

The year being obviously out of harmony with the solar year (whether sidereal or tropical), efforts were certainly made to effect an assimilation of the natural and the accepted year. As has been seen (see *Māsa*), the evidence goes strongly to show that the intercalation was not an easy matter in the *Brāhmaṇa* period, though there are traces of what may be regarded as a five-yearly or six-yearly intercalation. But there is no conclusive evidence that these periods were really observed.

Zimmer,⁴ indeed, considers that the evidence required is afforded by the lists of the years, which are sometimes enumerated as five: *Samvatsara*, *Parivatsara*, *Idāvatsara*, *Idvatsara*, and *Vatsara*;⁵ or *Samvatsara*, *Parivatsara*, *Idāvatsara*, *Iduvatsara*, *Vatsara*;⁶ or *Samvatsara*, *Idāvatsara*, *Iduvatsara*, *Idvatsara*, *Vatsara*;⁷ or *Samvatsara*, *Parivatsara*, *Idāvatsara*, *Anuvatsara*, *Udvatsara*;⁸ or *Samvatsara*, *Parivatsara*, *Idāvatsara*, *Anuvatsara*, *Idvatsara*.⁹ But it must be noted not merely that the names vary considerably, but that four only are mentioned in some places,¹⁰ in others¹¹ three, in others¹² two, and in yet others¹³ six. Moreover, in none of these enumerations is there any reference to the names being connected with a system of intercalation. It is most probable that here we have no more than a mere series of priestly variations of *Vatsara*, based on the older and more genuine *Samvatsara* and *Parivatsara* as variants of the simple *Vatsara*, 'year.' The key to the invention of the series is probably to be found in passages like that of the *Pañcaviṃśa Brāhmaṇa*,¹⁴ where the several *Cāturmāsya* ('four-monthly') sacrifices are equated

⁴ *Altindisches Leben*, 369, 370, and cf. St. Petersburg Dictionary, s.v. *saṃvatsara*, 2.

⁵ *Vājasaneyi Saṃhitā*, xxvii. 45.

⁶ *Taittirīya Saṃhitā*, v. 5, 7, 3. 4.

⁷ *Taittirīya Brāhmaṇa*, iii. 10, 4, 1.

⁸ *Kāthaka Saṃhitā*, xiii. 15; xxxix. 6; xl. 6.

⁹ Garga, quoted in the commentary on *Jyotiṣa*, 10.

¹⁰ *Sam*-, *Pari*-, *Idā*-, *Anu*-*vatsara*, *Pañcaviṃśa Brāhmaṇa*, xvii. 13, 17; *Taittirīya Brāhmaṇa*, i. 4, 10, 1.

¹¹ *Idā*-, *Pari*-, *Sam*-*vatsara*, Av. vi. 55, 3; *Idu*-, *Pari*-, *Sam*-*vatsara*, *Taittirīya Saṃhitā*, v. 7, 2, 4.

¹² *Sam*-, *Pari*-*vatsara*, Av. viii. 8, 23; *Taittirīya Āraṇyaka*, x. 80.

¹³ *Sam*-, *Pari*-, *Idā*-, *Anu*-, *Vat*-*sara*, *Sam*-*vatsara*, *Vājasaneyi Saṃhitā*, xxx. 15; *Sam*-, *Pari*-, *Idā*-, *Idu*-, *Id*-, *Vatsara*, *Taittirīya Āraṇyaka*, iv. 19, 1. Cf. Weber, *Naxatra*, 2, 298, n. 1; Max Müller, *Rigveda*, 4², xxx., n. 1.

¹⁴ xvii. 13, 17.