildoer, criminal RV. AV.

SA: of evil movement or impulse;

sumna, mfn. (prob. fr. 5. su and mnā = man) benevolent, kind, gracious, favourable RV. x,5,3 (am);

n. benevolence, favour, grace RV. TS.; devotion, prayer, hymn RV. &; satisfaction, peace, joy, happiness ib.;

SA: almost always "bliss"; a few times "happiness" and once "peace";

ud-naś, (ud- 1. naś) P. (Subj. -naśat) to reach, obtain RV. i,164,22; **ii,23,8.**

Old Translators:

8 Thee as protector of our bodies we invoke, thee, saviour, as the comforter who loveth us.

Strike, O Brhaspati, the Gods' revilers down, and let not the unrighteous come to highest bliss.

8. Wir rufen dich als den Schützer der Leiber an, als den uns günstigen Fürsprecher, du Befreier. O Brihaspati, schmettere die Götterschmäher nieder. Nicht sollen die Böswilligen höhere Gunst als wir erlangen.

त्वया वयं सुवृधा ब्रह्मणस् पते स्पार्हा वसु मनुष्या ददीमहि ।
 या नो दूरे तळितो या अरातयो ऽभि सन्ति जम्भया ता अनप्रसः ॥ २-२३-९

tváyā vayám suvṛdhā brahmaṇas pate, spārhā vásu manusiyā dadīmah
 yā no dūré talíto yā árātayo, abhí sánti jambháyā tā anapnásah |9|

Interpretation:

O Lord of the Soul (brahmaṇas pate), through you well-growing (tváyā suvṛdhā), may we receive (ā dadīmah) the desirable shining treasures (spārhā vásu) that pertain to the human (or, mental) being (manusiyā). The selfish powers (árātayo), who attack us (yā abhí sánti no) from far and near (dūré talíto), - crush these (tā) powers that do not take part in the work (of sacrifice) (anapnásah). (9)

Vocabulary:

suvṛdh, mfn. joyous, cheerful RV.

suvṛdhā, mfn. growing well, thriving, prospering AV.

spārha, mf(ā)n. desirable, enviable, excellent RV. BhP.

vasu, 1 mf(u or vī)n. excellent, good, beneficent RV. GrSrS.;

n. wealth, goods, riches, property RV. &c.;

dā, 1 cl. 3 dadāti, to give, bestow, grant, yield, impart, present, offer to (dat., in later language also gen. or loc.) RV. &c.

tađit, ind. = -đitas RV. i,94,7 (talit) f. *stroke (vadha-karman Naigh. ii,19), lightning Nir. iii,10f. Susr. &c. (ifc. -đita Vet. Introd. 20).*

tađitas, (taļit-) *ind. closely, near (as if striking against) RV. ii,23,9.*

abhi-as, 1 1. -asti (1. pl. abhiṣmas, but 3. pl. abhisanti) *to be over, reign over, excel, surpass, overpower RV. AV.*

jambh, 1 or jambh (cl. 1. jabhate or jambh-) *to snap at (gen.) RV. x,86,4; Caus. jambhayati, to crush, destroy RV. AV. VS. xvi,5;*

anapnas, mfn. *destitute of means RV. ii,23,9 [cf. Lat. inops.];*

apnas, n. *possession, property RV. [cf. Lat. ops] work, sacrificial act Naigh. Un.*

Old Translators:

9 Through thee, kind prosperer, O Brahmanaspati, may we obtain the wealth of Men which all desire:
And all our enemies, who near or far away prevail against us, crush, and leave them destitute.

9. Durch dich, den Wohlgedeihlichen, möchten wir die begehrten menschlichen Güter
empfangen, o Brahmanaspati. Die Mißgunst, die in der Ferne, die in der Nähe uns bedroht,
die lohnverweigernde erstickt!

त्वया वयम् उत्तमं धीमहे वयो बृहस्पते पप्रिणा सस्निना युजा ।
मा नो दुःशांसो अभिदिप्सुर इशत प्र सुशांसा मतिभिस् तारिषीमहि ॥ २-२३-१०

tváyā vayám uttamám dhīmahe váyo, břhaspate pápriṇā sásnínā yujā
mā no duḥśáṁso abhidipsúr íśata, prá suśáṁsā matíbhíś tāriṣīmahi |10|

Interpretation:

O Brihaspati, through you (tváyā) we hold by our thought (dhīmahe) the supreme expanse (uttamám váyo) (of the highest manifestation), - through your companionship (yujā), your delivering and conquering (pápriṇā sásnínā). May not (mā) one of wrong (or, evil) expression (duḥśáṁso), who seeks to harm (abhidipsúr), have mastery over us (íśata no). Having the right (or, true) expression (suśáṁsā), by our (soulful) thoughts (matíbhíś) may we cross beyond (prá tāriṣīmahi). (10)

Comments:

In verse one of VII.97 (our previously explored hymn) it is said in regard to Indra: "May he come for (his) delight (gáman mādāya) and (attain) to the original expanse (of the highest manifestation) (prathamám váyaś ca)."

