

Indo-European Deities and the *R̥gveda*

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I) The Method

In this paper are examined the names of various deities that appear in two or more branches of the Indo-European family. The examination shows that the *R̥gveda* contains more of these deities than any other branch of mythology. But before proceeding it is as well to describe the method of approach to this subject.

Many studies since the 19th century have explored the correspondences, deviations and innovations in various motifs and deities in the different IE branches and these culminated in the 'New Comparative Mythology'—Cox, de Vries, Dumézil, Littleton, Polomé, Puhvel *et al.* Several scholars have referred to mythology also in relation to establishing the PIE *urheimat* (Renfrew 1989: 250ff; Mallory 1989, ch V; J. P. Schodt), but they examine almost exclusively the fittingness of Dumézil's 'tripartite structure'—which has not proved very illuminating. Dumézil's contribution to IE studies has been invaluable (e.g., Dumézil 1968-73; also overview, Littleton 1973a), nonetheless in this paper we shall examine only a number of cognate deities leaving aside tripartition and related ideas.

Some mythological elements are common to most if not all the IE branches, e.g., the Skygod, the Sungod, the Serpent of evil or darkness, and so on. Many of these are found in non-IE cultures too, but the latter do not concern us. The elements we shall examine are the names of certain deities which appear in two or more branches and are demonstrably not borrowings of one from another at some later period. With the Romans the cult of Mithraism is clearly an adoption from the Near East while Apollo is a straight borrowing from Greece. All such cases are discarded. We shall also discard such elements as are found only in Vedic and Old Iranian sources since these two are generally regarded as constituting a distinct branch of their own.

We concentrate on names of deities because these indicate immediate correlation and provide a firm criterion for the common origin. Traits, functions, thematic and structural parallels—all these by themselves provide no such criterion, though they do afford grounds for comparison. A particular type of deity, like the Firegod, appearing under different names in different cultures, even among non-IE peoples, will display certain invariable attributes irrespective of his or her name. When gods have cognate names, on the other hand, like the Germanic *Tîwaz* (and variants), Greek *Zeus* and Vedic *Dyaus*, despite any small or big differences in attributes, they can be immediately correlated and clearly have a common origin. An exception should be made for the *Aśvins* who are very obviously the *Diós-kouroi* (=S *divó nápatā*) in Greece and the *Dievo Sūnelai* (Sky-)‘God’s sons’ in Lithuania, all descriptions meaning ‘bright-Skygod’s lads’. The name *Aśvin* is cognate with Gaulish *Epona* ‘horse-goddess’ (Gl *epo* ‘horse’: SGD under *ἵππος*).

Our aim is not to interpret any myths, find archetypes, compare and contrast themes and motifs in the different branches, trace parallels and developments, speculate about the social structure of the original IE society, and so on. Indeed we keep interpretation and speculation to the barest minimum. For this reason we shall steer clear of the “reconstructed” PIE language. This reconstruction is an entirely conjectural affair. Burrow gave a warning (1973: 11): “... in the case of Indo-European it is certain that there was no such unitary language which can be reached by means of comparison. It would be easy to produce, more or less *ad infinitum* [,] a list of forms like Skt *nābhi-*, Gk *ὀμφαλός* ‘navel’, which although inherited directly from the primitive IE period, and radically related [,] are irreducible to a single original. In fact detailed comparison makes it clear that the Indo-European that we can reach by this means was already deeply split up into a series of varying dialects.” Proto-Indo-European can no more be reconstructed from its extant descendants than Ancient Greek can be reconstructed from Modern Greek or Latin from the Romance Languages without the available historical documentation: without documentation no philological laws can lead back to Gk *λείχω* ‘lick’ from NGk *γλειφω* or *ρίπτω* ‘throw’ from *ρίχνω* and *κύπτω* ‘bow’ from *σκύβω* (pronounced *skivo*); for Latin it should be sufficient to quote E. Pulgram: “since all Romanic languages name a certain animal *cheval*, *caballo*, *cal*, etc, and

have words for 'war' like *guerre, guerra*, the Latins called the horse *caballum* and the war *guerram*" (Pulgram 1958: 147). A large part of the reconstruction may well be correct but since we do not know the facts and cannot verify the conjectures, it is best to stay with the generally accepted, more or less firmly established, correspondences, straying into speculation as little as possible.

The IE branches to be examined are Vedic, Avestan, Hittite, Greek, Roman, Slavonic, Baltic, Germanic and Celtic; also some additional evidence from the Mitanni and the Kassites in the Near East. The Germanic branch comprises some early Germanic material (reported by Roman authors), some Anglo-Saxon and the later, richer Scandinavian lore. The Celtic branch consists of early Gallic (again reported mainly by Romans), Britannic, Welsh and Irish. (Other IE branches like Armenian, Tocharian, etc, provide negligible relevant material.)

Hereafter we examine the various deities starting with the Vedic ones then moving westward. If we were to start with any other branch, we would soon need to shift to a different one and then another, because very few names of non-Vedic gods have correspondences in the other branches.

Abbreviations for languages used are: Av=Avestan; E=English; Gk=Greek; Gmc=Germanic; Gth=Gothic; Ir=Irish; L=Latin; Lth=Lithuanian; Lt=Lettish (or Latvian); OHG=Old High German; ON=Old Norse; Rs=Russian; S=Sanskrit; Sc=Scandinavian; Sl=Slavonic; V=Vedic; W=Welsh. Where O or N precedes (as OFr, NGk), the old or modern form of the language is meant. For convenience are given abbreviations for some authors and books: these can be found as such and with full titles in the References.

II) The Collation

1. The terms 'deity', 'god' etc

a) The word 'deity' comes from OFr *déité* and eventually L *deus*, which is cognate with V *deva* and this derives from \sqrt{div}/dyu or \sqrt{div}/diu (MSD and Whitney under \sqrt{div} and $1\sqrt{div}$); from this root comes also the stem *div-/dyu-* giving *dyaus* 'sky, heaven'.

Apart from L *deus*, cognates with *deva* are Av *daeva* (=demon), Gmc *tīw* (and variants; pl ON *tívar*), Sl *divu*

(=demon, devil), Baltic *diev-*, Ir *dia*, W *duw*, and so on¹. This stem has a wide distribution.

b) Another word for ‘god’ in Vedic is *asura*, which appears as Av *ahura*, as in Ahura Mazda, the supreme divinity of the Zoroastrians: both *asura* and *ahura* are usually translated as ‘Lord’.

The stem *as-u* (=life) may have a relative in OE *os* and in ON *aes/äs/äss* as in *Aesir* (the gods, pl) or *As-gard* (the gods’ city). It may also be connected with the Celtic god *Esus*, associated with trees, the bull, and sacrificial victims hanging from trees and wounded ritually.² But the Gmc sub-branches have a stem *ans-* (*ansuR* in runic, *ans-* in OHG proper names and Gth *ansis*, acc pl), which some take as an extension of **an-* ‘breathe’ (so actually in S). C. Watkins connects it with Ht *haššu* and O Irish *eisi* (2001: 7-9).

c) Another term for god found in some IE branches is the stem *bag-* as in Av *baγa*, Sl *bogu*, Lth *bag-* etc. This is cognate with V *bhaga*, a solar deity (*āditya*) dispensing Good Fortune. This is examined below in sect 10 (and 6d).

¹Gk *θεός* is rejected by most philologists. Gk ‘theta’ (*θ*) is thought to correspond with PIE and S *dh* (not *d*). From compounds *θεσπέσιος*, *θεσφατος* etc is postulated an earlier **thel[s]os*, which has no clear cognates in other IE languages. By the same token, since Gk *ph* (not *b*) corresponds to PIE and S *bh*, Gk *λαμβάνω* ‘receive’ (but perf *εἴληφα*, with *ph*) should be unrelated to S *labh*. For *θεός*, other, possibly older, dialectal forms are *θιός* and *σιός* and the verb ‘deify’ is *θεόω* / *θεόων*: SGD (this Dictionary incorporates J Pokorny, H Frisk’s *Greichisches Etymologisches Wörterbuch*, et al). Mycenaean has *teo-* (Ventris & Chadwick 1973: 256 & 409); cf Mcn *taranu*, Gk *θράνυ* ‘footstool’, S *dhr-*. Thus ‘theos’ is doubtful but not impossible.

²Lucan, *Pharsalia*, III, 400; also for cognation see Dillon 1975: 138; MacCana 1983: 27-28, 39. BDS 22.12. Some scholars, e.g., Parpola (1988) and M. J. Shendge, *The Civilized Demons*, Delhi 1977, see a conflict in the *RV* between *devas* and *asuras* corresponding to invading Aryans and retreating natives; but they ignore that on some occasions the two terms are used appositionally as in *námobhir devám ásuram duvasya* ‘with salutations the deva asura [Rudra] adore’ (V, 42, 11), or in *mahántā mitrávaruṇá/samrājā devāv-ásurā* ‘great Mitra-and-Varuṇa, imperial lords [being] 2 devas-2 asuras’ (VIII, 25,4), or in full semantic identity as in *mahád devánām asuratvám ékam* ‘great is the single asurahood of the devas’ (III, 55,1ff) or in *tá hí devánām ásurā* ‘these-two [Mitra and Varuṇa] asuras of the devas’ (VII, 65,2), etc. Shendge admits, “Looking at the problem statistically, the term *Asura* is used with good connotations 59/60 times, and 12 times with the connotation of evil, in the *Rigveda*” (1977: 49); it might be added that the 12 times occur mainly in the later hymns. In later texts *asura* has the sense ‘demon’. For a detailed examination of “Good guys” and “Bad Guys” see Hock (1996) who rejects simplistic conflicts between Aryans and natives.

d) The word ‘god’ itself comes from OE and is related to Gth *gub*, ON *goð* and OHG *got*. These are thought to come from an older Gmc past participle neuter **ghu-to-m* which is cognate with S *hūta-m* (from *√hū/hvā* ‘call’) ‘that which is invoked’ or, less probably, with *huta-m* (*√hu* ‘sacrifice’) ‘what is sacrificed’ (BDS, 22.12).

2. The King Skygod

a) In the *Ṛgveda* (=RV hereafter) we find two skygods—*Varuṇa* and *Dyaus*. Here we examine *Varuṇa* and in section 3, *Dyaus*.

Varuṇa is the king (*samrāj*) of the gods, like *Odin* in *Asgard* and *Zeus* on *Olympus*. He personifies more than the sky (space or substance) which encompasses (*vy*, *vr̥ṇoti*) everything. An ethical god, he lays down laws (*dhāman*) for every level of creation and rules through *māyā*, measuring knowledge or unfathomable power. He watches everything from his golden palace in highest heaven and has spies (*spāsa*) everywhere. He binds the sinner with fetters (*pāsa*=noose) but also liberates and grants victory in war. He is also associated with waters and oceans and retains only this feature in post-Vedic texts.

