RV 5.53

rṣi: šyāvāšva ātreya; devatā: marudgaṇa; chanda: 1,5,10-11, 15 kakup; 2 bṛhatī, 3 anuṣṭup, 4 pura uṣṇik, 6-7, 13-14, 16 sato bṛhatī, 8, 12 gāyatrī

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को वेद जानम् एषां को वा पुरा सुम्नेष्व् आस मरुताम् ।
यद् युयुज्रे किलास्यः ॥ ५-०५३-०१
ऐतान् रथेषु तस्थुषः कः शुंश्राव कथा ययुः ।
कस्में सस्तुः सुदासे अन्व् आपय इळाभिर् वृष्टयः सह ॥ ५-०५३-०२
ते म आहुर् य आययुर् उप द्युभिर् विभिर् मदे ।
नरो मर्या अरेपस इमान् पश्यन्न इति ष्टुहि ॥ ५-०५३-०३
ये अञ्जिषु ये वाशीषु स्वभानवः स्रक्षु रुक्मेषु खादिषु । श्राया रथेषु धन्वंसु ॥ ५-०५३-०४
युष्माकं स्मा रथाँ अनु मुदे द्घे मरुतो जीरदानवः । वृष्टी द्यावो यतीर् इव ॥ ५-०५३-०५
आ यं नरः सुदानवो ददाशुषे दिवः कोशम् अचुच्यवुः ।
वि पर्जन्यं सृजन्ति रोदंसी अनु धन्वना यन्ति वृष्टयः ॥ ५-०५३-०६
ततृदानाः सिन्धवः क्षोदंसा रजः प्र संसुर् धेनवो यथा ।
स्यन्ना अश्वा इवाध्वनो विमोचने वि यद् वर्तन्त एन्यः ॥ ५-०५३-०७
आ यात मरुतो दिव आन्तरिक्षाद् अमाद् उत । माव स्थात परावतः ॥ ५-०५३-०८
मा वो रसानितभा कुभा कुमुर् मा वः सिन्धुर् नि रीरमत् ।
मा वः परि ष्ठात् सरयुः पुरीषिण्य् अस्मे ईत् सुम्नम् अस्तु वः ॥ ५-०५३-०९
तं वः शर्धं रथानां त्वेषं गणम् मारुतं नव्यसीनाम् । अनु प्र यन्ति वृष्टयः ॥ ५-०५३-१०
रार्ध-रार्धं व एषां व्रातं-व्रातं गणं-गणं सुरास्तिभिः । अनु क्रामेम धीतिभिः ॥ ५-०५३-११
कस्मा अद्य सुजाताय रातहंव्याय प्र यंयुः । एना यामेन मरुतः ॥ ५-०५३-१२
येन तोकाय तनयाय धान्यम् बीजं वहध्वे अक्षितम् ।
अस्मभ्यं तद् धत्तन यद् व ईमहे राधो विश्वायु सोभगम् ॥ ५-०५३-१३
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Analysis of RV 5.53 (with Griffith's translation):

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को वेद जानम् एषां को वा पुरा सुम्नेष्व आस मरुताम् । यद् युयुज्रे किलास्यः ॥ ५-०५३-०१
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kó veda jánam eşãm kó vā purá sumnéşu āsa marútām yád yuyujré kilāsíyah 5.053.01

Who knows the birth of these, or who lived in the Maruts' favour in the days of old What time their spotted deer were yoked?

Interpretation:

"Who knows the Birth (the Origin) of these Gods? Who was there from the beginning to know the perfect mentality of Maruts, when they were yoked to their movement?"

Maruts were perfect in their mind from the beginning, before they moved towards the manifestation.

Vocabulary:

jāna, n. *birth*, *origin*, *birth* place RV. i , 37 , 9 and 95 , 3 sumna, mfn. (prob. fr. su and mnā = man) *benevolent*, *kind*, *gracious*, *favourable* RV. x , 5 , 3; (am) n. *benevolence*, *favour*, *grace* RV. TS.; *devotion*, *prayer*, *hymn* (cf. Gk. \$) RV.; *satisfaction*, *peace*, *joy*, *happiness* ib. kilāsī, f. *a kind of spotted deer* (described as the vehicle of the Maruts) RV. v , 53 , 1

¹ Here we mark the 12 syllabic padas (in blue) to clearly see the meter.

