

Some uneducated Hindu heard people speak of the day of such a nychthemeron in the north, and of its night in the south. In connection with these elements he determined the two parts of the year by the two halves of the zodiac, the one which ascends from the winter solstice, called the northern, and the one which descends from the summer solstice, called the southern. Then he identified the day of this nychthemeron with the ascending half, and its night with the descending half. All of which he has eternised in his books.

Not much better is what the author of the *Vishnu-Dharma* says:—"The half beginning with Capricornus is the day of the *Asura*, *i.e.* the *Dânavas*, and their night begins with the sign of Cancer." Previously he had said: "The half beginning with Aries is the day of the *Deva*." This author acted without any understanding of the subject, for he simply confounds the two poles with each other (for according to this theory the half of the sun's revolution, beginning with Capricornus or the winter solstice, would be the day of the beings under the north pole or the *Devas*, not that of the beings under the south pole or *Asuras*, and the revolution of the sun beginning with Cancer or the summer solstice would be the day of the *Asuras*, not their night). If this author had really understood the sentence, and had known astronomy, he would have come to other conclusions.

Next follows the *Brahmâhordtra*, *i.e.* the nychthemeron of Brahman. It is not derived from light and darkness (as that of the forefathers), nor from the appearing or disappearing of a heavenly body (like that of the *Devas*), but from the physical nature of created things, in consequence of which they *move* in the day and *rest* in the night. The length of the nychthemeron of Brahman is 8,640,000,000 of our years. During one half of it, *i.e.* during the day, the æther, with all that is in it, is moving, the earth is producing, and the

Day of Brahman.