

night make up 30 *muhūrtas*; 1 *muhūrta* = 15 *kṣīpra*; 1 *kṣīpra* = 15 *etarhi*; 1 *etarhi* = 15 *idāni*; 1 *idāni* = 15 breathings; 1 breathing = 1 spiration; 1 spiration = 1 twinkling (*nimeṣa*), etc. In the Sāṅkhāyana Āraṇyaka¹⁸ the series is *dhvaṃsayo*, *nimeṣāḥ*, *kāṣṭhāḥ*, *kalāḥ*, *kṣanā*, *muhūrtā*, *ahorātrāḥ*. A thirtyfold division of day as well as of night is seen in one passage of the Rigveda¹⁹ by Zimmer, who compares the Babylonian sixtyfold division of the day and night. But the expression used—thirty Yojanas—is too vague and obscure—Bergaigne²⁰ refers it to the firmament—to build any theory upon with safety.

The longer divisions of time are regularly 'half month' (*ardha-māsa*), 'month' (*māsa*), 'season' (*ṛtu*), and 'year' (*saṃvatsara*), which often²¹ occur in this sequence after *ahorātrāṇi* ('days and nights').

¹⁸ vii. 20. Cf. Sāṅkhāyana Sruta Sūtra, xiv. 78 et seq.; Weber, *Indische Streifen*, i. 92-95.

¹⁹ Rv. i. 123, 8.

²⁰ *Religion Védique*, 3, 283 et seq. Cf. Roth, *St. Petersburg Dictionary*, s.v. *kratu*.

²¹ Taittirīya Saṃhitā, vii. 1, 15; Maitrāyaṇī Saṃhitā, iii. 12, 7; Vājasaneyi Saṃhitā, xxii. 28; Sāṅkhāyana Āraṇyaka, vii. 20; Bṛhadāraṇyaka Upaniṣad, iii. 8, 9, etc. Cf. Zimmer, *Altindisches Leben*, 361-363.

Ahalyā Maitreyī is practically a mythical name, the existence of the lady whose story is alluded to in several Brāhmaṇas¹ being derived from the epithet of Indra, 'lover of Ahalyā' (*ahalyāyai jāra*).

¹ Satapatha Brāhmaṇa, iii. 3, 4, 18; Jaiminīya Brāhmaṇa, ii. 79; Śaḍvīmśa Brāhmaṇa, i. 1.

Ahi.—This word occurs frequently from the Rigveda¹ onwards to denote 'snake.' Reference is several times² made to its casting its slough. Mention is also made of the serpent's peculiar movement,³ which earns for it the designation⁴ of 'the toothed rope' (*datvatī rajjuh*). The poisonous character

¹ vii. 104, 7, etc. The word *sarpa*, which is usual in the Atharvaveda, occurs only once (x. 16, 6) in the Rv.

² Rv. ix. 86, 44; Av. i. 27; Satapatha Brāhmaṇa, xi. 2, 6, 13; Bṛhadāraṇyaka

Upaniṣad, iv. 4, 10; Jaiminīya Brāhmaṇa, i. 9, ii. 139; Kāthaka Upaniṣad, ii. 6; 17.

³ Aitareya Āraṇyaka, v. 1, 4.

⁴ Av. iv. 3, 2.