There was neither non-existence nor existence then.

There was neither the realm of space nor the sky which is beyond.

What stirred?

Where?

In whose protection?

Was there water, bottomlessly deep?

There was neither death nor immortality then.

There was no distinguishing sign of night nor of day.

That One breathed, windless, by its own impulse.

Other than that there was nothing beyond.

Darkness was hidden by darkness in the beginning,

with no distinguishing sign, all this was water.

The life force that was covered with emptiness,

that One arose through the power of heat.

Desire came upon that One in the beginning,

that was the first seed of mind.

Poets seeking in their heart with wisdom

found the bond of existence and non-existence.

Their cord was extended across.

Was there below?

Was there above?

There were seed-placers, there were powers.

There was impulse beneath, there was giving forth above.

Who really knows?

Who will here proclaim it?

Whence was it produced?

Whence is this creation?

The gods came afterwards, with the creation of this universe.

Who then knows whence it has arisen?

Whence this creation has arisen

– perhaps it formed itself, or perhaps it did not –

the One who looks down on it,

in the highest heaven, only He knows

or perhaps He does not know.

Certainly! Here are the main themes derived from the provided passage:

1. **Primordial State of Non-Existence and Existence:**
   * Describes a state where neither non-existence nor existence prevailed. Emphasizes the absence of the realm of space and the sky, portraying a mysterious pre-creation void.
2. **Inquiry into the Source and Protection:**
   * Questions what stirred, where, and under whose protection the primordial state existed. Raises contemplation on the nature of the cosmic protection and the forces at play.
3. **Existence in the Absence of Night and Day:**
   * Portrays a state where there was no distinguishing sign of night or day, emphasizing a timeless and undifferentiated condition before the manifestation of temporal concepts.
4. **Self-Sustaining Breath of the One:**
   * Introduces the concept of the One breathing windlessly by its own impulse. Emphasizes the singularity and self-sustainability of the cosmic principle.
5. **Darkness Concealed in Water and Emergence through Heat:**
   * Describes the initial darkness hidden by darkness, existing as unmarked water. Highlights the emergence of the One through the power of heat, signifying a transformative process.
6. **Primal Seed of Desire and Wisdom of Poets:**
   * Introduces the primal seed of desire in the beginning. Acknowledges poets as seekers of wisdom who found the bond between existence and non-existence through introspection.
7. **Extended Cord Across Existence:**
   * Mentions the extension of a cord across existence, suggesting a symbolic exploration of cosmic dimensions and the interconnectedness of elements.
8. **Seed-Placers, Powers, and Cosmic Dynamics:**
   * Describes the presence of seed-placers and powers, highlighting cosmic forces at play. Differentiates between impulse beneath and giving forth above, indicating dynamic cosmic energies.
9. **Uncertainty and Inquiry into Creation's Origin:**
   * Poses questions about the origin of creation, expressing uncertainty about its source. Contemplates whether creation formed itself or followed a different process.
10. **Gods and Their Timing in the Universe:**
    * Mentions the arrival of gods after the creation of the universe. Raises questions about the timing and role of deities in relation to the origin of the cosmos.
11. **Knowledge of the One in Highest Heaven:**
    * Acknowledges the One in the highest heaven as the observer. Raises an element of uncertainty about whether the overseeing entity truly knows the origin of creation.

The themes collectively contribute to a reflective exploration of the pre-creation state, the transformative emergence of existence, the role of desire and wisdom, and the ongoing mysteries surrounding the cosmic order.

Certainly! These verses echo profound themes found in ancient creation narratives across different cultures. Let’s explore the rich symbolism and philosophical ideas embedded in each stanza:

1. **Primordial Void and Existence**:
   * The opening lines describe a state where neither non-existence nor existence prevailed. There was no realm of space or sky beyond.
   * The questions about what stirred, where, and under whose protection emphasize the mystery of creation.
2. **The Breath of Life and Cosmic Impulse**:
   * The One breathed windlessly by its own impulse, suggesting a self-sustaining force that initiated existence.
   * Beyond the One, there was nothing—an emptiness waiting to be filled.
3. **Emergence from Darkness and Water**:
   * Darkness hidden by darkness represents the pre-creation state. All was water, undistinguished and formless.
   * Through the power of heat, the life force emerged, shaping the universe.
4. **Desire and the Seed of Mind**:
   * Desire arose in the beginning, symbolizing intention and creative impulse.
   * Poets seeking wisdom discovered the bond between existence and non-existence—a cosmic cord connecting all things.
5. **Cosmic Forces and Impulses**:
   * The cord extended across existence, suggesting connections above and below.
   * Seed-placers and powers played a role in shaping creation, with impulses both beneath and giving forth from above.
6. **The Ultimate Mystery and Divine Knowledge**:
   * The central question remains: Whence did this creation arise? Was it self-formed or guided by a higher power?
   * The gods came afterward, part of the unfolding universe, yet the ultimate source remains elusive.

These verses invite contemplation about the origins of existence, the interplay of forces, and the enigma of cosmic consciousness. 🌌🌿

[For further exploration, consider comparing these themes with other creation narratives from Hinduism, Babylonian epics, and beyond1](https://teachnthrive.com/history-passages/world-history-passages/in-the-beginning-ancient-india-creation-stories/)[2](https://www.worldhistory.org/article/225/enuma-elish---the-babylonian-epic-of-creation---fu/)[3](https://ancient.com/creation-stories-a-comparison-of-sumerian-and-biblical-accounts/)[4](https://zondervanacademic.com/blog/understanding-the-creation-story-from-genesis).