

Nivid to select hymns consisting of more than of stanzas with three or four verses. Through the Nivid the celebration of the Sâman is made excessive.<sup>26</sup>

At the evening libation he ought to put the Nivid when only one verse (of the Shastra) remains (to be recited). Should he recite the Nivid when two verses (of the Shastra) are still remaining, he would thus destroy the faculty of generation, and deprive the offspring of their embryos. Thence he ought to repeat the Nivid at the evening libation when only one verse (of the Shastra) remains (to be recited).

He ought not to let fall the Nivid beyond the hymn (to which it belongs).<sup>27</sup> Should he, however, do it, he ought not to revert to it again (not to use the hymn), the place (where the Nivid is to be put) being destroyed. He ought (in such a case) to select another hymn which is addressed to the same deity and in the same metre, to put the Nivid into it.

(In such a case) he ought before (repeating the new) Nivid hymn, to recite the hymn: *mâ pragâma*

hymns, actually in use, and mentioned in the Aitareya Br. exceed in number four verses (some contain eleven, others even fifteen verses), that explanation cannot be correct. The passage can only have the sense given to it in my translation.

<sup>26</sup> The Shastra thus obtains more verses than are properly required.

<sup>27</sup> The meaning is: he should not repeat the Nivid, after he might have repeated the whole of the hymn in which it ought to have been inserted. Should he, however, have committed such a mistake, then he must select another hymn, and put the Nivid in its proper place, *i. e. before* the last verse of the hymn. The Hotar is more liable to commit such a mistake at the evening libation, than at the two preceding ones. For at the evening libation there are seven Nivids (to Savitar, Dyâvâprithivî, Ribhus, Vaisvânara, Visvedevâh, Marutas, and Jâtavedâs) required, whilst we find at the morning libation only one (which is rather a Puroruk than a Nivid), and at the midday libation two (to the Marutas and Indra).