

points as recorded in the Jyotisham. To believe that such an observation was imported from some foreign country, Babylon or China, would be absurd, for there is nothing in it to show, that it cannot have been made in the north-western part of India, or a closely adjacent country. A regulation of the calendar by such observations was an absolute necessity for the Brahmans ; for the proper time of commencing and ending their sacrifices, principally the so-called Sattras or sacrificial sessions could not be known without an accurate knowledge of the time of the sun's northern and southern progress. The knowledge of the calendar forms such an essential part of the ritual, that many important conditions of the latter cannot be carried out without the former. The sacrifices are allowed to commence only at certain lucky constellations, and in certain months. So, for instance, as a rule, no great sacrifice can commence during the sun's southern progress (*dakshinâyana*) ; for this is regarded up to the present day as an unlucky period by the Brahmans, in which even to die is believed to be a misfortune. The great sacrifices take place generally in spring in the months *Chaitra* and *Vaisâkha* (April and May). The Sattras which lasted for one year were, as one may learn from a careful perusal of the 4th book of the Aitareya Brâhmaṇam, nothing but an imitation of the sun's yearly course. They were divided into two distinct parts, each consisting of six months of thirty days each ; in the midst of both was the *Vishuvan*, i. e. equator or central day, cutting the