Vocabulary:

dhī, 1 cl. 3. A. dīdhīte &c. RV. (cf. dīdhī the forms dhīmahi and adhāyi belong rather to 1. dhā = *to put, hold, establish*) *to perceive, think, reflect;*

pápri, 1 mfn. *giving, granting (with gen. or acc.; superl. -tama) RV. VS. (cf. Pan. 7-1,103 Sch.)*

2 mfn. (1. pr) *delivering, saving RV.: AV. TS.*

SA: preserver and fulfiller; satisfied, full;

sasni, mfn. (fr. 1. san) *procuring, bestowing; gaining, winning RV.*

yuj, m. *a yoke-fellow, companion, comrade, associate RV. AV. Br.*

duḥśáṁsa, mfn. *wishing or threatening evil, malicious, wicked RV. AV. &c.*

abhidipsu, mfn. (dips Desid. of dambh), "*wishing to deceive*", *inimical, cunning RV. ii. 23,10 and 13.*

SA: one who would tear (its fullness);

íś, 1 cl. 2. A. íste, or Ved. íše, *to own, possess RV. MBh. Bhatt.;*

to be master of (with gen., or Ved. with gen. of an inf., or with a common inf., or the loc. of an abstract noun) RV. AV. TS. SBr. MBh. Ragh. &c.

pra tṛ, P. A. -tarati, -te, (A. and Pass. -tāri RV.) to go to sea, pass over, cross SBr. &c.; to set out, start RV. SBr.; (A.) to rise, thrive, prosper RV.; to raise, elevate, augment, increase, further, promote ib. AV. S3Br. MBh.

Old Translators:

10 With thee as our own rich and liberal ally may we, Brhaspati, gain highest power of life.

Let not the guileful wicked man be lord of us:-still may we prosper, singing goodly hymns of praise.

10. Durch dich den reichlich spendenden und lohnenden Verbündeten möchten wir höchste Lebenskraft erlangen, o Brihaspati. Nicht soll der Übelredende, Schadensüchtige über uns Macht haben. Wir möchten als Belobte durch unsere Gedichte vorwärtskommen.

अनानुदो वृषभो जग्मिर् आहवं निष्टप्ता शत्रुम् पृतनासु सासाहिः ।
 असि सत्यं त्रृणया ब्रह्मणस् पत उग्रस्य चिद् दमिता वीलुहर्षिणः ॥ २-२३-११

anānudó vṛṣabho jágmir āhavám, níṣṭaptā śátrum pṛtanāsu sāsahíḥ
ási satyá ḥnayā brahmaṇas pata, ugrásya cid damitā vīluharsínah |11|

Interpretation:

You are the sovereign One (vṛṣabho), who goes to the challenge without giving way (jágmir āhavám anānudó), the scorcher of the foe, who conquers in the battles (níṣṭaptā śátrum pṛtanāsu sāsahíḥ). O Brahmanaspati, you are the true rectifier (ási satyá ḥnayā), who subdues (or, curbs) even the might of him who glories in his strength (damitā ugrásya cid vīluharsínah). (11)

(Or: You are the true (power) who sets (things) right. Even of the fierce might that exults in its strength you are the tamer.)

Vocabulary:

anānuda, mfn. (1. da with ānu for anu), *not giving way, obstinate RV.;*

jagmi, mfn. (Pan. 3-2,171) *going, being in constant motion, hastening towards (acc. or loc.) RV.;*

āhava, 2 m. *challenge, provoking war, battle RV. MBh. Mn. R. Bhag. &c.;*

SA: *battle-cry;*

níṣṭapta, mfn. *burnt, scorched, heated thoroughly, melted (as gold), well cooked or dressed VS. TBr. MBh. &c.;*

SA: *one who afflicts;*

śátru, m. (said to be for śat-tru, fr. 2. śad), *"overthrower", an enemy, foe, rival, a hostile king (esp. a neighbouring king as a natural enemy) RV. &c.;*

pṛtanā, f. *battle, contest, strife RV. VS. Br.; a hostile armament, army RV.; &c.; pl. men, mankind Naigh. ii.3.;*

sāsahi, mfn. (fr. Intens.) *conquering, victorious ib. (ifc.) able to bear Naish.;*

SA: *one who overpowers;*

ḥnaya, mfn. *going after or demanding (fulfilment of) obligations RV.;*

SA: *one in the movement; see also II.23.17;*

ugra, mfn. (said to be fr. uc [Un. ii,29], but probably fr. a uj, or vaj, fr. which also ojas, vāja, vajra may be derived; compar. ugratara and ojīyas; *powerful, violent, mighty, impetuous, strong, huge, formidable, terrible;*

damita, mfn. *tamed, subdued Pan. 7-2,27.;*

SA: *tamer;*

vīḍuharśin, mfn. (*prob.*) *fiercely passionate, refractory ib.*;
 SA: who exults in his strength;
 vīlu, mf(-ḍvī)n. *strong, firm, hard RV. VS.*;
 harśin, mfn. (*prob.*) becoming rigid or firm (see vīlu-h-); *joyful, joyfully, anticipating (comp.) Hariv. Pancar.; rejoicing, delighting MBh.*;

Old Translators:

11 Strong, never yielding, hastening to the battle-cry, consumer of the foe, victorious in the strife,
 Thou art sin's true avenger, Brahmanaspati, who tamest e'en the fierce, the wildly passionate.
 11. Ein unnachgiebiger Bulle, gern in den Streit ziehend, ein Ausbrenner des Feindes, in den Schlachten
 siegreich, bist du der wahrhafte Vergelter, o Brahmanaspati, der Bezwinger selbst des Gewaltigen, der
 sich seiner Härte freut.

