

the Devas and Asuras, which are so frequently mentioned in the Brâhmaṇas, the former representing the Hindus, the latter the Iranians.²

At this time the whole sacred knowledge was, no doubt, comprised by the term *mantra*. The Brâhmaṇam was unknown; and there is actually nowhere in the whole Zend-Avesta a word to be found which conveys the same or a similar meaning which has been attached to the word "Brâhmaṇam" in the Indian Literature.

The Brâhmaṇam always presupposes the Mantra; for without the latter it would have no meaning, nay, its very existence would be impossible. By "Brâhmaṇam" we have always to understand that part of the Veda (Brahmanical revelation) which contains speculations on the meaning of the mantras, gives precepts for their application, relates stories of their origin in connection with that of sacrificial rites, and explains the secret meaning of the latter. It is, to say it in short, a kind of primitive theology and philosophy of the Brahmans. The objects for these theological, philosophical, grammatical, etymological, and metrical speculations were the Mantras, and the sacrifices, principally the great ones, for the performance of which the Brahmans were actually trained, a custom which has obtained almost up to the present day in some parts of India (such as Mahârâshṭra).

² See my Essays on the Sacred Language, Writings, and Religion of the Parsis, pp. 225-29.