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VEDAS APAURUSHEYA

" Sahanavavatu...
Om Shanti ! Shanti ! Shanti !"

("Puisse notre savoir nous protéger...
Que la paix règne dans notre vie,
Parmi les gens et dans l'univers entier")

Extrait d'un hymne des Vedas

Aryana, mon Prince, était l'exquis pays
Où nous vécumes heureux à l'ombre des Védas,
L'Amour était le Temple de notre haute Foi,
L'essence de nos pensées, le jour de nos nuits !

Athanase Vantchev de Thracy

Glose :

Védas (n.m. pl.) : mot sanskrit qui signifie "savoir". Nom donné en Inde aux quatre livres *révé*
s par
les divinités aux sages de l'époque védique et censées contenir toute la sagesse divine. Ce
sont les livres sacrés des hindous. Il existe quatre Védas : le Rigveda, le Sâmaveda, le
Yajurveda et l'Atharvaveda. Ensemble, les quatre Védas contiennent 20 500 mantras (vers).
Avant l'apparition de l'écriture, on apprenait ces textes par cœur. Le premier qui ait mit par

écrits les Védas était le sage

Ved Vyas

qui habitait la terre sacrée de Haryana. C'était à l'époque du Mahâbhârata (vers 1 000 av. J.-C.). Il suffit de croire en leur origine divine pour être hindou. Les Védas forment, avec l'ensemble des textes qui leur sont rattachés, ce qu'on appelle la littérature védique. Ce sont les plus importants écrits du Sanata Dharama (Hindou).

Apaurusheya : mot sanskrit qui signifie « révélé » par les divinités, non créé par la main de l'homme, existant depuis le commencement du monde, éternel.

Haryana ou Hariana : Etat de l'Inde, 44 200 km², 20 millions d'habitants. Capitale: Chandigarh (700 000 habitants). Cet Etat est issu de la division du Pendjab en 1972. Il est un des plus riches de l'Inde.

ENGLISH (My translation) :

VEDAS APAURUSHEYA

*'Sahanavavatu...
Om Shanti! Shanti! Shanti'*

*("May our knowledge protect us...
Let there be peace in our life,
Between the men an in all universe")*

A beautiful hymn from the Vedas

Aryana, my Prince, was the delicious country
Where, happy, we lived in the shade of Vedas,
The Love was the Temple of our high Faith,

The essence of our thoughts, the day of our nights!

Notes:

Vedas : it is generally believed that Vedas are *apaurusheya*, that is, they were not created by man and eternal. The beginning one certainly cannot determine. Dates as far back as 29 000 BC are mentioned in these texts.

When the technique of writing had not evolved, Vedas were learnt by heart. They were handed down from one generation to the next ... for thousands of years. An amazing feat performed by those Brahmins who against all hazards of human history preserved these texts with the right phonetic accents and accuracy.

Vedas were first put in writing by Sage Ved Vyas. This was around the Mahabharat time, i.e.: 5000 BC. Until this time, verses were added, or changed or removed from the Vedas as and when new discoveries were made or earlier theories were proved false.

Vedas are the most important scriptures of the Sanata Dharama (Hindu). There are 4 Vedas: Rig Veda, Yajur Veda, Sama Veda & Atharva Veda. Together they have 20,500 mantras (verses).

Haryana: the name of Haryana instantly conjures up the image of a State which astonishingly combines both-antiquity and plenty. The Vedic land of Haryana has been a cradle of Indian culture and civilization. Indian traditions regard this region as the matrix of creation of northern altar' where Brahma performed the pristine sacrifice and created the universe.

The region has been the scene of many a war because of its being 'A Gateway to North India'. As years rolled by, successive streams of the Huns, the Turks and the Tughlaqs invaded India and decisive battles were fought on this land. At the end of the 14th century, Tamur led an army through this area to Delhi. Later, the Mughals defeated the Lodhis in the historic battle of Panipat in the year 1526. Another decisive battle was fought in the year 1556 at this very site, establishing the supremacy of the Mughals for centuries to come.

Towards the middle of the 18th century, the Marathas had established their sway over Haryana. The intrusion of Ahmed Shah Durrani into India, culminating Maratha ascendancy and the rapid decline of the Mughal empire, leading ultimately to the advent of the British rule.

ENGLISH (Norton Hodges's translation) :

VEDAS APAURUSHEYA

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*'Sahanavavatu...
On Shanti! Shanti! Shanti!...'*

*(May our knowledge protect us...
May peace reign in our own lives,
Among men and throughout the entire universe!)*

Vedic Hymns

Do you remember Aryana, my Prince, that exquisite country
where we lived happily under the leafy shade of the Vedas,
that land of lofty beliefs where the only Temple we needed was Love,

where our deepest thoughts were of Love, where Love was the light in our darkness?

translated from the French of Athanase Vantchev de Thracy by Norton Hodges

09.10.05.