

Title

HYMNS OF THE SAMAVEDA

Translated by

Ralph T.H. Griffith

Bird Publisher, 2012

About this eBook

Ralph T.H. Griffith: “*HYMNS OF THE SAMAVEDA*”
Ralph T.H. Griffith, 1895
© Bird Publisher, 2012

ISBN 978-961-279-479-8

Bird Publisher
DP, založništvo, d.o.o.
Levčeva ulica 13
SI - 1234 Mengeš
Slovenia
Europe
T: +386 (0)1 723 78 28
Email: info@bird-publisher.com
www.bird-publisher.com

Published in electronic format, October 2012 by Bird Publisher
Available electronically at: www.bird-publisher.com
For the Publisher, cover & eBook by Damjan Plut

ISBN 978-961-279-479-8 (pdf)
ISBN 978-961-279-480-4 (mobi)
ISBN 978-961-279-481-1 (ePUB)

Copyright and license

All rights reserved

Without limiting the rights under copyright reserved above, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in or introduced into a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form, or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise) without the prior written permission of the above publisher of this book.

License Notes

This eBook is licensed for your personal enjoyment only. This eBook may not be re-sold or given away to other people. If you would like to share this book with another person, please purchase an additional copy for each person you share it with. If you're reading this book and did not purchase it, or it was not purchased for your use only, then you should purchase your own copy. Thank you for respecting the author's work.

Contents

Title 1

About this eBook 3

Copyright and license 4

Contents 5

Preface 14

HYMNS OF THE SAMAVEDA 15

FIRST PART 15

BOOK I 15

Chapter I 15

DECADE I Agni 15

DECADE II Agni 15

DECADE III Agni 16

DECADE IV Agni 17

DECADE V Agni 18

Chapter II 18

DECADE I Agni 18

DECADE II Agni 19

DECADE III Agni 20

DECADE IV Agni 20

DECADE V Agni 21

BOOK II 21

Chapter I 21

DECADE I Agni 21

DECADE II Agni 22

DECADE III Indra 23

DECADE IV Indra 23

DECADE V Indra and others 24

Chapter II 25

DECADE I Indra and others 25

DECADE II Indra 25

DECADE III Indra 26

DECADE IV Indra and others 27

DECADE V Indra and others 27

BOOK III 28

Chapter I 28

DECADE I Indra 28

DECADE II Indra 29

DECADE III Indra 29

DECADE IV Indra 30

DECADE V Indra 30

Chapter II 31

DECADE I Indra 31

DECADE II Indra and others 32

DECADE III Indra 32

DECADE IV Indra 33

DECADE V Indra. 34

BOOK IV 35

Chapter I 35

DECADE I Indra and others 35

DECADE II 35

DECADE III 36

- DECADE IV Indra 37
- DECADE V Indra and others 37
- Chapter II 38
 - DECADE I Indra 38
 - DECADE II Indra. Dadhikravan 39
 - DECADE III Indra and others 39
 - DECADE IV Indra 40
 - DECADE V Indra 41

BOOK V 42

- Chapter I 42
 - DECADE I Indra Adityas 42
 - DECADE II Indra 43
 - DECADE III Indra 43
 - DECADE IV Agni and others 44
 - DECADE V Soma Pavamana 45
- CHAPTER II 45
 - DECADE I. Indra 45
 - DECADE II Agni Indra 46
 - DECADE III Indra and others 46
 - DECADE IV Soma Pavamana 47
 - DECADE V Soma Pavamana 48

BOOK VI 49

- Chapter I 49
 - DECADE I Soma Pavamana 49
 - DECADE II Soma Pavamana 49
 - DECADE III Soma Pavamana 50
 - DECADE IV Soma Pavamana 51
 - DECADE V Soma Pavamana 52
- Chapter II 53
 - DECADE I Soma Pavamana 53
 - DECADE II Soma Pavamana 53
 - DECADE III Soma Pavamana 55
 - DECADE IV Soma Pavamana 55

