

PURUSHA SUKTA

Rg Veda, 10.90

Hundred-headed Purusha,
 hundred-eyed, a hundred feet.
Spread over earth from side to side,
 his ten fingers jut off the edge.

This is Purusha: the sum
 of what's been and is to be,
the lord of deathlessness
 increased by consuming food.

Such is Purusha's greatness,
 or more excellent than this.
One fourth of him became all beings,
 three fourths deathless in heaven.

Three fourths ascended upward;
 one fourth stayed behind here.
From this he spreads to all sides,
 to that which eats and that which doesn't.

From him Viraj was born;
 and from Viraj Purusha was born.
Upon birth Purusha spread
 over the earth, east and west.

When the gods offered sacrifice
 with Purusha their victim,
spring anointed it, autumn fueled the flame,
 and for wood they burned summer.