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HYMNS I

ऋग्वेद-संहिता

FROM THE RIG-VEDA

Translation and Sanskrit Calligraphy by Jean Le Mée

नासदासीन्नो सदासीत्तदानीं
नासीद्वाजो नो व्योमा परो यत् ।
किमावरीवः कुह कस्य शर्मन्
अम्भः किमासीद्गहनं गभीरम् ॥१॥

Neither nonbeing nor being was as yet,
Neither was airy space nor heavens beyond;
What was enveloped? And where? Sheltered by whom?
And was there water? Bottomless, unfathomed?

न मृत्युरासीदमृतं न तर्हि
 न रात्र्या अह् आसीत्प्रकेतः।
 आनीदवातं स्वधया तदेकं
 तस्माद्धान्यच्च परः किं चनास ॥२॥

Neither was there death nor immortality,
 Nor was there any sign then of night or day;
 Totally windless, by itself, the One breathed;
 Beyond that, indeed, nothing whatever was.

तम॑ आसी॒त्तम॑सा गु॒ब्धम॑ग्रे
 ऽ प्र॒के॒तं स॒लिलं॑ स॒र्वमा॒ दृढ॑म् ।
 तु॒च्छे॒ना॒भ्वपि॑हितं॒ यदा॑सीत्
 तप॑स॒स्तन्महि॑नाजा॒यतै॑कम् ॥३॥

In the Principle darkness concealed darkness;
 Undifferentiated surge was this whole world.
 The pregnant point covered by the form matrix,
 From conscious fervor, mightily, brought forth the One.

कामस्तदग्रे समवर्ततधि
मनसो रेतः प्रथमं यदासीत् ।
सतो बन्धुमसीति निरविन्दन्
हृदि प्रतीच्या कवयो मनीषा ॥४॥

In the Principle, thereupon, rose desire,
Which of consciousness was the primeval seed.
Then the wise, searching within their hearts, perceived
That in nonbeing lay the bond of being.

तिर्य्गो विततो रश्मिरेषाम्
 अधः स्विदासी ३ दुपरि स्विदासी ३त्।
 रेतोधा आसन्महिमान् आसन्त्
 स्वधा अवस्तात्प्रयतिः परस्तात् ॥५॥

Stretched crosswise was their line, a ray of glory.
 Was there a below? And was there an above?
 There were sowers of seeds and forces of might:
 Potency from beneath and from on high the Will.

को अ॒द्वा वे॒द क इ॒ह प्र॒वोच॑त्
कु॒त आ॒जा॒ता कु॒त इ॒यं वि॒सृष्टिः॑
अ॒र्वाग्दे॒वा अ॒स्य वि॒सृज्ज॑ने॒ना-
था॒ को वे॒द यत॑ आ॒ब॒भूव॑ ॥६॥

Who really knows, who could here proclaim
Whence this creation flows, where is its origin?
With this great surge the Gods made their appearance.
Who therefore knows from where it did arise?

इयं विसृष्टिर्यत आबभूव
 यदि वा दधे यदि वा न ।
 यो अस्याध्यक्षः परमेव्योमन्त
 सो अङ्ग वेद यदि वा न वेद ॥७॥

This flow of creation, from where it did arise,
 Whether it was ordered or was not,
 He, the Observer, in the highest heaven,
 He alone knows, unless . . . He knows it not.