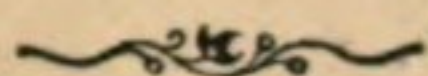


INTRODUCTION.



I.

On the Mantras, Brâhmaṇas, and Sûtras, and their mutual relationship. Probable origin and age of the Mantras and Brâhmaṇas.

The Veda, or Scripture of the Brâhmans, consists, according to the opinion of the most eminent divines of Hindostan, of two principal parts, viz. *Mantra* and *Brâhmaṇam*. All that is regarded as revelation must be brought under these two heads. What of the revealed word is no Mantra, that is a Brâhmaṇam; and what is no Brâhmaṇam, must be a Mantra. This is the line of argument followed by the Brahmanic theologians. But this does neither make clear what a Mantra is, nor what we have to understand by a Brâhmaṇam. Both terms are technical, and their full bearing, and characteristic difference from one another, is to be comprehended only from a careful study of those works which bear either of these titles. The Brahmanical divines have, of course, not failed to give definitions of both, and shown what topics fall under the head of either. But, as Sâyaṇa (in his preface to his Commentary on the Aitareya Brâhmaṇam) justly remarks, all definitions of either term which were attempted, are unsatisfactory.