

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)

Precis

Veda - the ancient book of Aryan civilization reflects on the intellectual development of man. Man started solving the mysteries of life himself. He raised above his animalistic nature and searched for God. Man started worshiping powerful elements of nature. He did all this to achieve fulfillment of his own desires. However, the poet of that period felt unhappy and realised that despite the presence of Gods around him, something was still missing.

Title:

Intellectual evolution of man with age.