

CHAPTER XIX.

ON THE NAMES OF THE PLANETS, THE SIGNS OF THE ZODIAC, THE LUNAR STATIONS, AND RELATED SUBJECTS.

WE have already mentioned, near the beginning of the book, that the language of the Hindus is extremely rich in nouns, both original and derivative, so that in some instances they call *one* thing by a multitude of different names. So I have heard them saying that they have a thousand names all meaning *sun*; and, no doubt, each planet has quite as many, or nearly as many names, since they could not do with less (for the purposes of versification). Page 104.

The names of the week-days are the best known names of the planets connected with the word *bāra*, which follows after the planet's name, as in Persian the word *shambih* follows after the number of the week-day (*dūshambih*, *sihshambih*, &c.). So they say— The names of the days of the week.

<i>Āditya bāra</i> , i.e. Sunday.	<i>Brihaspati bāra</i> , i.e. Thursday.
<i>Soma bāra</i> , i.e. Monday.	<i>Sukra bāra</i> , i.e. Friday.
<i>Maṅgala bāra</i> , i.e. Tuesday.	<i>Sanāścara bāra</i> , i.e. Saturday.
<i>Budha bāra</i> , i.e. Wednesday.	

And thus they go on counting, beginning anew with Sunday, Monday, &c.

Muslim astronomers call the planets the *lords of the days*, and, in counting the *hours* of the day, they begin with the *dominus* of the day, and then count the planets in the order from above to below. For instance, the sun is the *dominus* of the first day, and at the same time the On the *Domini dierum*.