Varuṇa is almost invariably lauded with *Mitra* and often with *Aryaman* as well, in a trinity. Both *Varuṇa* and *Mitra* are called *samrājā* (emperors: RV I, 2, 7), and guardians of cosmic order (*ṛta*) in highest heaven (V, 63, 1). In some hymns (RV I, 115; AV XX, 123; etc) and later texts *Varuṇa* is associated with night and *Mitra* with day. *Mitra* is a daytime aspect of the sun connected with friendship and contracts.

This joint sovereignty was, of course, brought out early on by *Dumézil* (1940) and is an instance of the first function (sovereignty/priesthood) in his general theory of tripartition.

b) In the Iranian *Avesta* the supreme god is *Ahura Mazda*, who resembles *Varuṇa* in his ethical aspect and his kingship; his power of light is *Mithra* (= V *Mitra*).

Although this is doubted by many, the name ‘*Varuṇa*’ may appear only as *varəna*, denoting the sky and mythical region where *Thraetona* smites the dragon *Aži Dahāka*.³ This *varəna* is

³*Avesta*, lviii, lxiii, lxvii and *Fargard* I,18. Av has also for ‘sky’ *asman* (S *aśman* Gk *ἄκμων* = stone: ie ‘the stony vault’), *div-* (S *diu/dyo-*), etc. W. E. Hale, *Asura in Early Vedic Religion*, Delhi 1986, argues (p 186ff) that since in the *Avesta* *Ahura*- ‘Lord’ occurs before *Mazda* 40 times, after *Mazda* 48 times, and alone 19 times, there was a god in Indo-Iranian times called ‘*Asura*’ who became

described as ‘four-cornered’ *cathru-goosho varənô* as is Varuṇa(-sky) in *RV*, I, 152, 2 *cáturaśrīr várūṇo*.

Other affinities need not be pursued.

c) The Near-Eastern branches, Hittite, Mitanni and Kassite, have left us little relevant material. The Hittites have left substantial fragments but these contain material absorbed from the non-IE cultures of the area. The Mitanni and the Kassite texts are merely two lists of names of many gods, where the IE ones come at the end.

The Hittite *wurun-* may be related to ‘Varuṇa’: it is the first element in the names of the sungoddess *wurun-šemu* and that of the wargod *wurun-katte* (Leik 1991).

The Mitanni had *uru-wna-asil*⁴, preserved in a list of gods in their treaty with the Hittites. In this list are mentioned also *Mitira* (V Mitra) and other deities with Vedic kindred like *Nasvatiya* (V Nāsatya).

d) In Greece too we find two skygods—*Ouranos* and *Zeus*. As *Zeus* is cognate with *Dyaus* we shall leave it for section 3.

Homer presents *οὐρανός* ‘sky’ as a solid metallic hemisphere or bowl, *χάλκεον οὐρανόν* and *σιδέρεον οὐρανόν* (recalling the ‘stony vault’ of Avestan) and assigns it to the exclusive control of *Zeus* (*Il* 5/504, *Od* 3/2; *Od* 15/329; *Il* 15/189).

Conflating diverse traditions, non-IE as well, in the *Theogony* (126ff), Hesiod presents starry *Ouranos* as the offspring of *Gaia* Earth and then as her consort who engenders through her the Titans, Cyclopes and other monstrous creatures. Then the Titan *Kronos* cuts off with a jagged sickle the generative organs of his father *Ouranos* and reigns in his place until his own son *Zeus* supplants him in turn.

Many scholars do not accept the *Ouranos/Varuṇa* correspondence on the grounds of strict phonology. But a little sober reflection shows that “strict phonology” has little to do with Greek/Sanskrit cognations. Take some common examples: S *śatam*, Gk *ἑκατόν*, L *centum* ‘hundred’; S *ásva* Gyyyk *ἵππος*, L *equus* ‘horse’; or the series of reduplicating verbs S/Gk *dadāmi/δίδωμι* ‘give’, *dadhāmi/τίθημι* ‘put’, *ῥιπάρμι/πίμπλημι* ‘fill’,

Ahura in Iran but *Varuṇa* in India while ‘asura’ became a generic term for gods.

⁴I. M. Diakonov (1990: 64) questions the correspondence with *Varuṇa* taking *uruwana* as plural of the Iranian “mythological term *urvan* ‘soul’ (preserved in old Iranian)”.

juhomi/χέω ‘sacrifice, pour’; and with Gk *δίδωμι, τίθημι* and *πίμπλημι* cf *δίδημι* ‘bind’: we accept all these cognations not because of any strict phonological correspondences but because there is *sufficient* approximate phonological and semantic correspondence—as also in *Varuṇa/Ouranos*. Some (Puhvel 1989: 49) postulate **worsanós* as an earlier form of Ouranos connecting this with S *varṣa* (*√vr̥ṣ*) ‘rain’. This seems unnecessary. Varuṇa is also god of waters and S *vār(-i)* ‘water’ is clearly related to Gk *οὐρ-* (L *ūrī-na*, ON *var-i*, etc).

e) Of the remaining branches only Baltic preserves a name that seems relevant. The Baltic people had a deity *Velnias*, whose name is now a term for ‘devil’. Its ancient form was *Vēlenas/Vēlinas* (Gimbutas 1974). Surprisingly, Gimbutas does not link *Velnias* with *Varuna*. *Vēlinas* grants magical powers like clairvoyance and is associated with the underworld and with waters, swamps, bogs, rivers and lakes even in 20th century folklore. Given the correspondence *il/r̥* and *l/r* between Lithuanian and Sanskrit (*vīlka/vr̥ka* ‘wolf’; *saule/ swar, sūrya* ‘sun’ etc) the *Vēlinas/Varuṇa* identity seems certain. (Cf L stem *vēl-* ‘cover, envelop’; but also entry under *Varuṇa* in KEWA.)

f) The Slavs, Teutons *et al*, have their own Skygod but the names are different in all cases; whenever appropriate, these deities will be considered in other sections.

The Germanic *Wodan* (and variants) and his Scandinavian counterpart *Odin* presents an interesting case. The name is generally thought to come from a stem meaning ‘rage, fury’ and refer to the storm: Gth *woud-/wōth-s*, OHG *wōt-i*, Frisian *wêda*, Saxon *Wudan* etc, all related to L *vātes* ‘seer’, Ir *fāith* ‘ecstatic bard’ (Puhvel 1989: 193) and V *apī-vat-* ‘understand’ and its causative *-vātaya-* ‘awaken, excite’. He is king Skygod in Valhalla, has magic knowledge and grants victory: thus he resembles *Varuṇa*. That such a major deity, even if subsequent to *Tīwaz* (Davidson 1981: 60), should arise as a native independent development from the storm-fury alone seems unlikely, though not impossible. *Wodan/Odin* may be a development of a PIE deity appearing as V *Vāta* (=wind: an allonym of the more common *Vāyu*) who exhibits traits pertinent to the Gmc god. Thus *Vāta*’s swiftness is a standard of comparison for swift motions (*RV* V,31,10; VII,36,3; etc); his wrath can be roused easily (VII,62,4); he blows down from heaven with rainstorms (V,83,4) and roars in the sky thundering (X,168,4), arises from the vital breath (*prāṇa*) of

Primordial Man *Puruṣa* (X,90,13) and has the treasure of immortality in his dwelling whereby he gives life to his devotees (X,186,3): except for the *prāṇa* of *Puruṣa*, the other traits are found also in Wodan.

3. The bright Skygod

a) The Vedic *Dyaus* is regarded as the Sky in its bright luminous aspect. In the *RV* he is invariably coupled with *Ṗṛthivī*, goddess Earth, and both are called ‘Parents’ *Ṗitarā* and ‘Engenderers’ *janitri*: such epithets are given to other deities also and in some passages it is said that they themselves have been created by other gods.

The root *div-/dyu* (or *div/diu*) has cognate stems in most IE branches, as we saw in 1a above.

b) The Avestan *daeua* and the Slavonic *divu* denote demonic beings and are cognate with *deva* rather than *dyu*.

c) According to G Leik, “the Hittites venerated the Indo-European skygod *Siu*”: this ^D*Siu* is clearly IE. In two Anatolian sub-branches we find *Tiwat* (Luwian) and *Tiwaz* (Palaic), both names for the sun (Leik 1991).

d) In Greece *Dyaus* and *Siu* appear as *Zeus* (*δῖα* -/ *δῖος* in declension, or as epithet ‘luminous, clear’). He is the king of gods: like Ouranos he has the domain of the sky; like *Varuṇa* he guards order and justice (but can’t abstain from promiscuity); like *Indra* he wields the thunderbolt.

Worth mentioning is the incident where *Zeus* grabbed *Hephaistos* by the foot and threw him off from the divine threshold on *Olympus* (*Il* 1/590-1). There is a parallel in reverse, not noticed as far as I know, where *Indra*, the Vedic god of the thunderbolt, grabs his father by the foot and crushes him down (*RV* IV, 18, 12). The reversal—son/father, father/son—is not all that unusual. An additional feature is the abandonment of *Hephaistos* by *Hera* (*Il* 18/395ff) in the sea; now, since *Hephaistos* as a smith is connected with fire, we may have a parallel with *Agni*, the Vedic Firegod (see sect 8a, below) who is held, again, by the foot and abandoned by his mother (*RV* VI, 164, 17: so O’Flaherty 1981: 145, n 26).

e) The Romans had *Jūpiter* (the equivalent of Gk *Zeus patēr*) written *Juppiter*: the first member of the compound *Ju[s]*, and in declension *Iov-em/-is*, is cognate with forms *dius*, *diālis* etc.

f) Among the Teutonic peoples this name of the Skyfather appears early as *Tīwaz*—OE *Tiw*, Gmc *Ziu* and Sc *Tyr* (Branston 1993: 68ff). In the later texts, however, Tyr is "most valiant and he has great power over victory in battles..." and when the gods refused to unfetter Fenriswolf, this monster bit off Tyr's hand, which the god had placed in its mouth as a pledge: thus Tyr is "one-handed and *is not considered a promoter of settlements*" (*Edda*, 24-5: emphasis added). This final quotation indicates that Tyr/*Tīwaz* was originally associated with settlements and contracts (having assimilated Vedic Mitra's attribute) and was then debarred from this because his pledge had been broken (Puhvel 1989: 199-200; Davidson 1981: 56-60).

g) The Baltic *diev-* is, like Av *daeua* and Sl *divu*, cognate with *deva* 'god' rather than *dyu-* 'sky' but in some Latvian folk songs about the Sun's daughter who is saved by the Diev's sons, the term has the connotation 'skygod' rather than simply 'god' (Puhvel 1981: 228-9. The meaning 'god' is retained without hint of 'skygod' by D. J. Ward (1971: 414-416).