PART SECOND 57

BOOK I 57

- Chapter I 57
 - I Soma Pavamana 57
 - II Soma Pavamana 57
 - III Soma Pavamana 57
 - IV Agni 57
 - V Mitra Varuna 58
 - VI Indra 58
 - VII Indra Agni 58
 - VIII Soma Pavamana 58
 - IX Soma Pavamana 58
 - X Soma Pavamana 59
 - XI Indra 59
 - XII Indra 59
 - XIII Indra 59
 - XIV Indra 59
 - XV Soma Pavamana 59
 - XVI Soma Pavamana 60
 - XVII Indra 60
 - XVIII Soma Pavamana 60
 - XIX Soma Pavamana 60
 - XX Agni 61
 - XXI Agni 61

XXII Indra 61
XXIII Indra 61
Chapter II 61
I Indra 61
II Indra 62
III Indra 62
IV Indra 62
V Indra 62
VI Indra 62
VII Indra 63
VIII Indra 63
IX Indra 63
X Indra 63
XI Indra 63
XII Indra 64
XIII Agni 64
XIV Dawn 64
XV Asvins 64
XVI Soma Pavamana 64
XVII Soma Pavamana 65
XVIII Soma Pavamana 65
XIX Soma Pavamana 65
XX Soma Pavamana 65
XXI Soma Pavamana 65
XXII Soma Pavamana. 65

BOOK II 66

Chapter I 66
I Soma Pavamana 66
II Soma Pavamana 66
III Soma Pavamana 66
IV Soma Pavamana 66
V Soma Pavamana 67
VI Agni 67
VII Mitra Varuna 67
VIII Indra 67
IX Indra-Agni 68
X Soma Pavamana 68
XI Soma Pavamana 68
XII Indra 68
XIII Indra 68
XIV Indra 69
XV Soma Pavamana 69
XVI Soma Pavamana 69
XVII Soma Pavamana 69
XVIII Indra 69
XIX Indra 70
Chapter II 70
I Soma Pavamana 70
II Soma Pavamana 70
III Soma Pavamana 70
IV Soma Pavamana 71
V Agni 71
VI Mitra Varuna 71
VII Maruts 71
VIII Indra-Agni 72
IX Soma Pavamana 72
X Soma Pavamana 72
XI Indra 72
XII Indra 72
XIII Indra 73

- XIV Soma Pavamana 73
- XV Soma Pavamana 73
- XVI Soma Pavamana 73
- XVII Agni 74
- XVIII Indra 74
- XIX Indra 74

BOOK III 74

Chapter I 74

- I Soma Pavamana 74
- II Soma Pavamana 75
- III Soma Pavamana 75
- IV Soma Pavamana 75
- V Soma Pavamana 76
- VI Agni 76
- VII Mitra-Varuna 76
- VIII Indra 76
- IX Indra Agni 76
- X Soma Pavamana 77
- XI Soma Pavamana 77
- XII Soma Pavamana 77
- XIII Indra 77
- XIV Indra 78
- XV Indra 78
- XVI Soma Pavamana 78
- XVII Soma Pavamana 78
- XVIII Soma Pavamana 78
- XIX Soma Pavamana 79
- XX Agni 79
- XXI Indra 79
- XXII Indra 79

Chapter II 79

- I Soma Pavamana 79
- II Soma Pavamana 80
- III Soma Pavamana 80
- IV Soma Pavamana 80
- V Soma Pavamana 81
- VI Soma Pavamana 81
- VII Agni 81
- VIII Mitra-Varuna 82
- IX Indra 82
- X Indra-Agni 82
- XI Soma Pavamana 82
- XII Soma Pavamana 83
- XIII Soma Pavamana 83
- XIV Indra 83
- XV Indra 83
- XVI Soma Pavamana 84
- XVII Soma Pavamana 84
- XVIII Soma Pavamana 84
- XIX Soma Pavamana 84
- XX Soma Pavamana 84
- XXI Agni 85
- XXII Indra 85
- XXIII Indra 85