अदेवैन मनसा यो रिषण्यति शासाम् उग्रो मन्यमानो जिघांसति ।
 बृहस्पते मा प्रणक् तस्य नो वधो नि कर्म मन्युं दुरेवस्य शर्धतः ॥ २-२३-१२

ádevena mánasā yó riṣanyáti, śāsām ugró mányamāno jíghāṁsatí
 bṛhaspate mā práṇak tásya no vadho, ní karma manyúm durévasya śárdhataḥ |12|

Interpretation:

Who with an undivine mind seeks to harm (us) (yó ádevena mánasā riṣanyáti), - who, considering himself mighty (ugró mányamāno) among those who command (or, instruct) (śāsām), intends to strike (us) (jíghāṁsatí), O Brihaspati, may his stroke (tásya vadho) not reach us (mā práṇak no). May we arrest the anger (or, passion-mind) (ní karma manyúm) of one who in a wrong movement (or, evil intention) (durévasya) uses his force (śárdhataḥ). (12)

Alternative rendering:

Who with an undivine mind seeks after knowledge, and, considering himself mighty among the teachers, seeks to hurt (or, hit) us, o Brihaspati, may his attack not reach us. May we curb the (mental) arrogance of his aggressive (or, defiant) wrong behavior.

Vocabulary:

riṣanyati, 2 Nom. P. -yati, *to fail, miscarry RV.*;
 SA: striveth after knowledge (only here, otherwise also harm);
 riś, 1 (cf. riś) cl. 1. 4. P. resati or riṣyati; *to injure, hurt, harm, destroy, ruin RV. AV. Bhatt.*;
 han, 1 cl. 2. P. hanti, *to strike beat (also a drum), pound, hammer (acc.), strike &c. upon (loc.) RV. &c.; to smite, slay, hit, kill, mar, destroy ib.*;
to mar, destroy MBh. Pancat. (v.l.): Desid. jíghāṁsatí, -te, to wish to kill or destroy RV. &c.;
 SA: seeketh to hurt;
 śās, 2 f. *command; a commander, ruler RV.*;
 SA: expression;
 śāsa, 1 m. *order, command RV.; a commander, ruler, chastiser RV.*;
 pra-naś, (1. naś) P. -naśati, *to reach, attain (only aor. -nak and -naśīmahī) RV.*;
 vadha, m. *one who kills, a slayer, vanquisher, destroyer RV. VS. TS. SBr.; a deadly weapon (esp. Indra's thunderbolt) RV. AitBr. SankhG2.; the act of striking or killing, slaughter, murder, death, destruction RV. &c.*
 SA: stroke;
 ni-kṛ, 1. P.A. -karoti, -kurute, *to bring down, humiliate, subdue, overcome RV. AV. VS. SBr.*;
 SA: may we cast out;
 śárdhat, mfn. (pr. p.) *defiant, mocking, bold, daring RV.*;

SA: ... of him who puts forth his force;
 śardha, mfn. (śrdh) *defiant, bold* (orig. "breaking wind against another") RV.;
 m. *breaking wind, flatulence* Vop.; *a (defiant or bold) host, troop (esp. the host of the Maruts)* RV.;

Old Translators:

12 Whoso with mind ungodly seeks to do us harm, who, deeming him a man of might mid lords, would slay,-
 Let not his deadly blow reach us, Brhaspati; may we humiliate the strong ill-doer's wrath.
 12. Wer mit gottlosem Sinne Schaden stiften will, wer unter den Gebietern sich für gewaltig hält und mordlustig ist, dessen Todeswaffe soll uns, o Brihaspati nicht treffen. Wir vereiteln den bösen Eifer des Böswilligen, Vermessenen.

भरेषु हव्यो नमसोपसद्यो गन्ता वाजेषु सनिता धनं-धनम् ।
 विश्वा इद् अर्यो अभिदिप्स्वो मृयो बृहस्पतिर् वि ववर्हा रथाँइव ॥ २-२३-१३

bháreṣu hávyo námásopasádyo, gántā vájeṣu sánitā dhánam-dhanam
 vísvā íd aryó abhidipsúvo mŕdho, břhaspátir ví vavarhā ráthāṁ iva |13|

Interpretation:

He who is to be called upon in the battles (bháreṣu hávyo) and to be approached with surrender (námásopasádyo), he moves in the plenitudes and conquers wealth after wealth (gántā vájeṣu sánitā dhánam-dhanam). Brihaspati has shattered like chariots (ví vavarhā ráthāṁ iva) all attacks (vísvā mŕdho) that seek to harm the Aryan strivers (aryó abhidipsúvo). (13)