4. Thunder (-and-lightning)-god

a) In the *RV* this is *Indra*, often called *vajrin* 'he of the bolt'.

Indra is also the chief battle-god leading his devoted Āryas to victory. Many and varied are his aspects and exploits, like drinking enormous quantities of Soma, the divine nectar, as soon as born, or attacking Uṣas, the Dawn goddess, and Sūrya, the Sungod (*RV* II,15,6; IV,30,9; etc). However, his most memorable feat is probably the slaying of the serpent-demon *Vṛtra* and his brood (*vṛtrā-ñi*), whereby he releases the waters—and is called *Vṛtrahān*, though the epithet is applied to some other gods (in the sense 'victorious').

The name *Indra* is given various derivations like *indu* 'drop' or *√indh* 'lighting a fire'.

Although the name itself does not appear much in European traditions, the slaying of the serpent by the Thunderer is not an uncommon myth.

b) In the *Avesta* *Indra* is a demon *daeua*, not a god (twice in *Videvdāt* 10, 9 and 19, 43). However, an angel of Ahura Mazda is called *Verethraghna*, i.e. *Indra*'s epithet *vṛtrahan*: he is the god of Victory "the strongest of strength ... the best-armed of the heavenly gods", etc (II 231ff: Yašt XIV).

c) Among the Mitannis Indra appears as *Indara* and among the Kassites as *Indaś*: in both cases it is a name in a list of gods.

Among the Hittites, descending from the Old Kingdom (c. 19th cent BC), the goddess *Inar-a-s* slays the dragon Illuyanka who had offended the great Weathergod⁵. Inara invites the serpent and its brood to a feast, gets them gorged, employs a man, Hupasiyas, to bind the dragon and then the Weathergod comes and kills it. (There are some variations in a second version of the myth.)

d) In Greece, the dragon-slayer is Zeus, the Thunderer. The tale is told first in Hesiod's *Theogony* (ll 820-68), then gets expanded by Apollodorus (*Bibliothēkē Mythologikē*, I, 39ff.) with details borrowed from Near-Eastern myths (Graves 1977, I, 38-9; Penglas 1994: 189ff). In the *Hymn to Apollo* the Sungod also kills a dragon called Typhaon, renamed Python at Delphi, then himself places a shower of crags and hides Telphusa's stream (!)—contrary to Indra who releases the streams. This notwithstanding, since the Vedic and Nordic myths have the element of water in some prominence, and since the Zeus mythologem in Hesiod does not whereas Apollo's does, we could perhaps assume that Apollo's tale is closer to the original. An additional element is Apollo's guilt which matches Indra's guilt after the killing of the dragon (Kazanas 2001).

Although the name 'Indra' does not appear in Greek mythology, the language has the stem *ανδρ-* (*ἀνήρ* Nom, *ἀνδρός* Gen etc: 'valiant/virile man') giving *ἀνδρεία* 'valour', etc. The *ἀ-νήρ* is accepted as cognate with S *nr/nar-a* 'man/male'. Here philologists generally regard the *d* as an intrusive glide consonant that facilitates pronunciation between dental nasal *n* and *r*; a similar phenomenon is to be seen in the presence of labial *b* between *m* and *r/l* as in *ἄμβροτος* 'immortal' and *μέμ-β-λωκα* 'have come'. However, since *ἀνήρ* has epic unsyncopated forms *ἀνέρος* Gen etc, and the initial *a-* which is absent in Av *nar*, S *nr/nar-*, Albanian *njer* and Oscan *ner-* we may be faced with a different situation. The stem *ανδρ-* may be a Greek development conflating the Gk cognates of S *nr* and *indra* whereby the 'brave one' first was *ανδρ-* and then any male—the first stage being a parallel to post-Vedic *narendra* 'an

⁵Entries in Leik (1991) 'Inara' and 'Illuyanka'; also, Gurney 1990: 150ff. LEM 84, gives the name as masculine, *Inar*. In Hittite the two genders distinguish only animate and inanimate not masc and fem.

Indra among men'. The Celtic *andra-* (in the next paragraph) lends support to this conjecture.

e) The Iceni, a Celtic tribe of Britain, had a Wargoddess called *Andrasta* (who might be *Andarta* in Gaul: MacCana 1983: 86; MacCulloch 1948: 30, 56). According to Dio Cassius, queen Boudicca (Boadicea) invoked this goddess before her battle against the Romans. The stem *andra-/andar-* could well be cognate with Gk *αvδρ-* and V *Indra*.

f) Other branches have their own Thunder- or Battle-god and the names are not related to Indra or among themselves. The Romans have Jove and Mars; the Celts *Taranis*, *Lugh* and others; the Teutons Thor; the Slavs *Perenu* and the Balts *Perkunas*—who will be examined in section 5.

Thor, of course, wields the hammer Mjøl̥nir which always returns to his hand after it has hit its target. He also meets the Midgard serpent that encircles the world but fails to kill it in an episode with giant Hymir in mid-ocean, then meets it again and slays it but gets himself killed by its poison at Ragnarok (*Edda* 46-7 and 54), the final battle between the gods and the forces of destruction when the old world perishes.

5. Stormgod

a) Indra is the storm-deity as well but the aspect of rains and fertility are embodied in *Parjanya*—quickener of vegetation, father of Soma (*RV* IX,82,3) and producer of fertility in cows, mares and women (VII,52,2). He is closely connected with Indra (VIII,6,1; IX,29; etc) and like him is called Dyaus's son.

b) The Slavs have *Perenu/Perun* (and variants). For the pre-Christian Russians he was the great Wargod, the Lord of the universe and regulator of the elements wind, thunder and lightning, rain, frost, drought, etc. (Procopius, *De Bello Gothico*; III, 14. Simonov 1997: 8-9.) Like Zeus and Indra he too slew a serpent and released waters and cattle.

c) The cognate in Baltic myths is *Perkunas* (and variants), who first appears in company with other deities in a 13th century source (Puhvel 1974). Much is conjectured but nothing else definite survives about him.

d) Among the Scandinavians we find *Fjorgyn* (m) and *Fjorgynn* (f: Thor's mother) but nothing beyond the names.

6. Sungod

a) In the *RV* this deity is lauded under two names, *Sūrya* (*svar*) and *Savitṛ* both deriving from $\sqrt{śū}$ ‘enlivening’ which shows two lines of development, hardly distinguishable. The two deities are sometimes distinguished (e.g. *RV* I, 52, 1-2) but mostly appear to have very similar qualities: both golden, they impel people to action, drive away evil dreams, etc (e.g. *RV* I, 35, 7).

We take *Sūrya* alone, an *āditya*, son of Mothergoddess Aditi and of Father-sky Dyaus. This stem has a wide distribution in the IE languages: L *sōlu*, Gk *ἥλιος* (and variants), Gth *savil*, Lth *saule*, R *solnce*, etc.

One interesting detail is that Indra, the Thundergod, attacks the Dawn and the Sun and crushes their chariot (*RV* IV, 28, 2 and 30,4). A similar incident is found in Greek-Roman mythology.

b) In Old Iranian the Sun is *Hvare* (cognate with S *svar*). He has swift horses and like the Vedic *Sūrya*, who is the eye of *Varuṇa* (VII, 63, I), he is the eye of Ahura Mazda (*Avesta* II, 85 ff; *Avesta* I, 225).

c) The Kassite list of gods includes *šuriaš* (= *sūrya*).

(The Hittites differentiated between the ‘sun of heaven’ *nepiš-as...* and the ‘sun of earth’ *taknaš...* : *nepiš-as* corresponds to S *nabhas* ‘sky’.)

d) In Greece the Sungod is Apollo among the Olympians. Another name is *Hēlios*, cognate with *Sūrya*. Apollo and *Hēlios* are quite distinct in the ‘Homeric’ *Hymn to Apollo*, 371-374.

Apollo has the appellation *Phoibos* (Phoebus) and some scholars connect this with Av *baṇa*. Given the S/Gk correspondences *bh/ph* and *b/g*, *φοῖβος* corresponds to S *bhaga* (SGD: *φοῖβος*; II, 1, c, above and §10, below).

In later tales Apollo has a son, *Phaithon*, who manages to obtain the sun-chariot in order to impress his sisters. As he drove it too high causing cold and frost or too low causing scorching heat on earth, Zeus struck him with his thunderbolt. ‘Phaithon’ was also the name of one of Eōs’s (i.e., Dawn’s) horses. The *Orphic Fragments* call the sun ‘phaithon’ (Graves 1977, I, 30-31) and so does Homer in *Iliad* II, 735. Thus the Greeks too preserved the motif of the clash between the Thundergod and the Sun and the Dawn.

e) The Romans borrowed Apollo but they had *Sōl* and *Janus*, this unique mythological figure, who as *Matutinus Pater* presided over daybreak.

In *Metamorphoses II*, Ovid tells the story of Phaethon.

f) Among the Celts and the Teutons there is no Sungod of a similar stature as the ones examined so far.

The Irish had *Lugh* (W *Lleu*), his name meaning the ‘Shining One’. His usual epithet *Lamfhada* ‘long-armed’ has been linked with the upraised arm of Vedic *Savitṛ*. He was versatile in almost all skills and arts.

Among the Germanic people the sun-wheel was well known in the Bronze Age and may have been connected with the swastika: both are well attested on stones and on pots (Davidson 1969: 22-23.). The mythical figure of *Sunna* is thought to represent the girl called ‘sun’, (Davidson 1981: 27-28 and 183) but little else survives. Here we have an interesting philological consideration regarding the Gmc ‘sun’. The Germanic branch alone among the other IE traditions has a feminine *sun-* which nonetheless is generally regarded as cognate with PIE **su-* > V *svar/sūrya* etc. OE has *sunne* and OHG *sunna* both feminine. Vedic has both masc *sūrya* and fem *sūryā* ‘sun’s daughter’ (also *sūr-a* masc and *svar-* without gender) thus preserving this IE element which explains the curious Germanic exception to the otherwise masculine IE Sungod.

g) In the Slavonic branch the Sungod is the son of *Zuarasici* or *Svarog* (and variants). *Svarog* is clearly cognate with S *svar-* (=sun) and *svarga* (=sky) and was the Skygod. He had two sons, named *Dazibogu* or *Dazhbog* (=sun) and *Svarogich* or *Svarogici*, who was also known as *Ogon* (=Fire).