BOOK IV 85

Chapter I 85

- I Soma Pavamana 85
- II Soma Pavamana 86
- III Soma Pavamana 86

IV Soma Pavamana 87
V Soma Pavamana 87
VI Soma Pavamana 87
VII Agni 88
VIII Mitra, Varuna, Aryaman 88
IX Indra 88
X Indra-Agni 88
XI Soma Pavamana 89
XII Soma Pavamana 89
XIII Soma Pavamana 89
XIV Indra 89
XV Indra 89
XVI Indra 90
XVII Soma Pavamana 90
XVIII Soma Pavamana 90
XIX Soma Pavamana 90
XX Soma Pavamana 90
XXI Soma Pavamana 91
XXII Agni 91
XXIII Indra 91
XXIV Indra 91
Chapter II 91
I Soma Pavamana 91
II Soma Pavamana 92
III Agni 93
IV Mitra-Varuna 93
V Indra 93
VI Indra-Agni 94
VII Soma Pavamana 94
VIII Indra. 94
IX Soma Vaisvanara 94
X Soma Pavamana 94
XI Soma Pavamana 95
XII Agni 95
XIII Indra 95
XIV Indra 95
BOOK V 96
Chapter I 96
I Soma Pavamana 96
II Soma Pavamana 96
III Soma Pavamana 96
IV Soma Pavamana 97
V Soma Pavamana 98
VI Soma Pavamana 98
VII Soma Pavamana 98
VIII Soma Pavamana 98
IX Agni 99
X Indra 99
XI Soma Pavamana 99
XII Soma Pavamana 99
XIII Indra 100
XIV Indra 100
XV Soma Pavamana 100
XVI Soma Pavamana 100
XVII Soma Pavamana 100
XVIII Agni 100
XIX Indra 101
XX Indra 101
Chapter II 101
I Soma Pavamana 101

- II Soma Pavamana 101
- III Soma Pavamana 102
- IV Soma Pavamana 103
- V Soma Pavamana 103
- VI Soma Pavamana 103
- VII Soma Pavamana 104
- VIII Soma Pavamana 104
- IX Agni 105
- X Indra 105
- XI Soma Pavamana 105
- XII Soma Pavamana 105
- XIII Soma Pavamana 105
- XIV Indra 106
- XV Indra 106
- XVI Soma Pavamana 106
- XVII Soma Pavamana 106
- XVIII Soma Pavamana 107
- XIX Soma Pavamana 107
- XX Soma Pavamana 107
- XXI Indra 107
- XXII Indra 107
- XXIII Indra 108

BOOK VI 108

Chapter I 108

- I Agni 108
- II Adityas 108
- III Indra 108
- IV Soma Pavamana 109
- V Indra 109
- VI Indra 109
- VII Soma Pavamana 109
- VIII Soma Pavamana 109
- IX Soma Pavamana 110
- X Agni 110
- XI Surya 110

Chapter II 110

- I Agni 110
- II Agni 111
- III Soma Pavamana 111
- IV Indra 111
- V Indra 111
- VI Soma Pavamana 111
- VII Agni 112
- VIII Soma Pavamana 112
- IX Indra 112
- X Agni 112
- XI Soma Pavamana 113
- XII Indra 113
- XIII Agni 113
- XIV Agni 113
- XV Soma Pavamana 113
- XVI Indra 114
- XVII Soma Pavamana 114
- XVIII Soma Pavamana 114
- XIX Indra 114
- XX Indra 115

Chapter III 115

- I Soma Pavamana 115
- II Indra 115
- III Soma Pavamana 116

- IV Indra 116
- V Surya 116
- VI Indra 116
- VII Indra 117
- VIII Sarasvan 117
- IX Sarasvati 117
- X Svitav. Brahmapaspati. Agni 117
- XI Mitra-Varuva 117
- XII Indra 117
- XIII Soma Pavamana 118
- XIV Agni 118
- XV Agni 118
- XVI Agni 118
- XVII Indra 118
- XVIII Indra 119

BOOK VII 119

Chapter I 119

- I Indra 119
- II Indra 119
- III Soma Pavamana 120
- IV Agni 120
- V Indra 120
- VI Agni 120
- VII Soma Pavamana 120
- VIII Indra 121
- IX Indra 121
- X Agni 121
- XI Agni 121
- XII Agni 121
- XIII Agni 122
- XIV Agni 122
- XV Agni 122
- XVI Agni 122