Vocabulary:

bhara, mf(ā)n. (bhr̥) *bearing, carrying, bringing; bestowing, granting;*
 m. (ifc. f. ā) *the act of bearing or carrying &c.; carrying away or what is carried away, gain, prize, booty* RV. AV.; *war, battle, contest ib.; raising the voice, shout or song of praise* RV.;
 SA: in our fullnesses;

havya, 2 mf(ā)n. *to be called or invoked* RV. AV. VS.;

upasadya, mfn. *to be respectfully approached; to be revered or worshipped* RV. AV. SankhSr.;
 ganṭr, mfn. *one who or anything that goes or moves, going, coming, approaching, arriving at (acc. or loc. or [Pan. 2-3, 12 Siddh.] dat.)* RV. &c.;

SA: one who moves;

vāja, m. (fr. vaj; cf. ugra, uj, ojas &c.) *strength, vigour, energy, spirit, speed (esp. of a horse; also pl.)* RV. AV. VS. SankhSr. (vājebhis ind. mightily, greatly; cf. sahasā) *a contest, race, conflict, battle, war* RV. VS. GrSrS.; *the prize of a race or of battle, booty, gain, reward, any precious or valuable possession, wealth, treasure* RV. VS. AV. PancavBr.;

SA: in our havings;

Sri Aurobindo translates this term otherwise mostly as "plenitude" (in the context of a gain that belongs to the higher planes).

sanitṛ, or mfn. *gaining, obtaining, procuring, bestowing (with acc. or gen.)* RV. TS. TBr.;

SA: one who gets or keeps;

dhana, n. *the prize of a contest or the contest itself (lit. a running match, race, or the thing raced for; hitam dhánam, a proposed prize or contest; dhanam-jí, to win the prize or the fight)* RV.;
any valued object, (esp.) wealth, riches, (movable) property, money, treasure, gift RV. &c.;

arya, 1 (2, once 3 RV. iv,1,7) mfn. (r̥) *kind, favourable* RV.; *attached to, true, devoted, dear* RV. (as) m. *a master, lord Naigh.* Pan. 3-1,103 abhidipsu, mfn. (dips Desid. of dambh), *"wishing to deceive", inimical, cunning* RV. ii. **23,10 and 13.**

SA: of one who would tear up our gains.

mr̄dh, 2 f. fight, battle RV. i,174,4 (Say.) *a contemner, adversary, foe* RV. VS. Br.;

SA: the energies that assault;

vi-vṝh, (or bṝh) P. –bṝhati, pf. vavarha; *to tear in pieces, break or pluck off, tear away* RV. Br. GrSrS.;

SA: he shatters

Old Translators:

13 The mover mid the spoil, the winner of all wealth, to be invoked in fight and reverently adored, Brhaspati hath overthrown like cars of war all wicked enemies who fain would injure us.

13. In den Kämpfen zu rufen, unter Verneigung zu verehren, zu Beutekämpfen ausziehend, jeden Siegerpreis gewinnend, hat Brihaspati alle schadenfrohen Zurücksetzungen des hohen Herrn wie Wagen zerbrochen.

तेजिष्ठया तपनी रक्षसस् तप ये त्वा निदे दाधिरे दृष्टवीर्यम् ।
 आविस् तत् कृष्व यद् असत् त उक्थ्यम् बृहस्पते वि परिरापो अर्दय ॥ २-२३-१४

téjishthayā tapanī rakṣasas tapa, yé tvā nidé dadhiré dṛṣṭavīriyam
 āvis tát kṛṣva yád ásat ta ukthiyam, bṛhaspate ví parirāpo ardaya |14|

Interpretation:

With your sharp heat (téjishthayā tapanī) burn the confining powers (tapa rakṣasas), who have layed hold on your heroic force, when it was seen, (yé dadhiré dṛṣṭavīriyam) for binding you (nidé tvā). Make manifest that (āvis tát kṛṣva), which should/will be (yád ásat) your word that is to be uttered (ta ukthiyam). O Brihaspati, scatter (ví ardaya) the insinuities (or, the powers that besiege us) (parirāpo). (14)

Alternative rendering:

With your sharp heat burn the confining powers, who lay hold on your visible heroic force to bind you. What is to be (or, should be) expressed of you, that make manifest. O Lord of the Word, destroy the adverse suggestions.

Vocabulary:

mf(ā)n. (Superl. of tigma) *very sharp* RV. i,53,8 *very hot; very bright* SBr. i BhP. (am) *ind. with the utmost heat* TandyabR.;

tapana, (ī) f. *heat* RV. ii,23,14;

rakṣas, n. "anything to be guarded against or warded off", *harm, injury, damage* RV. (in RV. and AV. also rakṣas, m.) *an evil being or demon, a Rakshasa* (q.v.; in VP. identified with Niritti or Nairitta) RV. &c.;

nid, 2 f. *mocking, ridiculing, contempt; mocker, scoffer, blamer, enemy* RV.;

Sri Aurobindo relates this term and the root nind to bind or limit, which makes a much more coherent sense.

dṛṣṭavīrya, mfn. *of tried strength* RV. ii,23,14.

