

ness is thus destroyed, goes up to the heavenly world. Thus it is declared in another Brâhmaṇam which they quote.

They ask, How can an Agnihotri who intends going abroad be near his sacred fires (established at his home)? Can he do it when absent, or is he to return to them every day? He shall approach them silently (in his mind without repeating the mantras). For by keeping silence they aspire after fortune. But some say (he should go to them) every day. For the Agnis of an Agnihotri lose all confidence in him by his absence, fearing lest they be removed or scattered. Therefore he must approach them, and should he not be able to return, he must repeat the words "May you be safe! may I be safe!" In this way the Agnihotri is safe.

THIRD CHAPTER.

(*The story of S'unahś'epa*)

13.

(*King Haris'chandra wishes for a son. Stanzas praising the possession of a son.*)

Haris'chandra, the son of Vedhas, of the Ikshâvaku race, was a king who had no son. Though he had a hundred wives, they did not give birth to a son. In his house there lived the Rishis Parvata and Nârada. Once the king addressed to Nârada (the following stanza):

"Since all beings, those endowed with reason (men) as well as those who are without it (beasts) wish for a son, what is the fruit to be obtained by having a son? This tell me, O Nârada?"

Nârada thus addressed in one stanza, replied in (the following) ten: