



The story of Śunaḥśepa, who was bound to a stake for a sacrifice but freed by Agni after fervent prayer, is used as a precedent. The hymn invokes Agni to similarly release the speaker from their own 'bonds'.

What is the significance of the story of Śunaḥśepa mentioned in Hymn II?

Difficulty:
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Hint:

Think about how a past event involving a deity is used as a basis for a present request in prayer.

Agni is referred to by many titles, including: Priest (most skilled in worship), House-Friend, Most Youthful God, Son of Strength, Jātavedas (Omniscient), offering-bearer, Purifier, Lord of human races, and Asura.

What are some of the key epithets or descriptive titles used for Agni throughout these hymns?

Difficulty:
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Hint:

Look for recurring descriptive phrases used to address or describe Agni.

An Āpṛī hymn is a special invocational hymn. This one sequentially invokes different deified objects and beings related to the sacrifice. It calls upon: 1. Agni/Jātavedas, 2. Narāśansa, 3. Indra, 4. The sacrificial grass (Barhis), 5. The Divine Doors, 6. Morning and Night, 7. The two celestial Priests, 8. The three Goddesses (Ilā, Sarasvatī, Mahī), 9. Tvaṣtar, 10. Vanaspati (Lord of the Wood), and finally makes an offering with Svāhā.

Hymn V is an 'Āpṛī' hymn. What is the structure of this type of hymn and what deities does it invoke?

Difficulty:
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Hint:

Look at the individual verses of Hymn V and the beings they address one by one.

The recurring refrain and primary request made to Agni in Hymn VI is 'Bring food to those who sing thy praise.' This emphasizes Agni's role as a bestower of sustenance and prosperity.

What is the primary request made to Agni in Hymn VI, which is repeated at the end of every stanza?

Difficulty:
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Hint:

This hymn has a very clear, repetitive structure. Identify the line that concludes each verse.

Dragon.

After drinking Soma, Indra grasps his
thunderbolt to slay the Dragon (Vṛtra).
This act releases the youthful Waters
that had been obstructed by the

In Hymn XXIX, what
specific mythological
feat does Indra
accomplish after
drinking Soma,
according to the
Maruts' song?

Difficulty:
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Hint:

Focus on verse 2 of Hymn XXIX, which
describes Indra's actions after being fortified
by Soma.

pursuer.

Indra stayed the gushing waters (likely
a river) for Yadu and Turvaśa, allowing
them to cross to the farther bank. This
act helped them escape from a 'fierce'

What specific deed did
Indra perform for Yadu
and Turvaśa, according
to Hymn XXXI?

Difficulty:
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Hint:

See verse 8 of Hymn XXXI for this specific
event.

caldron.

From Tryaruna, son of Trvrsan, the speaker received ten thousand (cattle), two oxen with a wagon, a hundred and twenty kine, and two bay horses. From the Rusamas, the speaker received four thousand cattle and a heated metal

XXXX?

What material rewards did the speaker receive from Tryaruna and the Rusamas, as mentioned in Hymns XXVIII and

Difficulty:
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Hint:

These hymns explicitly list gifts of patronage. Check Hymn XXVII for Tryaruna's gift and Hymn XXX for the Rusamas' gifts.

called the 'Son of Strength.'

Agni is described as being born pure from his 'two Mothers' (the two fire-sticks). The Angirases are credited with discovering him when he was hidden, fleeing from wood to wood. He is produced by attrition (rubbing sticks together) and is therefore

How is Agni's birth and discovery described in Hymn XI?

Difficulty:
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Hint:

Look at verses 3 and 6 of Hymn XI for the details of his origin and discovery.