



In Hymn IV, Indra is called Satarakta, Lord of a Hundred Powers. His majorfeat mentioned is being the Virtue, slayer, (slayer of Vritra).

According to Hymn IV,
what is Indra's title and
what major feat is he
known for?

Difficulty:
★ ★ ★ ★

Hint:
Verse 8 of Hymn IV gives both the title and the famous deed.

Hymn XXI invokes two deities together. Who are they and what is their relationship to Soma?

Difficulty:
★ ★ ★ ★

Hint:
The title and first verse of Hymn XXI name the deities and describe their status as drinkers of the offering.

Hymn XXI invokes Indra and Agni among the gods. Described as the chief Soma-drinkers, together (Indra-Agni). They are

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What are the 'three steps' of Viṣṇu as described in Hymn XXII?

Difficulty:
★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆

Hint:

Examine verses 16-21 of Hymn XXII, which detail Viṣṇu's cosmic stride.

According to Hymn XXII, Viṣṇu 'strode through all this world' and 'thrice his foot he planted.' These three steps encompassed the 'seven regions of the earth,' and the whole world 'was gathered in his footstep's dust.' His 'station most sublime' is described as a 'loftiest place' like an 'eye in heaven.'

What is the story of Śunahṣepa as referenced in Hymn XXIV?

Difficulty:
★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆

Hint:

Read verses 12-15 of Hymn XXIV, which describe a captive character praying for deliverance.

Hymn XXIV references the story of Śunahṣepa, who was 'bound to three pillars' and 'fettered.' In this state, he prayed to the Āditya, the 'Sovran Varuṇa,' for release from his bonds. The hymn is a plea for Varuṇa to deliver him.

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In Hymn XXIII, what are the qualities and functions of the Waters?

Difficulty:
★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆

Hint:

Review verses 17-23 in Hymn XXIII for descriptions of what the Waters contain and what is asked of them.

The Waters are invoked as Goddesses. They are said to hold 'Amrit' (nectar of immortality), 'healing balm,' and 'all medicines.' Soma reveals that the Waters contain all healing balms and Agni. The worshipper asks the Waters to remove sin, lies, and false oaths, and to teem with medicine for protection.

Which groups of gods are invoked to come with Agni in Hymn XIX?

Difficulty:
★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆

Hint:

This hymn has a recurring refrain. Identify the group of gods mentioned in it.

Hymn XIX repeatedly asks Agni to 'with the Maruts come.' The Maruts are described as terrible singers, mighty, brilliant, awful in form, devourers of foes, who sit as Deities in heaven and scatter clouds.

According to Hymn XXXI, who was the 'earliest Aṅgiras', and what resulted from his holy ordinance?

Difficulty:
★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆

Hint:

The answer is in the very first verse of the final hymn provided in the text.

Agni is identified as the 'earliest Aṅgiras' and a 'Seer.' The hymn states that 'After thy holy ordinance the Maruts, sage, active through wisdom, with their glittering spears, were born.'

Hymn XXVIII describes the process of preparing Soma. What specific 'Sacrificial Implements' are mentioned or personified?

Difficulty:
★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆

Hint:

This hymn personifies the tools used for pressing Soma. Read through its verses to identify them.

The hymn mentions and personifies several implements:

1. The 'broad-based stone' raised to press juices.
2. The 'mortar' where the juice is shed.
3. The 'pestle,' whose rise and fall is marked by a woman.
4. The 'churning-staff' bound with cords.
5. Sovran of the Forest,' a title for the wooden mortar/pestle.