SA: whose prowess they had seen;

dṛṣṭa, mfn. *seen, looked at, beheld, perceived, noticed* Mn. MBh. Kav. &c.; *visible, apparent* AV. VS.; āvis, ind. (said to be connected with vahis and ava; or fr. ā-vid; *before the eyes, openly, manifestly, evidently* RV. AV. VS.;

vi-ard, P. -ardati, *to flow away* SBr.; *to oppress, harass, pain; Caus. -ardayati, to cause to be scattered or dissolved, destroy, annihilate* RV.;

ard, Ved. cl. 6. P. (Imper. 3. pl. rdantu; impf. 3. pl. ārdan) *to move, be moved, be scattered (as dust)*, R iv,17,2 and vii,104,24. cl. 1. P. ardāti, "to go, move" Naigh.) *to dissolve* AV. xii,4,3, Bhatt., Pan. 7-4,71 Sch.); *to torment, hurt, kill* L.

Old Translators:

14 Burn up the demons with thy fiercest flaming brand, those who have scorned thee in thy manifested might.

Show forth that power that shall deserve the hymn of praise: destroy the evil speakers, O Brhaspati.

14. Mit hitzigster Glut brenn die Unholde, die dich, den Krafterproben, der Schmähung preisgegeben haben! Offenbare diese deine Kraft, die eines Preisliedes würdig sein soll! Brihaspati, mache die Ausreden zunichte!

बृहस्पते अति यद् अर्यो अर्हाद् द्युमद् विभाति क्रतुमज् जनेषु ।
 यद् दीदयच् छवस ऋतप्रजात तद् अस्मासु द्रविणं धेहि चित्रम् ॥ २-२३-१५

bṛhaspate áti yád aryó árhād, dyumád vibhāti krátumaj jáneṣu
 yád dīdáyac chávasa ṛtaprajāta, tád asmāsu dráviṇam dhehi citrám |15|

Interpretation:

O Brihaspati, that which exceeds (yád áti) (even) the strength of the Aryan (aryó árhād), which shines full of light and will-power (dyumád vibhāti krátumat) in the creatures born (jáneṣu), which radiates with force (yád dīdáyac chávasa), - you who are born of the Truth (ṛtaprajāta), establish in us (asmāsu dhehi) that bright substance (tád citrám dráviṇam). (15)

Vocabulary:

ati, ind. [probably neut. of an obsolete adj. atin, passing, going, beyond;

is often prefixed to nouns and adjectives, and rarely to verbs, in the sense excessive, extraordinary, intense; excessively, too; exceedingly, very; in such compounds the accent is generally on ati.

arha, mf(ā)n. meriting, deserving (praise or blame cf. pūjārha, nindārha), worthy of, having a claim or being entitled to (acc. or Inf. or in comp.) being required, obliged, allowed (with Inf.) becoming, proper, fit (with gen. or ifc.) Pancat.;

dyu-mat, mfn. bright, light, brilliant, splendid, excellent RV. VS. BhP.;

vi-bhā, P. -bhāti, to shine or gleam forth, come to light, become visible, appear RV. &c.; to shine upon, illumine RV. AV. MBh.;

kratu-mat, (kratu-) mfn. intelligent, prudent, wise RV.; having power, vigorous (as Indra) RV.;

dī, 2 (dīdī or dīdi) cl. 3. P. Subj. dīdayati, -yat ib. to shine, be bright; to shine forth, excel, please, be admired RV. AV. Br.; bestow upon (loc. or dat.) by shining RV. ii,2,6;

śavas, (in Padapāṭha śavasā) n. (orig. "swelling, increase") strength, power, might, superiority, prowess, valour, heroism (-sā ind. mightily, with might) RV. AV.;

ṛtaprajāta, mfn. of true nature, well made, proper, apt RV.;

draviṇa, n. movable property (as opp. to house and field), substance, goods (m.pl. BhP. v,14,12), wealth, money RV. AV. Mn. MBh. &c.; essence, substantiality, strength, power RV. AV. SBr. R. &c.;

citra, mf(ā)n. conspicuous, excellent, distinguished RV.; bright, clear, bright-coloured RV.; clear (a sound) RV.; variegated, spotted, speckled (with instr. or in comp.) Nal. iv,8 R. Mricch. VarBrS. (am) ind. so as to be bright RV. i,71,1;

Old Translators:

15 Brhaspati, that which the foe deserves not which shines among the folk effectual, splendid, That, Son of Law! which is with might resplendent -that treasure wonderful bestow thou on us.

15. Brihaspati, gib uns den wunderbaren Schatz, der mehr wert sei als der des hohen Herrn, der unter den Menschen lichtvoll, weisheitsvoll erstrahlt, der mächtig leuchtet, du Wahrheitgeborener.