The second stem in *Dazibogu* is the familiar *bag-/bhag-* (1,c,above). The first may be cognate with S $\sqrt{damś}$ ‘shining’ or \sqrt{dah} ‘burning’ or a conflation of both roots.⁶

h) The Balts had *Saul*, the sun, but only the tales of his daughter’s (*Sáules dukteryus* Lth, or *mieta* Ltt) wooing and rescue by the [Sky-]god’s sons survive in folk songs (Ward 1970). This daughter corresponds to Vedic *Sūryā*, daughter of *Sūrya* (or *Uṣas*, the Dawngoddess).

⁶Puhvel 1989: 233, proposes the non-existent but not impossible **Dādhi-bhagos* ‘Give Fortune’. See, however, RV VII, 15, 11: *bhāgás ca dātu vāryam* ‘may Bhaga give the best’; also X 17,9 ... *bhāgām- ... dhehi* ‘Grant [O Sarasvati] a portion [of wealth]...’.

7. Dawn

a) The hymns to *Uṣas*, the Dawn, are among the loveliest in the *RV*. The name is cognate with Gk ἠώς, L *aurora* (**aus-*), Lth *auśra*, Ltt *ausma*, variants of Sl *úsvi-*, and Gmc *ās/eas-/ōs-* (as in E *Easter*).

Uṣas is ever young, yet ancient, being born again and again, a maiden revealing her bosom to mortal eyes; sister and daughter of Night and, beyond all, daughter of Dyaus, she is connected with *Sūrya*, naturally, and is a friend of the *Aśvins* (or even their wife, if she is also *Sūryā*); she never infringes *ṛta* the law of order and in hymn X,15,9, the dead man is said to go to her—though, otherwise, to the Sun and usually to *Yama*.

b) In Greece *Eōs*, the rosy-fingered Dawn, is the Sungod's herald bringing early daylight with her chariot, drawn by the horses *Lampos* 'Shining-one' and *Phaethon* 'Luminous-one' (*Od* 23/247-55). In Hesiod she bears to *Astraios* the West (=Zephyros), the North and the South winds (*Theogony* 371-382) and has several lovers—Tithoan, Kephalos (984 ff)⁷ and others in later tradition.

Some attempts (e.g., Cox 1963: 230) have been made to connect Pallas *Athēnē* with *Uṣas*: the description of the Vedic goddess as *ahanā* 'spreading daylight' (perhaps *RV* I,123,4) has been stretched to link with Gk **athānā*. Elsewhere (*IT*, 164), *Uṣas*'s birth is given as from the forehead of Dyaus (like Athena in full panoply from Zeus's temple), but no reference is cited for this and I know of none. Although Athena may be a distant relative of *Uṣas* (and possibly of *Sarasvati*), the Vedic goddess has no warlike traits nor any association with arts and crafts; but in *RV* VI,64,3 she is likened to a heroic archer/thrower (*āstā*) and a swift warrior (*vólhā*) against foes and darkness. *Uṣas* is thus more akin to Artemis (Kazanas 2001).

c) Some other branches have a cognate goddess but few definite facts other than the name survive.

The Romans have their *Aurora*.

The Teutons have *Ostara* (Keith 1989: 121) who appears under the name *Eostre* among the Anglo-Saxons and is,

⁷*Eōs* bears to Kephalos a son *Phaethon* "a man similar to the gods" (*Theogony* 987). The name is the same as that of one of *Eōs*'s horses which is also a name for the Sun (see 6, d, above). This indicates perhaps a complex legend regarding *Eōs* suggesting that she was also mother of the Sun and then, as *Hēmera* 'Daylight', his companion (or consort or daughter?).

according to venerable Bede, the name of April (Branston 1993: 42, 127), which becomes the Christian ‘Easter’.

Lettish *Ushing*, like Ostara, “represents a worship of the sun in the spring” (Keith 1989: 121).

8. Firegod

a) The firegod *Agni* appears to be the most popular deity in the *RV* next to Indra. Much can be written about Agni but here we shall dwell only on two features, his parentage and his three-fold aspect.

Agni’s parents are Dyaus and Pṛthivi, or Tvaṣṭṛ and the Waters; or he is brought about by Indra, or the Dawn, or Iḍā, the sacrificial food personified. All these mythic accounts can be easily explained. Another significant account is Agni’s birth from the ten fingers or, perhaps more important, from the two fire sticks that are rubbed together. In the last account the upper stick is the male force and the lower the female: these two are seen mythically personified in Pururavas and Urvaśi according to the *Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa* 11,5,1, which section takes some verses from *RV* X,95, a hymn in the form of a dialogue between the two famous lovers, the mortal king, who eventually becomes immortal, and the *apsaras* nymph, and explains them in terms of the sacrifice. This old mode of lighting the fire with two sticks was preserved in the rite of rekindling on March 1, the fire of Vesta in Rome (Keith 1989: 155; where a similar practice among the early Germanic people is mentioned also).

Agni is threefold: he has three births, three heads, three tongues, three stations. He has three abodes—in heaven, earth and waters or heaven, air (atmosphere) and earth. Thus he also has three altars in the ritual—the Gārhapatya, the Āhavaniya and the Dakṣiṇa, all kept distinct from the ordinary household fire.

b) Among the Slavs one of the high god Svarog’s sons was *Ogon*, the Firegod. In OSI ‘fire’ is *ogni*: this and its variants (Serbian *ogunj*, Polish *ogun*, Rs *ogon* etc) are obviously cognates with S *agni*. Of Ogon little else is recorded.

c) The other branches have their respective firegods but the names are unrelated.

The better known are the Greek goddess *Hestia* ‘household fire’, daughter of Kronos and Rhea, and her Roman counterpart *Vesta*: both names are cognate with S *√vas* ‘dwelling’ and *√vas* ‘shining’, and related to V *vāstoṣpati* ‘genius

of the house' (RV VII, 54 and 55); this < √*vas* > *vāstu* 'dwelling' (cognate with Gk *astu* 'town'; Toch A *wast*, Toch B *ost* 'house'; Gth *wisan* 'to stay', OHG *wist* 'inhabiting').

Nonetheless, some of the languages have retained the IE stem for 'fire' cognate to *agni*: L *ignis*, OSl *ogni*, Lth *ugnis*, Ltt *uguns*. Rather surprisingly, the stem is not preserved in Old Iranian, despite the Zoroastrians' intense fire-worship, except in a name like *dāštāyī*.

9. Watergod

a) Apart from Varuṇa, in Vedic religion the Waters themselves *Āpas* (plural) were divinities, and from their midst Varuṇa "looks upon the truth and untruth of people" (RV VII, 49,3). In the waters resides a self-luminous spirit or essence called *Apām Nápāt*, 'Offspring of the Waters', often described as "swift-horsed". This is clearly related to the effulgence of the Firegod, *Agni*, as is obvious by the association of the two in hymn II, 35, 15, etc, and by Agni's entering and hiding deep in the waters (RV I, 65 and X, 51); the motif is elaborated in the *Brāhmanas* and post-Vedic texts. When the priests go for the water required for the sacrifice, they address a prayer to *Apām Nápāt*. (RV X,30,3).

b) In the *Avesta*, Yast 19, we find *Apām Napāt*, 'the swift-horsed, tall and shining lord, the lord of females', and the *X^varəmah*, the 'luminous glory' of Kings, made by Ahura Mazda and belonging to archangels and gods: the *one* deity in the *RV* appears as *two* entities in the *Avesta*. The *X^varəmah* becomes the most desired object in the struggle between good and evil forces. As it flies away, it is seized—even though it "cannot be forcibly seized"—by "the swift-horsed Son of the Waters" (*Apām Napāt*) and put down to the bottom of the mythical sea *Vourukaša* "in the bottom of the rivers" (II, p 299). There only the most worthy can ever approach it.

This motif appears in a Celtic tale and in Greek post-archaic poetry.

c) Greece has Poseidon, who, like the Indo-Iranian *Apām Napāt*, is also associated with splendid horses, like Pegasus. Another one is *Pontos*, a deification of the sea, *ἀτρύγετον πέλαγος* (*Theogony*, 131-2): cognate with *πόντος* are L *pon-s/-t* 'bridge', Old Prussian *pintis*, Sl *pati*, S *path/panth-*, all meaning 'way, course'. Another one is *Okeanos* (E *ocean*), the source of all waters (*Iliad* 21/194) which surrounds the earth (Herodotus

IV,8): this may be cognate with S *āśayāna* ‘lying abundantly, surrounding’—“said of Vṛtra who surrounds the water” (MSD), although Aramaic *ôgāna* ‘basin’ has been just as plausibly suggested (West 1971: 50) There is also Nereus, father of the water-nymphs Nereids (cf S *nira* ‘water’) and others, whom we need not pursue.

There is much literature on Poseidon (as there are many myths) and much speculation on the etymology of his name (*Poteidōn/Potidas* etc). Most interesting are the suggestions ‘husband of waters’ or ‘source of waters’ (Littleton 1973b).

However, B. Louden (1999) argues reasonably that Bacchylides 17 narrates an incident in the life of Theseus which seems to be related to the Iranian rather than the Vedic version of the myth. Minos casts a golden ring into the sea and Theseus has to retrieve it to prove that he is Poseidon’s son. Theseus dives and in the depths he encounters “a brilliance like fire... shining from [the Nereids’] radiant limbs”. Certainly, the Apām Napāt motifs are present in the Greek narrative, but no cognate name.

However, I think, Louden quite rightly mentions (1999: 73-74) the possible cognation V *nāpāt*, L *nepotes* and Gk *νεποδες* (*Od* 4.404). All early attestations in the GEL are in the plural denoting “offspring/children” as in the *Odyssey* passage; GEL gives “seals” but in *Od* 4/404 seals are *φώκκι* (still so in NGk). Etymologies like “wet-” or “web-” or “no-footed” for *νεπός* are, of course, possible, but so is the IE cognation.

d) The Romans had the well known *Neptunus* as their Seagod, whose name is thought to be cognate with *Napāt* (Puhvel 1989: 279 ff, gives similarities with the Iranian tale).

The stem appears in L *nepos/nepot-* and Gk *ἀ-νεπ-σιο-ς*, all meaning ‘offspring, nephew, grandson’—whence E *nepotism*.

e) Some scholars link the stem *nāpāt/nept* with Irish *necht* (Ford 1974: 67; Puhvel 1989: 279). Thus in the Irish tradition, Nechtan of the Túatha Dé Dannan had a secret well: only he and his three cupbearers could approach it with impunity; anyone else would suffer the loss of his two eyes because of some powerful light or energy within the well. Nechtan’s wife approaches it arrogantly and, indeed, gets so shattered, losing an eye, a hand and a leg as the water rushes against her, that she flees and drowns in the sea.

The Celts had other waterdeities with different names.

f) All branches have, of course, their own gods of waters or sea, but, as we have seen, these have unrelated names. The same applies to the Germanic branch. The Scandinavians had at least two gods associated with the sea and water *Njord* and *Aegir* (Davidson 1981: 106-7, 128-30), but these names, like the Celtic Ir/W *Ler/Llyr* and *Manannan/Manawyddan* (MacCulloch 1948: 33-34; MacCana 1983: 78-80, 66-67), stand isolated from names in other branches.

10. The Bountiful Provider

a) We met *bhaga* in section 1,c, as a generic name for ‘god’ in the Iranian and Slavonic branches. In the *RV* *Bhaga* is a specific deity, one of the *Ādityas*, associated with good fortune, wealth and wellbeing. As he has not one hymn dedicated to himself, he is regarded as a minor deity, brother of *Uṣas* (I, 123,5). Together with *Aryaman* and *Savitṛ* he is invoked in the marriage ceremony (X, 85, 23 and 36) in parallel with other deities, *Mitra*, *Varuṇa*, *Sūrya*, *Indra* and *Pūṣan*.

The word *bhaga* is used as a noun ‘wealth, fortune’ and as an adjective qualifying *Agni*, *Sūrya* and *Pūṣan*, ‘dispenser [of wealth/fortune]’. In the *Atharva-veda* *Bhaga* is invoked not only in the marriage ceremony but also for increase in progeny (XIV, 2,13) and for deepening the ploughing (III, 12,4): he is thus a fertility god. In later times we have *bhagava(n)t* ‘the blessed one’.

b) The stem appears as an adjective *Bagaios* applied to *Zeus* in Phrygia, in Anatolia. Here Gk *φoῖβος* (6, d, above) too would qualify.

11. Artificers

a) In the *RV*, as in other religions, many are the creator-gods and artificers. Here we shall deal briefly with the *Ṛbhus* only. The *Ṛbhus* are three brothers, *Ṛbhu*, *Vibhvan* and *Vāja* (I,161,6), known collectively by the name of the eldest. Sons of *Sudhanvan*⁸ ‘the good archer’, they had miraculous dexterity through unusual power of mind (I, 20,2; IV, 33,2; 36,2). Through this power, “with effective prayers” they rejuvenated the Parents, Heaven and Earth, and on the gods’ command made four out of the one chalice or ladle, fashioned by *Tvaṣṭṛ* (the divine artificer or creator-god). Because of these and

⁸Also IV,4,3. In some places the number seems to vary; they are called sons of *Manu* also.

similar wondrous works they were admitted into the home of Savitr̥ the Sun, the *Agohya* ‘not to be hidden’, who then made them immortal gods (I, 110, 2-3).

This stem and its cognate *arbha* ‘young’ have a fair distribution in the IE branches: Gk *ὀρφανός* and L *orbus* ‘bereft’, Gth *arbi*, Ir *orpe*, AS *arfr* and ON *arfe*, ‘inheritance’ etc; also in words meaning ‘work’ like Gth *arbaiþs*, OSI *rabu* ‘servant’, Rs *rabota* ‘work’, etc.

b) In Greece the name *ῥbhu* appears as *Orpheus*, the famous poet and musician from Thrace who gave rise to the Orphic cult and mysteries. The later story about his descent into Hades to recover Eurydice may well be an echo of a rejuvenation attempt, while the shamanist aspect of the myth (Eliade 1972: 391) is maintained. Orpheus’s poetry and music links well with the *R̥bhus*’ poetic power in *RVI*, 20,2-4; *III*, 60,2; *IV*, 36,7. It is therefore very curious that many philologists refuse to see this connection yet accept *ὀρφα-νός* ‘deprived’ (orphan).

G *ἀλφή* ‘production, acquisition’ and *ἀλφάνω* ‘produce, acquire’ may well be cognate with S *ῥbhu* and *√rabh/labh* ‘get hold of’. The *r/l* alternation is common.

M. Estell (1999) points out the analogous cognation of V *√r̥> ῥnoti* and GK *ὄρνυμι* but feels some uncertainty about *ῥbhu/ὀρφεύς*. His hesitation is understandable but even if we found an ancient text averring that the *ῥbhus* and *Orpheus* are related, some scholars would question its authenticity, or date, or authorship, and so on. We should ask ourselves rather whether it is likely that *ῥbhu* and *ὀρφεύ-* are not cognate. Estell provides support with the father of Orpheus, *Oiagros* probably ‘cudgel-bearer’ (corresponding to *R̥bhus*’ father ‘good archer’) and the use of derivative verb-forms of the PIE **teks*, Gk *τεκτ-* and V *taks-* ‘form, fashion’. He thinks “the root means ‘fashion’ and is used of carpenters” (1999: 332) but this is hardly warranted by Vedic usage at any rate. The *R̥bhus* are not, as usually considered, craftsmen-artisans but mainly poet-artists who create (*√kr̥* or *√taks̥*) by mental powers (*manas*, *dhi*, *dhiti*, *māyā*) or *śaci* ‘skill, speech’ not only material things like the four ladles or the chariot but also prosperity, vision, life, fame (*rayi*, *dhi*, *vayas*, *śravas*) as in *RVI*, 20, 2/4; *III*, 54, 17; *III*, 60, 1-2; *IV*, 36, 2/4/5/7; etc.

Another affinity between the Vedic and Greek figures is their connection with the Sungod. The *R̥bhus* stayed in Savitr̥’s home, served there in priestly function and thus gained

immortality (*RV*I, 110, 4; *III*, 60, 3-4). Orpheus is said in one legend to be closely associated with Apollo as the Sun: he “reveres Apollo-Helios” neglecting the worship of Dionysus; for this reason the Maenad-Bassarids tore him apart (West 1998: 12-13); Graves writes that Orpheus actually served as Apollo’s priest (*I*, 112).

c) The same stem appears in Gmc *elf* (and variants). A race of fair elves lived in Alfheim, the elves’ region, where Freyr of the Vanir also dwelt (*Edda* 19). There was also a race of dark elves living underground. The elves, spirits that could heal, but played no significant part in the Norse mythology, were associated with the dead on one hand and with the sun, like the *Rbhus*, on the other (Davidson 1981: 156 & 28).

The connection with the stem *arb-* as in *arbeit* ‘work’ has been mentioned.

There is no substantial reason, philological or semantic, why Gk *Orpheus* and Gmc *elf* should not be related to S *ybhū*.

12. *The Companion on the Path*,⁹ or harmoniser

a) *Aryaman* is an *āditya* but with few distinct features. In the *RV* he is invoked chiefly as the third member in the triad Mitra-Varuṇa-Aryaman but also several times with Indra, once, in the marriage context, with Bhaga alone (*X*, 85, 23) and once with Bhaga, Savitṛ and Pūṣan, in the same hymn (85, 36). Associated with pathways, like Bhaga and Pūṣan, Aryaman, like them, promotes prosperity and concord in marriages. In hymn *V*, 3, 2, Agni is addressed as Aryaman who makes “wife and lord one-minded”. This harmonious order in marriage and family is obviously a reflection of Aryaman’s role as guardian of the cosmic order *ṛta*, together with Varuṇa and Mitra. He is said also to yoke Indra’s horses (*VII*, 36, 4).

The name itself contains the notion of order and harmony since the stem *ar-* as in *ārya-* derives from \sqrt{r} which produces *ṛta*. Cognates with \sqrt{r} and *ar-* are very widely distributed in the IE languages: Gr *ἀρετή*, *ὄρ-νυμι* etc; L *alius*, *aro* etc; OE *er-ian*; Gth *ar-ms*, *rei-san*; etc etc.

b) The *Avesta* has *Airyaman* who is connected with marriage-rites and healing-rituals: “May the much desired Airyaman come ... with the desirable reward that is won by means of the law” (*I*, 228-35).

⁹*RV*X, 64,5: “Aryaman of the unchecked (or unbroken) course (or path).” Of course, Pūṣan is strictly ‘Lord of the path’ *páthah pátiḥ*.

c) In Greek the stem *αρ* gives many words like *ἀρείων* 'better' and *ἀριστος* 'best' (as E *aristocracy*). It is also the base of the Wargod *Ar-eas*, who, however, apart from his reputation, has nothing to recommend him as a Wargod but gets twice bested by Athena, once by Hercules, and on one occasion by some giants. In Mycenaean the name appears as *Are-mene* (Thebes III) as well, and variants *Are-jo* and *Arei-jo* (Ventris and Chadwick 1973: 126).

Scholars (see SGD) connect *Ares* with *ἔρις* 'strife, quarrel' and *S ari* 'enemy' and *√irs* 'envy', OSi *reti* 'struggle', etc. This is possible. However, *Ares* has only the reputation of a Wargod but no actual mythologem showing him as such. It may well be that the Mycenaean *Are-mene* (or *Are-jo*) was originally akin to *Aryaman* and then developed into the unwarlike *Ares* to provide a male Wargod. A more convincing Wargod is the goddess *Athene*, who never lost a battle.

d) Among the Celts this name appears as *Ariomanus* in Gaul and as *Eremon* in Ireland, the latter being the warrior-king of the sons of *Mil* (MacCana 1983: 61-62). The very name *Ireland* contains the stem of cognates *erin/eire* and variants thereof (cf *Iran* for Persia).

e) The same appears among the Teutonic people in the name of god *Irmin* occurring in *Irmin-sūl*, the cultic World Pillar upholding the sky, and in *Irmin-theod* 'Irmin's people', that is mankind (Davidson 1981: 196; Puhvel 1989: 200). The name was thought to be another name for the Skygod *Tiwaz* but nothing else is known.

13. Wargod(s)

a) In the *RV* the wargod par excellence is *Indra*, but he is often assisted by other gods like *Viṣṇu* (VII, 99, 4-5) and the *Maruts* (VIII, 8, 24).

Here we shall be concerned with the *Maruts* whose name is cognate with other wargods' names in other branches. They are invoked in 33 complete hymns and are said to be 3x7 (I, 133, 6), 7x7 (V, 52, 17) and more: thus they are always in the plural *Marūtas*. Sons of *Rudra* and *Pr̥śni* (the mottled Cow), they carry a bright javelin, thunderbolt, bow and arrows and golden ax, riding on golden cars—probably lightning (III, 54, 13). They bring clouds and rains, thunder and lightning, causing or dispersing darkness (I, 37, 9 and 86, 10), and dispatch demons and foes of the *Āryas* (VII, 57; etc).

Various etymologies have been suggested as from $\sqrt{m_3}$ ‘dying’ or $\sqrt{m_3-n}$ ‘crushing’ or $*mar$ ‘flashing, lighting’ connected with *marici* ‘particle/ray of light’ (Gk $\mu\alpha\rho-\mu-$, E *marble* and similar cognates).

b) The name does not appear in the *Avesta* but it does so in the Kassites’ list of gods. Here the name is singular *Maruttaš*.

The stem *mar-* appears in the Mittani’s name for young warriors *Maria-nni/nnu* (cf Gk $\mu\epsilon\iota\rho\alpha-\xi/-\kappa\iota\omicron\nu$ ‘young lad’).

c) Leaving the Greeks whose goddess *Athēnā* is a more appropriate wargoddess than Ares (see 12, c, above), we find a cognate name in Roman *Mārs* (Mart-). The Roman wargod is a more complex deity: husband of Rhea Silvia, he was the father of Romulus and Remus, founders of Rome; his early adjective ‘silvanus’ indicates that he had a vegetation and fertility aspect as well as the martial one. (KEWA II, 589: “noteworthy remains the connection Marút-Mārs”)

Older names are *māvors*, Etruscan *maris* and Oscan *māmers* and there are many cognates and derivatives in other IE languages: e.g., L *mare*, W *mor*, Gth *marei*, Sl *mor-* ‘sea’ (=dead water’ or ‘glistening’).

d) Other traditions have their own wargods, but with different names. The Celts have an abundance of war-goddesses and the Irish *Mor-righan* ‘war/phantom queen’ (MacCana 1983: 66, 86 etc) definitely seems to carry the stem *mar-*.

14. Anthropogony

a) In the Vedic tradition the Progenitor of mankind is said in different places to be Yama, Manu and Puruṣa. (i) The word *yama* in Vedic has complex connotations: *yāma* means ‘controller’ primarily, while *yamá* signifies ‘twin’ or ‘pair’ and *yamasū* is ‘she who bears twins’ (*RV* I,66,4; 164,15; II,39,2; etc; For *yamasū*, see *Vājasaneyi Saṃhitā* XXX,15, and *Tait Br* III, 4,II,1). Some (SGD under $\zeta\eta\mu\acute{\iota}\alpha$) connect this stem *yam-* (perf *yeme*) with Gk $\zeta\eta\mu\acute{\iota}\alpha$ ‘loss, damage’ and $\zeta\eta\mu\acute{\iota}\omega$, its only other putative appearance in IE languages apart from Sc *Ymir*, Av *Yima* and Lgeminus: *yamati* = ‘curb, tighten’ hence ‘damage’; also Yama’s death may be the basis for ‘loss’. Pokorny links $\zeta\eta\mu\acute{\iota}\alpha$ with *yātu* ‘sorcery’ and $\eta\eta\mu\epsilon\rho\omicron\varsigma$ ‘tame, mild’ with *yam* while Burrow (p 135) links $\eta\eta\mu\epsilon\rho\omicron\varsigma$ with *sāman(-a)*. Since we have V *yug-* and G $\zeta\nu\gamma-\zeta\epsilon\nu\gamma$ (but L *iug-*) ‘yoke’ and V *yas-* and G $\zeta\epsilon-/\zeta\epsilon\sigma-$ ‘be heated’, all generally acceptable, the *yam- $\zeta\eta\mu$*

cognition should not be rejected. In Latin we have *geminō/geminus* ‘double/twin’.

Yama himself is king of the dead, ruler and judge; the control aspect is seen also in the line “*triṣṭubh, gāyatrī* and [the other] hymn-metres, all these are placed in Yama” (X,14,16): the first half of this stanza is open to various interpretations; the second half is simpler: *triṣṭúb gāyatrī chāndāṃsi sárwā tá Yamá āhitā*. He is the son of Vivasvat (=Sun); his birth is unattended by death (X,83,5 ff); he builds the abode for the dead (X,18,13), full of light and satisfaction, immortal and imperishable (IX,113,7 ff); and all go to him by the same path to meet him and the fathers in heaven (X,14,1ff). The theme is developed further in the *Atharva Veda* where he is the first of mortals to die and go to the Otherworld as the “one who gathers people together” (AVXV iii,3,13).

However, the *RV* hymn X,10, is a dialogue between Yama and Yami, twin brother and sister. Here Yami, who wants to unite with Yama and have his child, calls him “the only existing mortal”. This theme, too, is developed further in the *AV* (*AV* XVIII,1 reproduces much of *RV* X,10) and later prose texts. One important detail in *RV* X,10, is in Yami’s words, stanza 5, saying that Tvaṣṭṛ “who shapes all forms”, made herself and Yama “consorts even in the womb”; this may be connected with the Gmc legend of Ymir and Twisto (see (c) below).

ii) *Manu* is mentioned in several places as “father *Manu*” (e.g., *RV* II, 33,13). In later Vedic texts (*Śatapatha Br*, I,8,1, 1ff) he is the survivor of the flood and father of a new generation of men. In post-Vedic texts he becomes a lawgiver, the guardian of a *kalpa*, etc. He was the son of Vivasvat and Saraṇyū, daughter of Tvaṣṭṛ—who are also Yama’s parents.

The stem *man-* has wide incidence in most IE languages: Gk *μαν-ία, μάν-τις*, etc, L *mens*, Gth *muns*, OE *myne*, Ir *menme*, etc, all related to the human faculty of mind.

iii) *Puruṣa* signifies man in his universal, primordial aspect. In hymn *RV* X,90, this primordial *Puruṣa*, containing “what has been and what shall be”, gets sacrificed by the gods and from different parts of his being are created the multifarious creatures of the world.

All three elements, *Puruṣa*, *Manu* and *Yama*, rather astonishingly reappear in the Teutonic mythology alone. But before examining this let us glance briefly at the Old Iranian *Yama*.

b) In the *Avesta* Yama appears as *Yima*, son of Vivanhant (I, 10ff; II, 59ff). The Avestan tale of Yima is interesting more because of its differences from the Vedic motifs than its similarities. Yima, “the first-mortal”, becomes a king on earth and, with Ahura’s guidance, gathers creatures together in a special refuge against an oncoming winter of floods and frosts that will end all remaining life outside: thus he becomes a kind of Manu or Noah of the deluge legends as well as king of an Underworld Paradise.

c) In the *Gylfaginning* (5ff, *Edda*, p 10 ff. See Stone’s 1997 detailed study) the Teutonic legend tells how from the initial “yawning abyss” the Ginnungagap chaos, there arose from the melting ice the giant Ymir, the first creature. He fed on the milk of the primeval cow Audhumla (cf the Cosmic Cow in *RV* I, 180,3; III, 55,1; IV, 41,5; etc). The first part of the cow’s name “Aud’ is generally accepted to be connected with the ON word for ‘wealth’ *auðr*, but no satisfactory explanation is given for the second part *humla* (Stone 1997: 144-145). Although ON for udder is *jūgr*, perhaps the name is related to S *ūdha-n/-r/-s* ‘udder’ (>*ūdhasya/audhasa*), Gk *ὄυθαρ*, L *uber*, OHG *ūtar*, etc?) From Ymir’s sweat, from under his left arm, there grew the first male and female while from his legs sprang out the frost-giants. From the ice, licked by the primeval cow *Audhuml*, whose milk sustained Ymir, there arose “a complete man” whose name was Buri and who got a son called Bor. Bor fathered on the giantess Bestla the gods Odin, Vili and Ve, who proceeded to kill Ymir. In the flood from Ymir’s blood drowned all the frost-giants except one, Bergelmir, who escaped with his wife in an ark. (The earliest ms has “on his mill”: Branston 1993: 37; also Stone 1997: 44 n 5 *lur* = box-mill. The blood of the flood may owe something to one of the plagues Moses inflicted on the Egyptians when the Nile-waters turned into blood—*Exodus* VII, 14ff.) From Ymir’s body the gods made the world: from his flesh the earth, from his blood the sea, from his bones mountains and stones, from his skull the sky.

This account seems to be full of confused echoes from earlier legends. The name “Ymir” clearly reminds of Yama and the male and female of the twins Yama and Yami. The flood and the ark remind of Manu and Noah. The creation of the world from parts of Ymir’s body resembles the creation of the world from Puruṣa’s sacrifice; even the names *Buri* and *Bor* carry echoes of *Pur-u-ṣa*.

The affinities do not stop here. Tacitus reports (*Germania*, 2) an early Germanic anthropogonic version wherein earth-born god *Twisto* engendered *Mannus* and he in turn had three (or more) sons from whose names (*quorum nominibus*) are known the three (or more) tribes of the Germans. Here *Mannus* is certainly V *Manu* and *Twisto* may be cognate with V *Tvaṣṭṛ*, despite conjectures that the name is connected with “separation” or “twin”.¹⁰ After all *Tvaṣṭṛ* “begets mankind in varied manner” (*RV* III, 55, 19 and 4,9) and has *Saraṇyū* for his daughter, who marries *Vivasvat* and whose ‘double’ or ‘shadow’ *Savarṇā* bears to *Vivasvat Manu*.

III) Conclusions

1. The All-inclusiveness of the R̥gveda

It is obvious that the *RV* contains a decisively greater portion of the common IE mythological heritage. In fact there is hardly a major motif common in two or more of the other branches that is not found in the *RV*.

We could examine many more figures or themes. There are several names of isolated deities in the European branches that are clearly cognate with Sanskrit stems even though there are no deities with such names in the *RV* or post-Vedic texts. We meet *Briganti-(a)* in Britain who was *Sulevia* in Gaul and then *Brighid* in Ireland¹¹: the name is cognate with S *br̥hati* ‘lofty, great, vast, strong, exalted, bright’—and so is the Av *bərəz* retained in the name of the *Elburz* mountains. The Norse *Bragi*, god of poetry and wisdom (*Edda* 25), whose name is thought to be cognate with *brag* ‘chief’, may well be connected with V *Br̥has-pati*, the lord of prayer and poetic metre, same as *Brahmaṇaspati* in *RV* II, 2,3. (This connection may seem farfetched; see KEWA II, 453-454.) *Frigg*, consort of *Odin* of the *Aesir* and often identified with *Freyja*, consort of *Freyr* of the *Vanir*, is regarded as a love-goddess and her name as cognate with S *priya* ‘beloved, dear, favourite’ (cf Gth *frijōn* ‘to love’). The name of the better-known love-goddess of Rome, *Venus*, is

¹⁰Davidson 1981, 199, gives O Swedish *twistra* ‘twofold being’. See also Puhvel 1989: 219. In ONorse, however, ‘twin’ is *tvinnr/tvennr* and in OIcelandic *twistr* means ‘silent’ while *twistra* means ‘scatter’ (G T Zōega, *Concise Dict. of Old Icelandic*, OUP 1926).

¹¹Later transformed into St. *Brighid* with a monastery at *Kildare* that maintained a perpetual fire. In the *RV* there is actually a goddess called *Byhaddivā* but apart from being a Mother, nothing else is said (V, 42, 12; X, 64, 10).

cognate with S *vanas* ‘charm, desire’ (Burrow 1973: 158; Puhvel 1989: 151). Then Roman Juno, consort of Jupiter, has a name connected with S *yuni*, contracted fem of *yuvan*, ‘young, strong, healthy’. Roman *Ceres* goddess of agriculture and Greek *Kear* goddess of doom too are probably cognate with S *śri* ‘beauty, splendour, abundance’; in the *Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa* XI, 4, 3, *śri* is presented as a goddess of beauty and prosperity (*IT* p 162).

Apart from such names, there are many other themes or motifs in the different branches that, again, have a connection or parallel in the *RV*. The Greek Centaurs have a name (*Kentavroi*, pl) and mythical connections that strongly recall the *Gandharva* in *RV* and the later Kinnaras.¹² The ‘horse’ theme appears with Greek *Dioskouroi* ‘the lads of bright sky’, *Castor*, the expert horseman, and *Poludeukes* (L *Pollux*), both brothers of fair Helen, whose name *Helenea* is cognate with S *Saranyū*;¹³ the two (or more?) brothers, sons of God (or the Sky) and the Sunmaiden is a common theme in the Baltic tradition—the Lth *Dievo Sūnelai* and *Sáules dukterys* and Ltt *Dieva deli* and *Saules meita*; elaborations of the theme appear in other traditions also (Ward 1968; also Davidson 1981: 169, for Scandinavian ‘twin-gods’): these various strands are connected, of course, with the *Aśvins*, the ‘Two Horsemen’ and *Sūryā* ‘Sun’s daughter’ in the *RV*. Another motif is that of the preserved severed head, as when Odin keeps wise god Mimir’s head (which had been cut off by the Vanir) to consult it in times of danger and doubt (Davidson 1981: 146); in the Welsh tradition the family of Lyr preserve Bendigeidfran’s head (MacCana 1983: 78); in Greek myths Bellerophon holds Medusa’s severed head, which still has the power to turn the onlooker into stone, while Orpheus’s head, after the Maenads have torn him to pieces, floats down the river still singing; in the *RV*, again, the *Aśvins* substitute sage Dadhyañc’s head with that of a horse and, after Indra cuts this off, they reinstate the original—a miraculous feat of surgery.

The ‘horse-theme’ has attracted attention from many scholars and needs some clarification. In *RVX*, 17, 1-2, *Tvaṣṭṛ*’s

¹²Puhvel 1989: 64, where through oversight, no doubt, the Kinnara-form (man with horse’s head) is ascribed to the Gandharva.

¹³Here we should take into account the fact that in Greek Mythology this theme is very confused, presented variously by different sources. See *Odyssey* 11/299, two ‘Homeric’ Hymns *To Dioscouroi*, Pindar’s *Nemean Ode* X,80 and Apollodorus III, 126 (or III, 10,6ff), etc. Apart from Zeus, king Tyndareus is involved and, apart from Helen, Klytaemnestra (Agamemnon’s wife) is another ‘twin’ sister (with Castor).

daughter Saranyū marries the sungod Vivasvat but afterwards vanishes leaving behind a pair of twins (Yama and Yami) and her double (*Savarnā*); then in Yaska's *Nirukta* (XII, 10) Vivasvat finds Saranyū as a mare, becomes a stallion and from their union are born the twin Aśvins 'horse-gods' of healing, rescue, etc. This mythologem is linked with Pausanias's report from Arcadia (VIII, 25, 3-7) that Demeter Erinys was found as a mare by Poseidon who turned into a stallion and mounted her and then she bore the colt Areion and a daughter whose name was spoken only in the Mysteries (Graves 1977, vol 1, 61, gives the name 'Despoena'). Obviously, *saranyu* 'swift, nimble' is related to *ἐπίλυς* (singular, also attested as a deity in Mycenaean) despite the etymology in GEL *ἐπίλυειν* 'be enraged'. The literature on the Divine Twins and the 'horse' theme is enormous (e.g., Ward 1968; O'Flaherty 1980;¹⁴ O'Brien 1982;

¹⁴O'Flaherty's study contains much valuable material but seems regrettably to be full of confusion. It is perfectly acceptable that she is not "an Indo-Europeanist" and lacks "faith in the reconstructed prototype" (p 150) or that she should consider Dumézil's three functions "hypothetical" (p 171). A. and B. Rees back in 1961 found Dumézil's tripartition inadequate and wrote of the need of a fourth (1961: 113ff) and even of a fifth function to cover the "five peoples" of Ireland and the "Five Kindreds" of the *Ṛgveda* (i.e., the five Indo-Aryan tribes). N. J. Allen took this up and developed the idea of a fourth function to cover everything that is "Other" than Dumézil's three (1987: 28-29, 32). However, O'Flaherty seems to see only one function, the third one of fertility and sexuality, copulation, defloration, castration and the like: even *bhakti* 'devotion' is described in stark erotic terms including incest and homosexuality (1980: 87-90: 125-129). Surely erotic terms could be metaphors for spiritual or mystical experiences as is evidenced in so much literature? Then the ballets about "chaste Odette" and "evil (erotic) Odile" or the Valkyries in Wagner's operas (p 182) can hardly have a bearing on early IE themes, while the *Harivaṃśa* (p183), dated c 400 CE, can hardly be relevant to Ṛgvedic myths. It is easy moreover to say that texts do not record a certain mare-ritual because of "the suppression of positive mare myths and rituals in androcentric Indo-European tradition" (p 153) but it would be rather difficult to establish the existence of a PIE or pre-IE "gynaicocentric" tradition. An example from the Veda (p 182 and 136-137): "the sun ... is a mortal ... [who] fails to reach the gods and is born 'to die' (RV 10, 72, 8-9)"; this is a reference to *martāṇḍa* 'born of a dead egg', the eighth Āditya, son of Aditi, but the verses quoted can be and have been rendered quite differently—" [Aditi] bore Martāṇḍa for procreation and for death", though not only his own but for the universal process; moreover, the sun seems to be born in the morning and die at night, but is resurrected the next morning and so on. On the Greek side, again, she mentions (p 198) Aphrodite's rejection of Hephaistos (a fact only in *Odyssey* 8) but she is totally unaware that in *Iliad* 5 Hephaistos is married to Charis, as also in *Theogony* 945 while Aphrodite is associated with Ares (*Theogony* 933). I think enough has been said.

Shapiro 1982; Grottanelli 1986; Puhvel 1989; Dexter 1990; York 1995). Much of this spreads widely and covers motifs that are not directly related to the ‘Twins’ or ‘horse-deities’. To begin with, apart from Clt *Epona*, Mcn *Iqoj-o/-a*, both ‘horse-deity’ and Gk *Erinus* (= V *Saranyū*), we find nowhere else any cognate names; then, in several cases the tales, particularly some Celtic (Grotannelli 1986) and some Greek (O’Flaherty 1980: 190ff) ones, seem to be linked more to Mudgala and his wife’s winning of a race (*RV X*, 102, a hymn to Indra, whom Grotannelli and O’Flaherty do not mention at all) than to the *Aśvins*, while in others the motifs are mixed. M. R. Dexter’s mention of Medusa and her two offspring, the warrior Chrysaor and the winged horse Pegasus, is, of course, very relevant (1990: 288) but M. York’s interesting analysis of several (pairs of) deities in the Celtic Pantheon reveals neither twins nor horses: the chthonic Donn and the solar Lug form the main pair expressing duality but not “twinness” (1995). The subject obviously requires a separate study.

There are additional features. The Celts had three social classes, recorded by Caesar as *druides* priests, *milites* warriors and *miserrima plebs* wretched masses (*De Bello Gallico*, VI, 14-15): these clearly correspond to the (late) Vedic *varṇas* of *brāhmaṇa*, *kṣatriya* and *vaiśya*. (MacCana 1983: 12, gives a different nomenclature citing the Greek geographer and stoic, Poseidonius. See also Puhvel 1989: 167.) Then the druids avoided writing and, like the Indic brahmins, preferred the oral tradition, although “they made use of Greek letters”, according to Caesar (*De Bel Gal VI,14*); and in the same chapter we read that they taught reincarnation, as is later confirmed by Lucan,¹⁵ and as was clearly taught in the later Vedic texts. Then fire was worshipped both in Greece as *Hestia* and in Rome as *Vesta* while the Romans had their high priest *flāmen*, which is an echo of V *brahman*. The Celts again divided Ireland into 5 districts while the Spartans had 5 demes, as the *RV* had 5 tribes or peoples, *kṛṣṭayah* or *carṣanayahh* or *pāñcajānāh*.

¹⁵*Pharsalia*, I, 454-62. Some scholars have claimed that the ‘metempsychosis’ doctrine was no more than a belief in immortality: see, T. D. Kendrick, *The Druids* (1927), Senate 1994, p 111-112. Whatever ideas may be found in later Celtic lore, Caesar’s words are plain enough: *non interire animas sed ab aliis post mortem transire ad alios* ‘the souls do not die but after death transmigrate from some [bodies/forms] to others’.

The list of examples is by no means exhaustive but enough has been written to show that no major mythological (or religious) feature appears in two or more branches to the exclusion of the Vedic. On the contrary, feature after feature appears in the *RV* in common with one or two other branches to the exclusion of the rest—sometimes with the Greek and the Roman, sometimes with the Roman and the Celtic, and so on.

The only exception to the best of my knowledge is the minor motif of the golden apples of the Hesperides in Greece and the apples of immortality kept by Idunn, consort of Bragi, in the Nordic myths (*Edda* 25). There are, of course, many figures and motifs in every IE branch that belong exclusively to that branch. This is to be expected and, as evidence, it proves nothing one way or another.

