

पिता अहम् अस्य जगतः माता धाता पितामहः ।

वेद्यम् पवित्रम् ओम्-कारः ऋक् साम यजुः एव च ॥

*pitā 'ham asya jagato mātā dhātā pitāmahaḥ ।*

*vedyam pavitram aumkāra ṛk sāma yajur eva ca ॥*

पिता *pitā* father अहम् *aham* I अस्य *asya* of this जगतः *jagataḥ* world माता *mātā* mother धाता *dhātā* the dispenser of the fruits of actions पितामहः *pitāmahaḥ* grandfather वेद्यम् *vedyam* the (one) thing to be known पवित्रम् *pavitram* the purifier ओम्कारः *omkāraḥ* the Omkara ऋक् *ṛk* Rik साम *sāma* Sama यजुः *yajuḥ* Yajus एव *eva* also च *ca* and

I am the Father of this world, the Mother, the Dispenser and the Grandfather; I am the knowable, the Purifier, the syllable Om and also the Rik, the Saman and the Yajus. 17

God being the source of the universe and the beings in it, He is held as the Father, the Mother and the Grandfather. Each individual is rewarded by the Lord according to his efforts and therefore He is the Dispenser. Knowing Iswara, everything comes to be known in its perspective; the Lord is therefore the knowable.

The elements earth, water, fire and air have the power to purify the things brought in contact with them. Man gets purified as he contacts God; God is therefore the most efficacious Purifier.

The Rik, the Saman and the Yajus deal with the origin, sustenance and end of the *Prakriti*. No mention is made here of the Atharva, the fourth Veda, as it does not come up to the level of the other three in orthodoxy.