

whole Sattras into two halves. The ceremonies were in both the halves exactly the same; but they were in the latter half performed in an inverted order. This represents the increase of the days in the northern, and their decrease in the southern progress; for both, increase and decrease, take place exactly in the same proportions.

In consideration that these Sattras were already at the time of the compilation of the Brâhmaṇas an old institution, we certainly can find nothing surprising in the circumstance, that the Indian astronomers made the observation above mentioned so early as the 12th century B.C. For the Sattras are certainly as early, if not earlier than this time. Sattras lasting for sixty years appear even to have been known already to the authors of the Brâhmaṇas (see page 287).

Now that observation proves two things beyond doubt. (1) That the Indians had made already such a considerable progress in astronomical science, early in the 12th century, as to enable them to take such observations; (2) That by that time the whole ritual in its main features as laid down in the Brâhmaṇas was complete.

We do not hesitate therefore to assign the composition of the bulk of the Brâhmaṇas to the years 1400-1200 B.C.; for the Saṃhitâ we require a period of *at least* 500-600 years, with an interval of about two hundred years between the end of the proper Brâhmaṇa period. Thus we obtain for the bulk of the Saṃhitâ the space from 1400-2000; the oldest hymns and