

two ends of every possible diameter may be considered as *before* and *behind*, and therefore the two ends of the diameter cutting the former at right angles (and lying in the same plane) are *right* and *left*.

The Hindus can never speak of anything, be it an object of the intellect or of imagination, without representing it as a personification, an individual. They at once marry him, make him celebrate marriage, make his wife become pregnant and give birth to something. So, too, in this case. The *Vishnu-Dharma* relates that *Atri*, the star who rules the stars of the Great Bear, married *the directions*, represented as *one* person, though they are eight in number, and that from her the moon was born.

Another author relates : Dakska, *i.e.* Prajâpati, married Dharma, *i.e.* *the reward*, to ten of his daughters, *i.e.* the ten directions. From one of them he had many children. She was called *Vasu*, and her children the *Vasus*. One of them was the moon.

No doubt our people, the Muslims, will laugh at such a birth of the moon. But I give them still more of this stuff. Thus, *e.g.* they relate : The sun, the son of Kâs-yapa and of Âditya, his wife, was born in the sixth Manvantara on the lunar station Visâkhâ ; the moon, the son of Dharma, was born on the station Krittikâ ; Mars, the son of Prajâpati, on Pûrvâshâdhâ ; Mercury, the son of the moon, on Dhanishthâ ; Jupiter, the son of Ângiras, on Pûrvaphâlgunî ; Venus, the daughter of Bhrigu, on Pushya ; Saturn on Revatî ; the Bearer of the Tail, the son of Yama, the angel of death, on Âslesha, and the Head on Revatî. Page 146.

According to their custom, the Hindus attribute certain dominants to the eight directions in the horizontal plane, which we exhibit in the following table :—