मा न स्तेनेभ्यो ये अभि द्रुहस् पदे निरामिणो रिपवो ऽन्नेषु जागृधुः ।
 आ देवानाम् ओहते वि ब्रयो हृदि बृहस्पते न परः साम्नो विदुः ॥ २-२३-१६

má na stenébhyo yé abhí druhás padé, nirāmíṇo ripávó 'nneṣu jāgrdhúḥ
 ā devānām óhate ví vráyo hṛdí, bṛhaspate ná paráḥ sāmano viduh |16|

Interpretation:

May we not (become prone) to the thieves (má na stenébhyo), who have delight (or, who stay with ease) at the place of harms (yé nirāmíṇo druhás padé,), - these robbers, who have greed after our foods (ripávó 'nneṣu abhí jāgrdhúḥ) and in the heart bring about the covering of the gods (ā devānām óhate ví vráyo hṛdí). O Brihaspati, they do not know of the (word of) supreme harmony (ná paráḥ sāmano viduh). (16)

Vocabulary:

stena, m. (prob. fr. stā) *a thief, robber RV. &c.*;

druhaspada, 2 mfn. (nom. dhruk or dhruṭ Pan. 8-2,33; wrongly druk; cf. nidrā-.) *injuring, hurtful, hostile to (gen. or comp.) Mn. MBh. Pur.;*

m.f. injurer, foe, fiend, demon RV. Kath.; f. injury, harm, offence RV. AV. [Cf. Zd. druj; Germ. gidrog, gethroc.]

nirāmin, mfn. *waiting, lurking RV. ii,23,16.*

SA: those who take delight;

ripu, mfn. *deceitful, treacherous, false RV.; m. a deceiver, cheat, rogue ib.; an enemy, adversary, foe Mn. MBh. &c.;*

anna, mfn. (ad), eaten L. (annam) n. *food or victuals, especially boiled rice; food in a mystical sense (or the lowest form in which the supreme soul is manifested, the coarsest envelope of the Supreme Spirit);*

SA: after our bodily havings;

gṛdh, cl. 4. P.gṛdhya (perf. 3. pl. jagṛdhur), *to endeavour to gain RV. AV.; to covet, desire, strive after greedily, be desirous of or eager for (loc.) RV. AV. &c.;*

uh, cl. 1. P. ohati &c., *to give pain, hurt, kill L. (cf. 1. ūh.)*

ūh, 1 cl. 1. P. A. ūhati, -te, (connected with vah, q.v., and in some forms not to be distinguished from it), *to push, thrust, move, remove (only when compounded with prepositions) to change, alter, modify SankhSr. Comm. on Nyayam.;*

SA: who arrange;

ā vah, P. A. -vahati, -te, *to drive or lead near or towards to bring to fetch, procure RV. AV. SBr. MBh. R. Bhp. Pancat. &c.;*

vrayas, n. (perhaps fr. vrī) *overwhelming or superior power RV. ii,23,16;*

SA: hedge;

vrī, (cf. vri and vli) cl. 9. P. and 4. A. *to choose or to cover;*

hṛd, n. (optionally substituted for hṛdaya in the weak cases i.e. in all except the first five inflexions; thought to be connected with śrad q.v.) *the heart (as the seat of feelings and emotions), soul, mind (as seat of thought and intellectual operations RV. &c; [Cf. Lat. cor, cordis] Germ. Herz, Eng. heart.*

paras, ind. *beyond, further, off, away; in future, afterwards (as prep. with acc.) on the other side of, beyond, higher or more than; (with abl.) beyond, on the other side of;*

sāmna, mf(i)n. relating to Samans, IndSt.;

SA: of the equality;

sāman, 2 n. (m. only in TBr.; prob. connected with sāntv; accord. to some fr. 1. sā; cf. 3. sāman) *calming, tranquillizing,*

*vid, to know, understand, perceive, learn, become or be acquainted with; to know or regard or consider as, take for, declare to be, call (esp. in 3. pl. *vidus*, with two acc. or with acc. and nom.);*

Old Translators:

16 Give us not up to those who, foes in ambuscade, are greedy for the wealth of him who sits at ease, Who cherish in their heart abandonment of Gods. Brhaspati, no further rest shall they obtain.

16. Gib uns nicht den Räubern preis, die, sich an die Spuren der Falschheit hängend, als Betrüger nach den Speisen gierig sind. Sie behaupten die Schwäche der Götter und leugnen die Schwäche in ihrem eigenen Herzen.O Brihaspati, sie wissen nichts weiter als ihren Saman.

