

21. *Among the (twelve) ADITYAS I am Vishnu; among luminaries, the radiant Sun; I am Marichi among the MARUTS; among asterisms, the moon am I.*

OF ADITYAS I AM VISHNU --- In the *Vedic* tradition, *Adityas*, described in some places as five, and in other places as six, are the children born of Aditi. Later on, the traditional belief considered twelve *Adityas*, each representing one of the twelve months of the year. In the *Vishnu-Purana*, however, we read that "Vishnu" is one of these twelve *Adityas*, and He is described therein as the most important amongst the whole lot.

OF THE LUMINARIES I AM THE RADIANT SUN --- Modern physics admits that the Sun is the source of all energy. Naturally, the phrase stands amply self-explained. The Self is the source of all energy wherever it is seen manifested.

OF THE WINDS I AM MARICHI --- In *Vedic* verses, *Maruts* are the sons of Rudra and the *Rig Veda* mentions *Marichi* as the chief among them. In *Vedic* lore, the *Maruts* represent the presiding deity of the storms, wind and breeze --- in short, air-in-motion.

OF THE ASTERISMS I AM THE MOON --- The Sanskrit term '*Nakshatras*', as used in Indian astronomy, indicates the asterisms strewn on the Moon's path. Conceiving exclusively thus the route of the Moon in the Universe, the