Chapter II 123

- I Agni 123
- II Agni 123
- III Agni 123
- V Agni 123
- VI Agni 124
- VII Agni 124
- VIII Agni 124
- X Agni 124
- XI Agni 124
- XII Agni 124
- XIII Agni 125
- XIV Agni 125
- XV Agni 125

Chapter III 125

- I Indra 125
- II Indra-Agni 126
- III Indra 126
- IV Indra 126
- V Agni 126
- VI Varuna 126
- VII Indra 126
- VIII Indra 126
- IX Visvakarman 127
- X Soma Pavamana 127
- XI Pusan 127
- XII Maruts 127

- XIII Visvedevas 127
- XIV Heaven and Earth 127
- XV Indra 128
- XVI Oblations 128
- XVII Indra 128
- XVIII Indra 128
- XIX Indra 128
- XX Soma Pavamana 128
- XXI Soma Pavamana 129

BOOK VIII 129

Chapter I 129

- I Agni 129
- II Indra 129
- III Agni 130
- IV Vishnu 130
- V Vayu, Indra and Vayu 130
- VI Soma Pavamana 130
- VI Agni 130
- VIII Indra 131
- IX Indra 131
- X Indra 131
- XI Indra 131
- XII Agni 131
- XIII Indra 132
- XIV Indra 132

Chapter II 132

- I Indra 132
- II Indra 132
- III Agni 132
- IV Indra 133
- V Vishnu 133
- VI Indra 133
- VII Indra 133
- VIII Soma Pavamana 134
- IX Indra 134
- X Indra 134
- XI Agni 134
- XII Soma Pavamana 134
- XIII Indra 134
- XIV Indra-Agni 135
- XV Indra 135
- XVI Soma Pavamana 135
- XVII Indra-Agni 135
- XVIII Agni 135
- XIX Agni 136

Chapter III 136

- I Agni 136
- II Soma Pavamana 136
- III Indra 136
- IV Indra 137
- V Indra 137
- VI Dawn 137
- VII Asvins 137
- VIII Dawn 137
- IX Asvins 138
- X Agni 138
- XI Dawn 138
- XII Asvins 138
- XIII Agni 139
- XIV Dawn 139

- XV Asvins 139
- XVI Dawn 139
- XVII Asvins 140
- XVIII Soma Pavamana 140

BOOK IX 140

Chapter I 140

- I Soma Pavamana 140
- II Indra 141
- III Indra 141
- IV Agni 141
- V Agni 141
- VI Agni 142
- VII Indra 142
- VIII Maruts 142
- IX Surya 142
- X Indra 142
- XI Indra 143
- XII Indra 143
- XIII Indra 143
- XIV Indra 143
- XV Indra 143
- XVI Indra 144
- XVII Soma Pavamana 144
- XVIII Agni 144

Chapter II 144

- I Agni 144
- II Agni 145
- III Agni 145
- IV Agni 145
- V Agni 145
- VI Agni 145
- VII Gods 145
- VIII Agni 146
- IX Indra 146
- X The Waters 146
- XI Vata 146
- XII Agni 147
- XIII Vena 147

Chapter III 147

- I Indra 147
- II Brihaspati. Indra 147
- III Indra. Brihaspati 148
- IV Indra. Maruts 148
- V Agha 148
- VI Indra and others 148
- VII Indra 149
- VIII Soma, Varuna 149
- IX Indra. All-Gods 149

