

## EXERCISE 4

In the Veda we have ancient thought expressed in ancient language. Without insisting on the fact that even chronologically the Veda is the first book of the Aryan nations, we have in it, at all events, a period of intellectual life of man to which there is no parallel in any other part of the world. In the hymns of the Veda we see man left to himself to solve the riddle of the world. We see him crawling on like a creature of the earth with all the desires and weaknesses of animal nature. Food, wealth and power, a large family and a long life, are the themes of his daily prayers. But he begins to lift up his eyes. He stares at the tent of heaven, and asks who supports it? He opens his ears to the winds, and asks them whence and whither? He is awakened from darkness and slumber by the light of the sun and him whom his eyes cannot behold, and who seems to grant him the daily pittance of his existence, he calls his life, his breath, his brilliance Lord and Protector. He gives names to all the powers of nature and after he has called the fire--Agni, the sun light--Indra, the storms--Marut, the dawn--Usha, they all seem to grow

naturally into beings like himself, nay, greater than himself. He invokes them, he praises them, he worships them. But still with all these gods around him, beneath him, and above him, the early poet seems ill at ease within himself. (360 words)

## ¶ Man's Reflection in Vedas

Vedas, the ancient book of Aryans, consists of series of events about human intellect. In Veda, man is represented as self sufficient being, who strives to find the solutions of worldly problems, and attain sources and comfort of life. Man questions the existence of life, heavens, world and whatever is in it. He investigates the origin of things and calls his life and breath as lord. He gives names to powerful and growing things and consider them as mighty being. However, experiencing the presence of so many Gods, the poet of this age feel something missing, in and absence of happiness.

(112 words)