

### **Rigveda Book I, Hymn 32 (excerpt)**

1 I will declare the manly deeds of Indra, the first that he achieved, the Thunder-wielder.  
He slew the Dragon, bore down to the waters, and cleft the channels of the mountain torrents.

2 He slew the Dragon lying on the mountain: his heavenly bolt of thunder Tvaṣṭar fashioned.  
Like lowing kine in rapid flow descending the waters glided downward to the ocean.

3 Impetuous as a bull, he chose the Soma and in three sacred beakers drank the juices.  
Maghavan grasped the lightning for his weapon, and smote to death this firstborn of the dragons.

4 When, Indra, thou hadst slain the dragon's firstborn, and overcome the charms of the  
enchanters,  
Then, giving life to Sun and Dawn and Heaven, thou foundest not one foe to stand against thee.

5 Indra with his own great and deadly lightning broad-shouldered Vṛtra slew, the worst of Vṛtras.  
As trunks of trees, what time the axe hath felled them, low on the earth, so lies the prostrate  
Dragon.

6 He, like a drunken warrior, challenged Indra, the great impetuous many-slaying Hero.  
But he did not escape his awesome weapons: crushed, ripping clouds in falling, Indra's rival.

7 Footless and handless still he challenged Indra, who smote him with his lightning on the back  
side.  
Emasculate yet wont to rival Indra, thus Vṛtra lay with scattered limbs dissevered.

8 Crushed like a reed he lies there; taking courage the waters go and go, and flow above him.  
The Dragon lies beneath the feet of torrents which Vṛtra with his greatness had encompassed.

9 Then weakened was the strength of Vṛtra's mother: Indra with ease wards off her deadly  
weapon.  
The mother was above, the son was under, and like a cow beside her calf lay Danu.

10 Thrust in the midst of floating logs unstable and bobbing up and down lies Vṛtra's body.  
The waters roll all over it, long darkness encompasses the former foe of Indra.