-

aítán ráthesu tasthúsah káh susrāva kathá yayuh kásmai sasruh sudáse ánu āpáya ílābhir vrstáyah sahá 5.053.02

Who, when they stood upon their cars, hath heard them tell the way they went? Who was the bounteous man to whom their kindred rains flowed down with food of sacrifice?

Interpretation:

"Who thus has known them standing on their chariots: how did they move ahead? To whom they flew as the perfect giver, becoming his allies, as rains of Heaven pouring onto him their nourishing revelations?"

Vocabulary:

āpi, m. *an ally , a friend , an acquaintance* RV. VS. (according to Sāy. on RV. ii , 29 , 4 , from the Caus.) causing to obtain [wealth &c.]; (mfn.) ifc. *reaching to , entering*.

té ma āhur yá āyayúr úpa dyúbhir víbhir máde náro máryā arepása imān páśyann íti ṣṭuhi 5.053.03

To me they told it, and they came with winged steeds radiant to the draught, Youths, Heroes free from spot or stain: Behold us here and praise thou us;

Interpretation:

"Those who have come to the enjoyment of my offering of Soma with their swift and luminous steeds, have said to me: "Seeing these, affirm [them in yourself]: 'These [I behold as my] soul-powers, young and perfect!'

The word marya means mortal and young. Mortal has a connotation of the temporality, an application of the truth to the unique moment of time, being always fresh. The truth applied in time and space can be described as marya, young and passing.

Vocabulary:

marya, m. (prob. fr. mṛ) *a mortal, man,* (esp.) *young man, lover, suitor* RV. VS. Br.; (pl. people; voc. often used as a kind of particle; cf. VPrat. ii, 16 and bhos) *a stallion* RV. vii, 56, 16 &c.

yé añjísu yé vásisu svábhanavah sraksú rukmésu khadísu sraya ráthesu dhánvasu 5.053.04

Who shine self-luminous with ornaments and swords, with breastplates, armlets, and with wreaths, Arrayed on chariots and with bows.

Interpretation:

"In all their glory and sharpness, they are self-luminous, wearing golden garments and the bracelets, in their chariots with bows and arrows."

Vocabulary:

vāšī, f. (also written vāsī; accord. to some connected with vrašc) a sharp or pointed knife or a kind of axe, adze, chisel (esp. as the weapon of Agni or the Maruts, and the instrument of the Ribhus, while the parašu or axe is that of Tvaṣtṛ) RV. AV. MBh. sound, voice Naigh. (cf. under 1. vāša).

sraj, f. *a wreath of flowers, garland, chaplet worn on the head , any wreath or garland, circle, series , chain* RV. &c. &c.

rukma, m. `" what is bright or radiant "' , an ornament of gold , golden chain or disc RV. AV. (here n.) VS. Br.

khādi, m. (f.?) *a brooch, ring* (worn on the hands or feet by the Maruts) RV. i , v , vii (cf. vṛṣa-, hiranya-; su-khādi)

dhanvan, rain-bow; the sign of the zodiac Sagittarius Jyot.; a desert, a waste RV. &c. &c. šrāya, mfn. possessing anything, furnished or provided with (loc.) RV. v, 53, 4; m. refuge, reliance, shelter, protection W.; a house, dwelling, abode Bhatt.

yuṣmākaṃ smā ráthām ánu mudé dadhe maruto jīradānavaḥ vrṣṭīdyāvo yatīr iva 5.053.05

O swift to pour your bounties down, ye Maruts, with delight I look upon your cars, Like splendours coming through the rain.

Interpretation:

"I hold onto your chariots for delight, O Maruts, for you pour abundantly [the delight onto us], as if the disposers of the heavenly rain."

Mitra and Varuna are often called jīradānū, whose drops are swift.