Preface

The *Samaveda*, or Veda of Holy Songs, third in the usual order of enumeration of the three Vedas, ranks next in sanctity and liturgical importance to the *Rgveda* or Veda of Recited praise. Its Sanhita, or metrical portion, consists chiefly of hymns to be chanted by the Udgatar priests at the performance of those important sacrifices in which the juice of the Soma plant, clarified and mixed with milk and other ingredients, was offered in libation to various deities. The Collection is made up of hymns, portions of hymns, and detached verses, taken mainly from the *Rgveda*, transposed and re-arranged, without reference to their original order, to suit the religious ceremonies in which they were to be employed. In these compiled hymns there are frequent variations, of more or less importance, from the text of the *Rgveda* as we now possess it which variations, although in some cases they are apparently explanatory, seem in others to be older and more original than the readings of the *Rgveda*. In singing, the verses are still further altered by prolongation, repetition and insertion of syllables, and various modulations, rests, and other modifications prescribed, for the guidance of the officiating priests, in the Ganas or Song-books. Two of these manuals, the Gramageyagdna, or Congregational, and the Aranyagana or Forest Song-Book, follow the order of the verses of part I, of the Sanhita, and two others, the Uhagana, the Uhyagana, of Part II. This part is less disjointed than part I, and is generally arranged in triplets whose first verse is often the repetition of a verse that has occurred in part I.

There is no clue to the date of the compilation of the *Samaveda Hymns*, nor has the compiler's name been handed down to us. Such a manual was unnecessary in the early times when the Aryans first came into India, but was required for guidance and use in the complicated ritual elaborated by the invaders after their expansion and settlement in their new homes.

There are three recensions of the text of the *Samaveda Sanhita*, the Kauthuma Sakha or recension is current in Guzerat, the Jaiminiya in the Carnatic, and the Ranayaniya in the Mahratta country. A translation, by Dr. Stevenson, of the Ranayaniya recension-or, rather, a free version of Sayana's paraphrase-was edited by Professor Wilson, in 1842; in 1848 Professor Benfey of Göttingen brought out an excellent edition of the same text with a metrical translation, a complete glossary, and explanatory notes; and in 1874-78 Pandit Satyavrata Samasrami of Calcutta published in the Bibliotheca Indicaa. most meritorious edition of the Sanhita according to the same recension, with Sayana's commentary, portions of the Song-books, and other illustrative matter. I have followed Benfey's text, and have, made much use of his glossary and notes. Pandit Satyavrata Samasrami's edition also has been of the greatest service to me. To Mr. Venis, Principal of the Benares Sanskrit College, I am indebted for, the loan of the College manuscripts of the text and commentary.

I repeat the expression of my obligations to those scholars whose works assisted me in my translation of the *Hymns of the Rgveda*. For help in translating the non-Rgvedic Hymns of the *Samaveda*, I am additionally indebted to the late Professor Benfey and to Professor Ludwig whose version will be found in his *Der Rgveda*, vol. III, pp. 19-25.

For further information regarding the *Samaveda* Weber's *History Of Indian Literature*, and Max Müller's *History of Ancient Sanskrit Literature*, or the article on the Veda in *Chamber's Encyclopaedia* should be consulted.

R.T.H. Griffith
Kotagiri, Nilgiri
25th May, 1893.

HYMNS OF THE SAMAVEDA

FIRST PART

BOOK I Chapter I

Om. Glory to the Samaveda! To Lord Ganesa glory! Om.

DECADE I Agni

1. Come, Agni, praised with song, to feast and sacrificial offering: sit
As Hotar on the holy grass!
2. O Agni, thou hast been ordained Hotar of every sacrifice,
By Gods, among the race of men.
3. Agni we choose as envoy, skilled performer of this holy rite,
Hotar, possessor of all wealth.
4. Served with oblation, kindled, bright, through love of song may Agni, bent
On riches, smite the Vritras dead!
5. I laud your most beloved guest like a dear friend, O Agni, him
Who, like a chariot, wins us wealth.
6. Do thou, O Agni, with great might guard us from all malignity,
Yea, from the hate of mortal man!
7. O Agni, come; far other songs of praise will I sing forth to thee.
Wax mighty with these Soma-drops!
8. May Vatsa draw thy mind away even from thy loftiest dwelling place!
Agni, I yearn for thee with song.
9. Agni, Atharvan brought thee forth by rubbing from the sky, the head
Of all who offer sacrifice.
10. O Agni, bring us radiant light to be our mighty succour, for
Thou art our visible deity!

