

36 days.³² The last number possibly indicates an intercalation after six years ($6 \times 6 = 36$, or for ritual purposes 35), but for this we have no special evidence. There are many references³³ to the year having 12 or 13 months.

The names of the months are, curiously enough, not at all ancient. The sacrificial texts of the Yajurveda give them in their clearest form where the Agnicayana, 'building of the fire-altar,' is described.³⁴ These names are the following: (1) Madhu, (2) Mādhava (spring months, *vāsantikāv ṛtū*); (3) Śukra, (4) Śuci (summer months, *graiṣmāv ṛtū*); (5) Nabha (or Nabhas),³⁵ (6) Nabhasya (rainy months, *vārṣikāv ṛtū*); (7) Iṣa, (8) Ūrja (autumn months, *śaradāv ṛtū*); (9) Saha (or Sahas),³⁵ (10) Sahasya (winter months, *haimantikāv ṛtū*); (11) Tapa (or Tapas),³⁵ (12) Tapasya (cool months, *śaiśirāv ṛtū*).

There are similar lists in the descriptions of the Soma sacrifice³⁶ and of the horse sacrifice,³⁷ all of them agreeing in essentials. There are other lists of still more fanciful names,³⁸ but these have no claim at all to represent actual divisions in popular use. It is doubtful if the list given above is more than a matter of priestly invention. Weber points out that Madhu and Mādhava later appear as names of spring, and that these two are mentioned in the Taittiriya Āraṇyaka³⁹ as if actually

³² *Ibid.*, ix. 1, 1, 43; 3, 3, 18. Cf. Eggeling, *Sacred Books of the East*, 43, 167, n. 1. Shamasastri, *Gavām Ayana*, 122, interprets these passages in quite an impossible manner. There is no trace of a month of 35-36 days in the Epic: Hopkins, *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 24, 42.

³³ Taittiriya Saṃhitā, v. 6, 7, 1; Kāthaka Saṃhitā, xxi. 5; xxxiv. 9; Maitrāyaṇī Saṃhitā, i. 10, 8; Kauṣītaki Brāhmaṇa, v. 8; Kauṣītaki Upaniṣad, i. 6; Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa, ii. 2, 3, 27; iii. 6, 4, 24; v. 4, 5, 23; vii. 2, 3, 9, etc.; Jaiminiya Upaniṣad Brāhmaṇa, i. 10, 6.

³⁴ Taittiriya Saṃhitā, iv. 4, 11, 1; Kāthaka Saṃhitā, xvii. 10; xxxv. 9;

Maitrāyaṇī Saṃhitā, ii. 8, 12; Vājasaneyi Saṃhitā, xiii. 25; xiv. 6, 15, 16, 27; xv. 57.

³⁵ In Maitrāyaṇī, Kāthaka, and Vājasaneyi Saṃhitās. See notes 34, 36.

³⁶ Taittiriya Saṃhitā, i. 4, 14, 1; Maitrāyaṇī Saṃhitā, i. 3, 16; iv. 6, 7; Kāthaka Saṃhitā, iv. 7; Vājasaneyi Saṃhitā, vii. 30 (where Iṣ and Ūrj appear as the names of the months).

³⁷ Maitrāyaṇī Saṃhitā, iii. 12, 13; Vājasaneyi Saṃhitā, xxii. 31.

³⁸ See, e.g., Taittiriya Saṃhitā, i. 7, 9, 1; iv. 7, 11, 2; Vājasaneyi Saṃhitā ix. 20; xviii. 28; xxii. 32; Kāthaka Saṃhitā, xxxv. 10. Weber, 2, 349, 350.

³⁹ iv. 7, 2; v. 6, 16.