Vocabulary:

yati, m. *a disposer* RV. vii , 13 , 1 (Sāy. `a giver') jīradānu. mfn. (Pat. on Pān2. 1-1, 4 Vārtt. 1 and vi , 1 , 66) *dropping or sprinkling abundantly* RV. AV. jīra, 1 mfn. (jinv Uṇ.) , *quick* , *speedy* , *active* RV. (Naigh. ii , 15) *driving* (with gen.) RV. i , 48 , 3; m. *quick movement* (of the Soma stones) , v , 31 , 12 dānu, mfn. *valiant* , *victor* , *conqueror* W.; m. *a class of demons* (cf. dānava) RV. (f. , i , 54 , 7) ŠBr.; n. *a fluid* , *drop* , *dew*; m. du. of Mitra-Varuṇa or of the Ašvins RV. viii , 256 ; 8 , 16 ; cf. ārdra- , jīra-).

ā yám nárah sudānavo dadāśúṣe diváh kóśam ácucyavuh ví parjányam srjanti ródasī ánu dhánvanā yanti vṛṣṭáyaḥ 5.053.06

Munificent Heroes, they have cast heaven's treasury down for the worshipper's behoof: They set the storm-cloud free to stream through both the worlds, and rainfloods flow o'er desert spots.

Interpretation:

"The treasure from heaven that they pour upon man, as his soul-powers, perfectly bestowing upon him their heavenly waters, thus releasing the Rain of Heaven upon both these luminous worlds: Rodasi (mental and physical being of men), coming as the conceivers and nourishers to the desert lands!"

Vocabulary:

koša, m. (n. L.; in class. literature koša, or koṣa; fr. kuš or kuṣ?, related to kukṣi and koṣṭha?), a cask, vessel for holding liquids, (metaphorically) cloud RV. AV. Sušr.; a pail, bucket RV.; a drinking-vessel, cup L.; a box, cupboard, drawer, trunk RV. vi, 47, 23; AV. xix, 72, 1 ŠBr.; the interior or inner part of a carriage RV.; a case, covering, cover AV. ChUp. MuṇḍUp. TUp. BhP.; store-room, store, provisions Mn. MBh. &c.; a treasury, apartment where money or plate is kept, treasure, accumulated wealth (gold or silver, wrought or unwrought, as plate, jewellery, &c.) ib.; (in surg.) a kind of bandage Sušr.; a dictionary, lexicon or vocabulary a bud, flower-cup, seed-vessel (cf. bīja-) R. Ragh. BhP. Dhurtas

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ततृदानाः सिन्धवः क्षोदंसा रजः प्र संस्तुर् धेनवो यथा ।
--- प्रमा अश्वा इवाध्वनो विमोचने वि यद् वर्तन्त एन्यः ॥ ५-०५३-०७
```

tatrdanáh síndhavah ksódasa rájah prá sasrur dhenávo yatha syanná ásva ivádhvano vimócane ví yád vártanta eníyah 5.053.07

7

The bursting streams billowy floods have spread abroad, like milk-kine, o'er the firmament. Like swift steeds hasting to their journey's resting-place, to every side run glittering brooks.

Interpretation:

"By the rushing wave of braking through waters of the ocean the space was overflooded, as if by the nourishers of knowledge (milking cows).

Like the swift horses when they are released to run into the open, the many colored ones moved out into the vast."

Vocabulary:

kṣodas, n. (Naigh. i , 12) *water in agitation, swell of the sea , rushing or stream of water* RV. syanna, mfn. *flowing , running* RV.

eta, 2 (see e) mf(ā and enī Pāṇ. 4-1 , 39) n. (i Uṇ. iii , 86) , 'rushing', 'darting' of a variegated colour, varying the colour , shining , brilliant RV. AV. TS. VS. &c.; m. a kind of deer or antelope RV.

ā yāta maruto diva āntárikṣād amād utá māva sthāta parāvátaḥ 5.053.08

Hither, O Maruts, come from heaven, from mid-air, or from near at hand Tarry not far away from us.

Interpretation:

"Come here, O Maruts, from heaven, from space in-between heaven and earth and from earth also! Do not stay away from us in your transcendental abode!"

Vocabulary:

amāt, ind. (abl.) from near at hand RV v 53, 8 and ix, 97, 8.

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मा वो रसानितभा कुभा कुमुर् मा वः सिन्धुर् नि रीरमत् ।

मा वः परि ष्ठात् सरयुः पुरीषिण्य् अस्मे ईत् सुम्नम् अस्तु वः ॥ ५-०५३-०९
```

mā vo rasā ánitabhā kúbhā krúmur māvaḥ síndhur ní rīramat māvaḥ pári ṣṭhāt saráyuḥ purīṣíṇī asmé ît sumnám astu vah 5.053.09

9 So let not Rasa, Krumu, or Anitabha, Kubha, or Sindhu hold you back. Let not the watery Sarayu obstruct your way. With us be all the bliss ye give.

