**Creation Hymn**

*There was neither non-existence nor existence then.*

*There was neither the realm of space nor the sky which is beyond.*

*What stirred? Where? Was there endless water?*

*There was neither death nor immortality.*

*There was no distinguishing sign of day or night.*

*That One breathed by its own impulse.*

*Other than that, there was nothing beyond.*

*Darkness was hidden by darkness in the beginning.*

*With no distinguishing sign, all this was water.*

*The life force was covered with emptiness.*

*That One arose with the power of heat.*

*Desire came upon That One in the beginning; that was the first seed of mind.*

*Poets, seeking in their hearts with wisdom, found the bond of existence in non-existence.*

*Their cord was extended across. Was there below?*

*Was there above? There were seed placers; there were powers.*

*There was impulse beneath; there was giving forth above.*

*Who really knows? Who here proclaim it?*

*Whence was it produced?*

*The gods came afterwards, with the creation of this universe.*

*Who then knows whence it has arisen?*

*Whence this creation has arisen—perhaps it formed itself, or perhaps it did not—*

*The One who looks down upon it in highest heaven, only he knows, or perhaps he does not know?*

1. What do the Hindu people believe existed before the universe?
2. What **mysteries** does the Creation Hymn of the Rig Veda leave unsolved?
3. What paradoxes exist in this hymn?
4. Do you think that leaving Creation a mystery makes Hinduism **stronger** (more appealing to people, more able to help them live) or **weaker**? Why?