विश्वेभ्यो हि त्वा भुवनेभ्यस् परि त्वष्टाजनत् साम्रः साम्रः कविः ।
स ऋणचिद् ऋणया ब्रह्मणस् पतिर् द्रुहो हन्ता मह ऋतस्य धर्तरि ॥ २-२३-१७

víśvebhyo hí tvā bhúvanebhiyas pári, tváṣṭājanat sámanah-sámanah kavíḥ
sá ṛṇacíd ṣṇayā bráhmaṇas pátir, druhó hantā mahá ṛtásya dhartári |17|

Interpretation:

For the shaper (of things), the seer (hí tváṣṭā kavíḥ) brought you to birth (tvā ājanat) from all the worlds of becoming (or, from all beings) (víśvebhyo bhúvanebhiyas pári), from every (word of) harmony (sámanah-sámanah). Brahmanaspati is conscious of what is right, he is the rectifier (sá ṣṇacíd ṣṇayā), the destroyer of harm in the upholding of the vast Truth (druhó hantā mahá ṛtásya dhartári). (17)

Vocabulary:

bhuvana, n. *a being, living creature, man, mankind RV. &c.; (rarely m.) the world, earth ib.; place of being, abode, residence AV. SBr.;*

tváṣṭr, "creator of living beings", the heavenly builder; N. of a god (called su-kṛt, -pāṇi, -gabhaṣti, -janiman, sv-apas, apasāmapastama, viśva-rūpa &c. RV.; maker of divine implements, esp. of Indra's thunderbolt and teacher of the Ribhus, i, iv-vi,x; former of the bodies of men and animals, hence called "firstborn" and invoked for the sake of offspring, esp. in the Apri hymns RV. AV. &c.; associated with the similar deities Dhatri, Savitri, Praja-pati, Pushan, and surrounded by divine females gnās, janayas, devānāmpatnīs;

jan, cl. 1. [RV. AV.] and 10. janati, -te, impf. ajanat, RV.; *to generate, beget, produce, create, cause RV. AV. &c.;*

sámanah, (I take sámanah as ablative singular;)

SA: harmony after harmony;

dhartṛ, m. *bearer, supporter RV. AV. (-tari) loc. inf. in bearing or supporting or preserving RV. ii,23,17;*

ṛṇaya, mfn. *going after or demanding (fulfilment of) obligations RV.;*

ṛṇacit, mfn. "giving heed to worship" (paid as a debt by men to gods) N. of Brahmanas-pati RV. ii,23,17;

SA: knowing the right movement (and) going after it;

Old Translators:

17 For Tvastar, he who knows each sacred song, brought thee to life, preeminent o'er all the things that be.

Guilt-scorger, guilt-avenger is Brhaspati, who slays the spoiler and upholds the mighty Law.

17. Denn aus allen Wesen erschuf dich der Seher Tvastri, aus einem jeden Saman. Brahmanaspati ist der Vergelter, der Schuldeinzieher, der Vernichter der Falschheit, der Erhalter der hohen Wahrheit.

तव श्रिये व्यु अजिहीत पर्वतो गवां गोत्रम् उदसृजो यद् अङ्गिरः ।
 इन्द्रेण युजा तमसा परीवृतम् बृहस्पते निर् अपाम् औज्जो अर्णवम् ॥ २-२३-१८

táva śriyé ví ajihīta párvato gávām gotrám udásrjo yád aṅgirah
 índreṇa yujā támasā párvītam bṛhaspate nír apām aubjo arṇavám |18|

Sri Aurobindo's translation from "The Secret of the Veda" (p.161).

(In II.23.18, also, Brihaspati is addressed as Angiras in connection with the release of the cows and the release of the waters;)

"For the glory of thee [O Angiras] the hill parted asunder (táva śriyé ví ajihīta párvato) when thou didst release upward the pen of the cows (gávām gotrám udásrjo yád); with Indra for ally thou didst force out (índreṇa yujā nír aubjo), O Brihaspati, the flood of the waters which was environed by the darkness (arṇavám apām támasā párvītam)."

Comment:

We have here both aspects of the Angirasa Legend (that describes the realisation of the ancient seers) mentioned together in one verse. One aspect is the liberation of the rays of intuition (followed by the Dawn and the Sun) out of the heart-cave of the subconscious and to make them ascend to their superconscious home. And the second is the release of the divine Waters that their energy may freely flow down on the human mentality (and all seven principles of existence are harmonised in their unrestricted flow). We have here also again the hint that both powers, Indra and Brihaspati, the Divine Mind and the Divine Soul, are needed to accomplish this work.

Vocabulary:

śrī, 3 f. (prob. to be connected with 1. śri and also with 1. śrī in the sense of "diffusing light or radiance"; nom. śrīs, accord. to some also śrī) *light, lustre, radiance, splendour, glory, beauty, grace, loveliness* (śriye and śriyai, "for splendour or beauty", "beauteously", "gloriously") RV. &c.;
 vi-hā, 1. A. -jihīte, *to go apart, become expanded, start asunder, open, fly open, gape, yawn* RV. AV. TS. SBr.;
 parvata, mfn. (fr. parvan cf. Pan. 5-2,122 Vartt. 10 Pat.) *knotty, rugged (said of mountains)* RV. AV.; m. *a mountain, mountain-range, height, hill, rock (often personified; ifc. f. ā)* RV. &c.;
 go, gaus, pl. gen. gavām (pl.) *cattle, kine, herd of cattle* RV. &c.;
 m. *rays of light (regarded as the herds of the sky, for which Indra fights with Vritra)*;
 gotra, n. (trai) *protection or shelter for cows, cow-pen, cow-shed, stable for cattle, stable (in general), hurdle, enclosure* RV.;
 ud-srj, P. A. -srjati, -te, *to let loose, let off or go, to set free, to open* RV. AitBr. AsvGr. and Sr. KatySr. MBh. Sak. &c.; *to pour out, emit, send forth* AsvGr. MBh. &c.;
 tamas, n. *darkness, gloom*;
 pari-vṛ, 1. P. A. -varati, -te, *to cover, surround, conceal, keep back, hem in* RV. &c.;
 nir-ubj, P. -ubjati (impf. -aubjas), *to cause to flow down, let loose* RV.;
 ap, 2 (in Ved. used in sing. and pl., but in the classical language only in pl., āpas) f. *water; the Waters considered as divinities*;
 arṇava, mfn. *agitated, foaming, restless* RV. VS. AV. (as) m. *a wave, flood* RV. VS.;

