

1, 89, 3; 96, 2; 2, 36, 6.) The Marutvatîya Nivid²¹ is, as it appears, even referred to by Vâmadeva (4, 18, 7, compared with note 25 on page 189); the repetition of the Nivids is juxtaposed with the performance of the chanters, and the recital of the Shastras (6, 67, 10). The Brâhmaṇam regards the Nivids, particularly that one addressed to Agni, as those words of Prajâpati, by means of which he created all beings (see Ait. Br. 2, 33-34). That such an idea, which entirely coincides with the Zoroastrian of Ahuramazda (Ormazd) having created the world through the *yathâ-ahû-vairyo* prayer (see the 19th chapter of the Yas'na), must be more ancient than the Brâhmaṇas, we learn from a hymn of the old Rishi Kutsa, who is already in many Vedic songs looked upon as a sage of the remote past. He says (1, 96, 2) that Agni created by means of the "first Nivid" the creatures of the Manus (see page 143). In 1, 89, 3-4, an old Nivid appears to be quoted. For the words which follow the sentence "we call them with the old Nivid" bear quite the stamp of such a piece.

Many Nivids, even the majority of them, are certainly lost. But the few pieces of this kind of religious literature which are still extant, are sufficient to show that they must be very ancient, and are not to be regarded as fabrications of the sacrificial priests at the times when the Brâhmaṇas were composed.

²¹ When the word *nivid* appears often in the plural, then the several pâdas, of which the Nivid consists, are to be understood.