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978-1-108-00823-5 - A View of the History, Literature, and Religion of the  
Hindoos, Volume 3

William Ward

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## INTRODUCTION.

**DIFFICULTY** of tracing the origin of the Hindoo nation—their high antiquity—whole ages of information lost—fabulous history a proof of the poverty and vanity of mankind—true history may be mixed with the Hindoo fables, i.—Certain prominent facts in Hindoo history throw some light on their early state as a nation—the style of the védûs, and other concurring circumstances, afford room for the conjecture, that the most ancient parts of these works were written about the time of David, or about 1050 years before the Christian era—that the Original Sentences, on which the Hindoo philosophers built their different systems, were written not much later, and that the Institutes of Mūnoo, the Ramayūnū, and their best philosophical and astronomical works, must have been written before the era of Aristotle, when the Greek learning had arrived at its highest state of perfection; that Krishnū lived about 200 years later, and that between his era and the incarnation, it is probable, the Mūhabharūtū and the Shrēe-Bhagūvūtū, two works in which the fame of this hero is celebrated, as well as some of the best minor poems, were composed; and that during this period also the arrangement of the védū by Vyasū was made;—these ideas corroborated by those of the best writers on the subject, iii.—The Hindoo history commences with the work of creation—the divisions of the earth—Prit’hoo the first Hindoo king—he leads men to a knowledge of some of the arts—the earth named from him—the seven sons of this monarch noticed—one of them, Agnidrū, obtains India—the inheritance of his eldest son receives the name Bharūtū-Vārshū, or Hindoost’hanū, extending from Himalayū to the sea, iv.—The family of the sun noticed, which became extinct in the third age—the descendants of the moon reign in another part of India—the first of this race married to a grand-daughter of the first monarch of the race of the sun—the dynasties down to the extinction of the Hindoo monarchy noticed—the lists of kings found in the pooranūs no guide for the chronologist, vi.—Names of fifty-three separate kingdoms in India, from the Shūktee-Sūmblédū—more particular accounts very desirable—a plan suggested for obtaining them—the state

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