Old Translators:

18 The mountain, for thy glory, cleft itself apart when, Angiras! thou openedst the stall of kine.
 Thoul O Brhaspati, with Indra for ally didst hurl down water-floods which gloom had compa-sed round.

18. Dir zu Ehren tat sich der Berg auf, als du Angirase die Rinderherde herausließest. Mit Indra im Bunde hast du die vom Dunkel umschlossene Flut der Gewässer frei gemacht, o Brihaspati.

ब्रह्मणस् पते त्वम् अस्य यन्ता सूक्तस्य बोधि तनयं च जिन्व ।
विश्वं तद् भद्रं यद् अवन्ति देवा बृहद् वदेम विदथे सुवीराः ॥ २-२३-१९

bráhmaṇas pate tuvám asyá yantā, sūktásya bodhi tánayam ca jinva
vísvam tát bhadrám yád ávanti devā, bṛhád vadema vidáthe suvīrāḥ |19|

Interpretation:

O Brahmanaspati, you are the controller (or, conductor) of this perfectly uttered hymn (tuvám asyá yantā sūktásya) awake (or, become conscious) and animate our self-extension (bodhi tánayam ca jinva). Universal is that highest Good (vísvam tát bhadrám), which the Gods unfold (yád ávanti devā). Full of heroic power (suvīrāḥ), may we speak out the Vast in the finding of knowledge (bṛhád vadema vidáthe). (19)

Vocabulary:

yantr, mfn. *restraining, limiting, withholding from (loc.) Apast.; fixing, establishing RV. AV. VS.; (f. yantrī) granting, bestowing RV.; m. (ifc. also -trka) a driver (of horses or elephants), charioteer ib. &c.; a ruler, governor, manager, guide RV. Hariv.;*

sūkta, mfn. (5. su + ukta) *well or properly said or recited RV. &c.; (am) n. good recitation or speech, wise saying, song of praise RV. &c.; a Vedic hymn (as distinguished from a Ric or single verse of a hymn) Br. SrS Mn. BhP.*

tanaya, mfn. *propagating a family, belonging to one's own family (often said of toka) RV. AitBr. ii,7; m. a son Mn. iii,16; n. posterity, family, race, offspring, child ("grandchild", opposed to toka, "child" Nir. x,7; xii,6) RV. VarBrS. (ifc. f. ā, ciii,1 f.)*

jinva, cl.1.P. *jinvati, to move one's self; be active or lively (Naigh.ii,14) RV. AV.; to urge on, cause to move quickly, impel, incite RV. AV. SankhSr.; to refresh, animate RV. VS. AV. AitBr.; to promote, help, favour RV. AV.;*

bhadra, mf(ā)n. *blessed, auspicious, fortunate, prosperous, happy RV. &c.; n. prosperity, happiness, health, welfare, good fortune (also pl.) RV. &c.;*

av, cl. I .P. *avati, to drive, impel, animate (as a car or horse) RV.; Ved. to promote, favour, (chiefly Ved.) to satisfy, refresh;*

bṛhat, mf(ātī)n. (in later language usually written vṛhat) *lofty, high, tall, great, large, wide, vast, abundant, compact, solid, massy, strong, mighty RV. &c.;*

vidatha, n. *knowledge, wisdom (esp.) "knowledge given to others" i.e. instruction, direction, order, arrangement, disposition, rule, command (also pl.) RV. AV. VS.; (vidatham ā-vad, to impart knowledge, give instruction, rule, govern); a meeting, assembly (either for deliberating or for the observance of festive or religious rites i.e.) council, community, association, congregation ib.;*

Sri Aurobindo translates this important term always as finding (or, discovery) of knowledge, or simply knowledge;

suvīra, mf(ā)n. *very manly, heroic, warlike RV. AV. VS.; m. a hero, warrior RV.;*

Old Translators:

19 O Brahmanaspati, be thou controller of this our hymn and prosper thou our children.

All that the Gods regard with love is blessed. Loud may we speak, with heroes, in assembly.

19. O Brahmanaspati, sei du der Lenker dieses Liedes und erwecke Nachkommenschaft! Alles das ist loblich, was die Götter begünstigen. - Wir möchten das große Wort führen als Meister in weiser Rede.