Interpretation:

"May the streams of Rasā, Anitabhā, Kubhā, Krumu and Sindhu stop you not! May the Sarayus full of water prevent you not! With us may your perfect mind be!"

The streams of the Ocean are rivers on the land, these currents should not stop a new movement of the waters of the Ocean, described in the previous verse as over-flooding all space.

Vocabulary:

rasā, a mythical stream supposed to flow round the earth and the atmosphere ib. (Nir. xi , 23) the lower world , hell MBh. Pur. (cf. %{-tala}) the earth , ground , soil Kāv. anitabhā (an-ita-) f. N. of a river RV. v , 53 , 9. kubhā, f. the Kabul river (a river falling into the Indus) RV. v , 53 , 9 and x , 75 , 6. sarayu, f. N. of a river (tributary of the Indus) RV. v , 53 , 9 and x , 75 , 6. sarayu, f. N. of a well-known river (commonly called Surjoo ; on which stood the ancient city Ayodhya1 [cf. R. i , 5 ; 6] ; it is a tributary of the Gogra [see gharghara] , and in RV. is mentioned along with the rivers Sarasvatī , Sindhu , Gaṅgā, Yamunā, and Sutudri). purīṣiṇī, mfn. possessing land or inhabiting it or extending over it RV. 'bearing or carrying rubbish'; N. of the Sarayu or of another river , v , 53 , 9

तं वः शर्धं रथानां त्वेषं गणम् मारुतं नव्यसीनाम् । — — — — — — अनु प्र यन्ति वृष्टयः ॥ ५-०५३-१०

tám vah sárdham ráthanam tvesám ganám márutam návyasinam ánu prá yanti vrstáyah 5.053.10

That brilliant gathering of your cars, the company of Maruts, of the Youthful Ones, The rain-showers, speeding on, attend.

Interpretation:

"That powerful and all-refreshing blow of the army of your chariots, the showering heavenly rains follow after, fulfilling all!"

Vocabulary:

šardha, mfn. (šṛdh) *defiant, bold* (orig. 'breaking wind against another') RV.; m. <u>breaking wind</u>, <u>flatulence</u> Vop.; a (defiant or bold) *host*, *troop* (esp. the host of the Maruts) RV.; navyas, mfn. = navīyas RV. (gen. pl. -sīnām for -sām, v , 53 , 10; anew ib.

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राध-राध व एषां व्रातं-व्रातं गणं-गणं सुरास्तिभिः ।
अनु क्रामेम धीतिभिः ॥ ५-०५३-११
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śárdham-śardham va eṣãm vrātam-vrātam gaṇám-gaṇam suśastíbhih ánu krāmema dhītíbhih 5.053.11

11

With eulogies and hymns may we follow your army, troop by troop, and band by band.

And company by company.

Interpretation:

"Of these one by one, blow after blow, wave after wave, crowded by hosts following hosts, may we be able to follow this army in our true expression and our holding onto it in our mind."

The Word rising from the heart, which Maruts marry as their Bride, and travel together in their happy chariot, is mentalised by the Maruts on the Cosmic scale. It causes the movement of the waters of the Truth overflowing the creating with its profound meaning and power. May we be able to follow that movement in out ever-perfected self-expression and our meditative thought which we fix upon it, sušastibhih anu krāmema dhītibhih.