DECADE II Agni

1. O Agni, God, the people sing reverent praise to thee for strength:
With terrors trouble thou the foe.
2. I seek with song your messenger, oblation-bearer, lord of wealth,
Immortal, best at sacrifice.
3. Still turning to their aim in thee the sacrificer's sister hymns

Have come to thee before the wind.

4. To thee, illuminer of night, O Agni, day by day with prayer,
Bringing thee reverence, we come.

5. Help, thou who knowest lauds, this work, a lovely hymn in Rudra's praise,
Adorable in every house!

6. To this fair sacrifice to drink the milky draught art thou called forth:
O Agni, with the Maruts come!

7. With homage will I reverence thee, Agni, like a long-tailed steed,
Imperial lord of holy rites.

8. As Aurva and as Bhrigu called, as Apnavana called, I call
The radiant Agni robed with sea.

9. When he enkindles Agni, man should with his heart attend the song:
I kindle Agni till he glows.

10. Then, verily, they see the light refulgent of primeval seed,
Kindled on yonder side of heaven.

DECADE III Agni

1. Hither, for powerful kinship, I call Agni, him who prospers you,
Most frequent at our solemn rites.

2. May Agni with his pointed blaze cast down each fierce devouring fiend:
May Agni win us wealth by war!

3. Agni, be gracious; thou art great: thou hast approached the pious man,
Hast come to sit on sacred grass.

4. Agni, preserve us, from distress consume our enemies, O God,
Eternal, with thy hottest flames.

5. Harness, O Agni, O thou God, thy steeds which are most excellent!
The fleet ones bring thee rapidly.

6. Lord of the tribes, whom all must seek, we worshipped Agni set thee down,
Refulgent, rich in valiant men.

7. Agni is head and height of heaven, the master of the earth is he
He quickeneth the waters' seed.

8. O Agni, graciously announce this our good fortune of the Gods,
And this our newest hymn of praise!

9, By song, O Agni, Angiras! Gopavana hath brought thee forth
Hear thou my call, refulgent one!

10. Agni, the Sage, the Lord of Strength, hath moved around the sacred gifts,
Giving the offerer precious things.

11. His heralds bear him up aloft, the God who knoweth all that lives,
The Sun, that all may look on him.

12, Praise Agni in the sacrifice, the Sage whose holy laws are true
The God who driveth grief away.

13. Kind be the Goddesses to lend us help, and kind that we may drink:
May their streams bring us health and wealth.

14. Lord of the brave, whose songs dost thou in thine abundance now inspire,
Thou whose hymns help to win the kine?

DECADE IV Agni

1. Sing to your Agni with each song, at every sacrifice for strength.
Come, let us praise the wise and, everlasting God even as a well-beloved friend,

2. Agni, protect thou us by one, protect us by the second song,
Protect us by three hymns, O Lord of power and might, bright God, by four hymns guard us
well!

3. O Agni, with thy lofty beams, with thy pure brilliancy, O God,
Kindled, most youthful one! by Bharadvaja's hand, shine on us richly, holy Lord!

4. O Agni who art worshipped well, dear let our princes be to thee,
Our wealthy patrons who are governors of men, who part, as gifts, the stall of kine!

5. Agni, praise-singer! Lord of men, God! burning up the Rakshasas,
Mighty art thou, the ever-present, household-lord! home-friend and guardian from the sky.

6. Immortal Jatavedas, thou bright-hued refulgent gift of Dawn,
Agni, this day to him who pays oblations bring the Gods who waken with the morn!

7. Wonderful, with thy favouring help, send us thy bounties, gracious Lord.
Thou art the charioteer, Agni, of earthly wealth: find rest and safety for our seed!

8. Famed art thou, Agni, far and wide, preserver, righteous, and a Sage.
The holy singers, O enkindled radiant one, ordainers, call on thee to come.

9. O holy Agni, give us wealth famed among men and strengthening life!
Bestow on us, O helper, that which many crave, more glorious still through righteousness!

10. To him, who dealth out all wealth, the sweet-toned Hotar-priest of men,