The all-inclusiveness of the *RV* in the realm of mythology is also observable in the sphere of poetics. There is hardly a major poetic device in the various IE branches that is not present in the *RV*. A significant aspect, for example, is that in early Greek poetry (epics of Homer and Hesiod, and some epigraphic material) the fairly strict syllabic meter (the hexameter with its dactylic, iambic and other variants) is preponderant with only traces of alliteration; in Germanic poetry alliteration prevails while the syllabic meter is very loose: both are present in the *RV* (Kazanas 2001). The situation becomes very clear in the detailed examination of the large range of material in Watkins 2001. Early Irish poetry (6th century CE) has both meter and alliteration (and rhyme) but this hardly counts since the Irish poets knew these poetic devices “from Vergil and Ovid” (Watkins 2001: 121) and, of course, the Romans developed them from the Greek tradition. Of the Vedic poetic art Watkins writes: “The language of India from its earliest documentation in the Rigveda has raised the art of the phonetic figure to what many would consider its highest form” (Watkins 2001: 109).

2. The Table

The collated facts can be summed up in a table wherein the first line shows the incidence of the deities and the second line cites cognate stems that occur in languages where the deities are not preserved; the citations are not exhaustive.

<i>Vedic</i>	<i>Other IE branches</i>
Agni :	Slavic <i>Ogon</i> , L <i>ignis</i> , Lth <i>ugnis</i> , Ltt <i>uguns</i> . (Note: even the Iranians who had Fire-worship did not preserve this name, not even as a demon like Indra, Sauru etc, though the stem appears in the name <i>δάστώγι</i> .)
<i>Aryaman</i> :	Mcn <i>Are-mene</i> and Greek <i>Ar-eu-s</i> ; Celtic <i>Ariomanus</i> (Gaul)/ <i>Eremon</i> (Ireland); Scandinavian <i>Irmin</i> . The <i>ar-</i> stem in most IE languages.
<i>Aśvin</i> :	Celtic <i>Epona</i> (Gaul); Mcn <i>Iqeja</i> (horse-deity). Gk <i>ἵππος</i> , (Mcn <i>iqo</i> , dialect <i>ikkos</i>), L <i>equus</i> , OE and Ir <i>eoh</i> , Baltic <i>ešva</i> .
Bhaga :	Kassite <i>Bugas</i> ; Slavic <i>Bogu</i> ; Phrygian <i>Bagaios</i> (Zeus, Gk); Gk <i>Phoibos</i> .
<i>Dyaus</i> :	Hittite ^D <i>Siu-s</i> ; Gk <i>Zeus/Dia-</i> ; Roman <i>Ju[s]piter</i> ; Germanic <i>Tiwaz</i> . Lth <i>dievas</i> (usually 'god' cognate with S <i>deva</i> , √ <i>dīv</i>).
<i>Indra</i> :	Ht <i>Inar(a)</i> ; Mitanni <i>Indara</i> ; Kassite <i>Indaš</i> ; Celtic <i>Andrasta/Andarta</i> . Gk <i>ἀνῆρ</i> / <i>ανδρ</i> -, Av <i>indra</i> (a demon).
<i>Marut-as</i>	Kassite <i>Maruttaš</i> ; Roman <i>Mars</i> ; Irish <i>Morrighan</i> . The stem <i>mar/mor/mer-</i> etc is common in all IE branches.
<i>Apām- Napāt</i> :	Roman <i>Neptunus</i> ; Celtic <i>Nech-tan</i> (Irish). Gk <i>ἄ-νεπ-σιο-ς</i> ; L <i>nep</i> ; OHG <i>nevo</i> , OE <i>nefa</i> , OLth <i>nep</i> -, etc.
<i>Parjanya</i> :	Slavic <i>Perun</i> ; Baltic <i>Perkunas</i> (and variants); Sc <i>Fjörgyn</i> (- <i>n</i> , Thor's mother).
<i>R̥bhu</i>	Gk <i>Orpheus</i> ; Gmc <i>Elf</i> (and variants). Gth <i>arb-aīps</i> (?); OSL <i>rabu</i> , R <i>rabota</i> ; L <i>orbu</i> (S <i>arbha</i> , Gk <i>ὀρφανός</i>); etc.

<i>Sūrya</i> :	Kassite <i>Šuriaš</i> ; Gk <i>Healios</i> ; Roman <i>Soul</i> . Gth <i>savil</i> , ON <i>sol</i> , W <i>haul</i> , OSl <i>slunice</i> , Rs <i>solnce</i> , Baltic <i>Saule</i> .
<i>Uṣas</i> :	Gk <i>Eōs</i> ; Roman <i>Aurora</i> ; Gmc <i>Eostre</i> . Lth <i>aušra</i> , Ltt <i>ausma</i> , W <i>gwawr</i> , etc.
<i>Varuṇa</i> :	Ht <i>Wurun</i> (?); Mitanni <i>Uruwna</i> ; Gk <i>Ouranos</i> ; Baltic <i>Vēlinas</i> (—and cf <i>jur</i> = sea). L <i>ūrīna</i> , ON <i>ver</i> (=sea).
<i>Vāstoṣ-pati</i> :	Gk <i>Hestia</i> ; Roman <i>Vesta</i> . Gth <i>wisan</i> ‘to stay’; OHG <i>wist</i> ‘inhabiting’; Toch A/B <i>wašt/ost</i> ‘house’.
<i>Yama</i> :	Sc <i>Ymir</i> . L <i>gemī-nus</i> (=twin); Gk <i>ζῆμιά</i> (=damage), Av <i>yam</i> , <i>Yima</i> .

In the Table the upper line shows the incidence of the deities and the lower shows the cognate stems that occur in languages where the deities are not preserved. Thus it might be argued that the Slavic ‘Ogun’ is a direct borrowing of the Vedic Agni, who is an innovation, and, less plausibly, the same for Roman *Neptunus*, Celtic *Nech-tan*, but the presence of the cognate stems in Latin and Baltic for *agn-* and in Greek and Germanic for *nep-/nev-* nullify such an argument.

The all-inclusiveness of the Vedic is all too apparent and quite remarkable. The Greek and Germanic managed to preserve only half as many deities as the Vedic. Yet, to take some examples, Gmc preserves the stems *nep-* (*nef-/nev-*) and *savil/sol*, but not the corresponding deities which are preserved in other branches. Greek too preserves *nep-*, *andr-* and *zēm-* but, again, not the deities. Just as surprising are the very meagre retentions in Baltic, Slavic and, even more, in Anatolian. This situation can arise only from loss of memory of the significance of the mythological-religious figure over a long period of time because of lengthy geographical movement and/or absorption of new elements (sometimes forcibly, perhaps, through subjection) from other culture(s). It is a well known fact of history that people on the move for a long period tend to lose elements of their culture while their language suffers changes, as they meet with other cultures and/or have little leisure to pass their lore to the new generations—much more than a people remaining sedentary (Lockwood 1969: 43; Hock 1991:

467-9). In view of this I do not consider traditions other than the Vedic as very reliable and would not draw definitive conclusions from them unless the issue is attested in the Veda. Thus, for example, I think Shapiro is quite wrong, as is Ward, whom he follows, to ascribe the motif of dual (or multiple) paternity to the myth of the Twins “in the PIE tradition” or the list of fifteen features of the Twins (Ward 1968: 4, 9-29; Shapiro 1982: 141, 156). I would concur with these ideas for the PIE period only if they were present in the Veda, too; since they are not, such motifs cannot, in my view, be regarded as PIE. In fact, I find Shapiro’s paper totally unconvincing.

Should perhaps the antiquity of the *RV* be re-examined in the light of the foregone evidence and discussion? Indeed how can we satisfactorily explain the cultural evidence of the deities showing clearly that the *RV* preserves so much more than any other branch? Obviously this would require a separate study (Kazanas 1999, 2000).

We conclude this study by focusing on one astonishing quality some of the Āryas had, as indicated in the *RV*. Obviously, when the IE speakers that emerge from the mists of pre-historic Europe and come to be known as Greeks, Germans, Celts etc, they are barbarians, fond of war, pillage and conquest. The *RV* also speaks frequently of war and battles. Here the weapon of victory is more often than not *brāhman*, the mystic power inherent in ritual and prayer, an inner force of the spirit or “silent meditation” as Puhvel calls it (1989: 153) in referring to sage Atri’s rehabilitation of the sun (*RV* V, 40,6). This is the power used by the sage Vasiṣṭha when helping King Sudas defeat his numerous enemies (*RV* VII, 33) and, of course, by the Ṛbhus when accomplishing the wondrous deeds that earned them godhood. And hymn VI,75,19 says “My closest/inner armour is brāhma” (=this same mystic power). This very word *brahman* becomes, not without good reason, the name of the Absolute in post-Ṛgvedic literature, mainly the Upanishads. Yet, the Absolute is not entirely absent from the *RV*, as Keith observed: “...India developed the conception of a power common to the various gods ... just as the unity of the gods even by the time of certain Rigvedic hymns” (1925: 446).

Hymn *RV* X, 90, as noted above 14, a, iii, shows how creatures and world-elements are produced from different parts of the Puruṣa, the primordial Man: thus multiplicity comes from unity. Moreso, the *nāsadiya* hymn X, 129, describes the

evolution of the whole creation including the gods from the One *ekam*. Taking cosmogonic myths from Iran, Greece, Rome and/or North Europe, some scholars rightly state that the creation arises from two primordial elements, “the action of heat on water”, and that this “reflects a multi-layered dualism that pervades Indo-European myth and religion” (Stone 1997, ch 5; see also Puhvel 1989: 277). But in the *RV Creation Hymn X*, 129, it is out of the One alone, breathing without air, of Its own power (*ānid avātām svadhāyā tād ekam*), that arose all else; only in the third stanza appears *salilām* (water?) and *tāpas* (heat?) within *tāmas* ‘darkness’, within *tuchyā* ‘void’; and then follows one existence, desire and so on. Here at least it is the Unity that is the basic primordial substratum. This is no different from the Absolute of the Upanishads. And this we meet in other hymns also. *RV VIII*, 58, 2 says *ekam vā idām vi babhuva sāvam* ‘It being One has variously (*vi*) become this All (and Everything)’. Hymns I, 164, 6 and X, 114, 5, say that the wise poets speak of It, being One, in many ways/forms—naming it Agni, Yama, Indra, etc. Thus the different divinities are the manifestations of that One. This is reinforced by the acknowledgement that the gods are gods by virtue of a single godhood or god-power, as the refrain in III, 55, states plainly: *mahād devānām asuratvām ekam* ‘Single is the great god-power (*asuratvā*) of the gods’. Utilizing different material in the *Ṛgveda*, K. Werner makes the same point (1989).

This notion of a Single One, of which all divine and mundane phenomena are manifestations, is absent from all other IE branches. Thus the Vedic Āryas, far from being bloodthirsty or primitive barbarians deifying out of fear natural phenomena like the storm or the fire, would seem to belong among the most highly cultured people on earth with a culture that consisted not so much of material artifacts as of inner spiritual power.

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