Vocabulary:

vrāta, m. (connected with vṛ , or with vrata and 2.vṛ) *a multitude , flock , assemblage , troop , swarm , group , host* (vrātaṃ-vrātam, in companies or troops ; pañca-vrātās, the five races of men) , *association , guild* RV. &c. &c.

kásmā adyá sújātāya rātáhavyāya prá yayuḥ enā yāmena marútaḥ 5.053.12

12
To what oblation-giver, sprung of noble ancestry, have sped
The Maruts on this course to-day?

Interpretation:

"To whom today have come the Maruts in this way, who is here thus truly born and wants to offer the delight of his being to them?"

yéna tokáya tánayāya dhāníyam bíjam váhadhve ákṣitam asmábhyam tád dhattana yád va ímahe rádho viśváyu saúbhagam 5.053.13

13

Vouchsafe to us the bounty, that which we implore, through which, for child and progeny, Ye give the seed of corn that wasteth not away, and bliss that reacheth to all life.

Interpretation:

"By this you bring the seed imperishable to our offspring and expansion that you should thus establish it for us, when we seek here the realization of your universal delight!"

Vocabulary:

višvāyu, mfn. = višva-kṛṣṭiḥ, RV. VS. mfn. *dwelling among all men, universally known , kind to all men* RV.

```
अतीयाम निदस् तिरः स्वस्तिभिर् हित्वावद्यम् अरातीः ।
वृष्ट्वी शं योर् आप उस्त्रि भेषजं स्याम मरुतः सह ॥ ५-०५३-१४
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átīyāma nidás tiráḥ suastíbhir hitvā avadyám árātīḥ vrṣṭuvī śáṃ yór āpa usrí bheṣajáṃ siyāma marutaḥ sahá 5.053.14

14

May we in safety pass by those who slander us, leaving behind disgrace and hate. Maruts, may we be there when ye, at dawn, in rest and toil, rain waters down and balm.

Interpretation:

"May we overcome the haters, leaving behind the unspeakable (which should not be expressed) and that which is not (or cannot be) offered. The waters of bliss have rained at dawn, healing all, may we be with the Maruts together."

Vocabulary:

usri, f. *morning light*, *brightness* RV. ix , 65 , 1 bheṣaja, mf(ī)n. (fr. bhiṣaj) *curing*, *healing*, *sanative* RV. AV. AitBr.; n. *a remedy*, *medicine*, *medicament*, *drug*, *remedy against* (gen. or comp.) RV. &c. &c.; *a spell or charm* (for curative purposes (generally from Atharva-veda) ŠrS.; *water* Naigh. i , 12

```
सुदेवः समहासित सुवीरो नरो मरुतः स मर्त्यः ।
-- - - - - - - - यं त्रायध्वे स्याम ते ॥ ५-०५३-१५
```

sudeváh samahāsati suvīro naro marutah sá mártiyah yám trāyadhve siyāma té 5.053.15

15

Favoured by Gods shall he the man, O Heroes, Maruts! and possessed of noble sons, Whom ye protect such may we be.

Interpretation:

"Perfected by heavenly light, sudevaḥ, may man be, O Soul-powers, O Maruts, who is made perfect in his hero strength, for he is the Mortal whom you thus protect and carry to another shore, trāyadve, may we be them!"

There are a few unusual statements here: sudevaḥ asati, may he be 'perfectly shining', 'perfected by heavenly consciousness', 'perfected by the gods', who has the strength to bear such perfection, suvīraḥ, 'for he is mortal, sa martyaḥ, whom you thus carry, protecting, to another shore, trāyadhve, such may we be, syāma te!'

Vocabulary:

samaha, ind. (fr. 1. sama) *anyhow*, *somehow* RV. (accord. to Sāy. voc. of an adj., prašasta, sadhana &c.)

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स्तुहि भोजान् स्तुवतो अस्य यामनि रणन् गावो न यवसे ।
यतः पूर्वा इव सखीँ अनु ह्वय गिरा गृणीहि कामिनः ॥ ५-०५३-१६
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stuhí bhoján stuvató asya yámani ráṇan gávo ná yávase yatáḥ púrvām iva sákhīm ánu hvaya girā grņīhi kāmínaḥ 5.053.16

16

Praise the Free-givers. At this liberal patron's rite they joy like cattle in the mead. So call thou unto them who come as ancient Friends: hymn those who love thee with a song.

Interpretation:

"Affirm, [o man] those who enjoy this journey of this affirming! May they rejoice like rays of light in their junction, for you should call to them as to your old friends, singing to them, who are seeking to realize their desires here, with the voice of your soul, girā gṛṇīhi kāminaḥ!"

Vocabulary:

bhoja, mfn. bestowing enjoyment, bountiful, liberal RV.; enjoying, leading a life of enjoyment BhP.

ran or ran (cf. ram) cl. 1. 4. P, to rejoice, be pleased, take pleasure in (loc., rarely acc.) RV. to gladden, delight, gratify ib.; to be at ease, be pleased or satisfied with, delight in (loc.) ib. TS. AV.

yavasa, m. n. *grass* , *fodder* , *pasturage* RV. &c. &c.

Appendix

On the Vedic Meters

There are some extended meters which are combinations of the 8 and 12 syllabic padas:

```
a) 8 8, 12 - uṣṇiḥ;
b) 12 8, 8 - purauṣṇiḥ;
c) 8 12, 8 - kakubh;
d) 8 8, 12 8 - bṛhatī;
e) 12 8, 12 8 - satobṛhatī;
f) 8 8 8, 8 8, 12 8 - atiśakvarī;
g) 12 12 8, 8 8, 12 8 - atyaṣṭi;
h) 8 8, 12 8, 12 8, 12 8 - bārhata pragātha (comb. of bṛhatī with satobṛhatī);
i) 8 12 8, 12 8, 12 8 - kākubha-pragātha (comb. of kakubh with satobṛhatī).
```

V, 53. К Марутам²

1 Кто знает их рождение? Или кто прежде был в милости у Марутов, Когда запрягали они пестрых (антилоп)?

2 Этих Марутов, стоящих на колесницах, Кто слыхал? Как отправлялись они? За каким щедрым (человеком) устремились они как союзники Вместе с каплями дождя - жертвенными усладами?

3 Они сказали мне, (те) что приезжали День за днем вместе с птицами для опьянения, Мужи, беспорочные юноши: Славь, как видишь их.

4 (Те) обладатели собственного блеска, что снабжены украшениями, Топорами, венками, золотыми пластинками, Кольцами, колесницами, луками...

5 Это к вашим колесницам я пристраиваюсь Для радости, о Маруты быстродающие, Как небеса - к движущимся с дождем (водам).

6 (Та) бадья неба, которую очень щедрые мужи Подтянули для почитающего (их), - (Из нее) они изливают дождь на два мира. Струи дождя движутся по пустыне.

² Elisarenkova's translation into Russian

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7 Прорвавшись, потоки помчались вперед - Стремниной через пространство, словно дойные коровы, Словно бегущие кони, когда возвращаются Антилопы для выпрягания (в конце) пути.

8 Приезжайте, о Маруты, с неба, Из воздушного пространства, а также из дому! Не задерживайтесь в далеких краях!

9 Да не (удержит) вас Раса, Анитабха, Кубха, Круму! Да не удержит вас Синдху! Да не преградит вам путь Сараю, дарящая богатство! У нас да будет милость ваша!

10 За этим вашим отрядом колесниц, За грозной толпой марутовой из только что (прибывших Марутов) Прорываются потоки дождя.

11 Каждый их отряд, Каждую группу, каждую толпу Мы сопроводим восхвалениями, молитвами.

12 К какому прекраснорожденному Приносителю жертв отправились Сегодня Маруты по тому пути.

13 По которому для (наших) детей, (нашего) потомства Вы привозите урожай - нерушимое зерно? Дайте нам тот дар, о котором мы вас просим - Счастье, длящееся весь век!

14 Пусть пройдем мы благополучно через насмешки, Оставив (позади) упреки (и) недоброжелательность! Когда прошел дождь, да будут воды на заре на счастье (и) благо, (да будут они) целебными средством! Да будет мы при этом, о Маруты!

15 Непременно уж бывает любимцем богов, Обладателем прекрасных героев тот смертный, о мужи Маруты, Кого вы охраняете. Да будем мы ими!

16 Восхваляй благодетелей восхвалителя во время похода этой (толпы Марутов)! Пусть радуются они, как коровы на пастбище! Окликай их, удаляющихся, как старых друзей! Воспой в песне (их), любящих (это)!