

priests, and interdicted any one of this family to take part in his sacrifice. Having learnt (that) they went to the place of his sacrifice and seated themselves within the precincts of the Vedi.¹ On observing them Vis'vantara said (to his attendants), "There sit those S'yâparṇas, the scoundrels, who endeavour to sully another's fame. Turn them out; let them not sit in the Vedi." The attendants obeyed and turned the S'yâparṇas out. They then cried aloud, "When *Janamejaya*, the son of *Parikshit*, was performing a sacrifice without the *Kas'yapas* (who were his hereditary priests), then the *Asitamrigas* from among the *Kas'yapas*, turned the *Bhûlavîras* (who were officiating instead of the *Kas'yapas*) out, not allowing them to administer the Soma rites. They succeeded because they had brave men with them. Well, what hero is now among us,² who might by force take away this Soma beverage (that we might administer it ourselves)?" "This your man am I," said *Râma Mârgaveya*.³ This *Râma* belonged to the S'yâparṇas, and had completed the sacred study. When the S'yâparṇas rose to leave, then he said to the king, "Will (thy servants), O king, turn out of the Vedi even a man (like me) who knows the sacred science? (The king answered), "O thou member of the vile Brahman brood,⁴ whoever thou art, how hast thou any knowledge (of such matters)?"

¹ This place is to be occupied by the priests and the sacrificer only.

² In the text is *asmâka* instead of *asmâkam*.

³ Son of a woman *Mṛigavu* or *Mṛiganiyu* (both forms are used). *Sây*. He is quite different from *Râma*, the hero of the *Râmâyana*.

⁴ *Sây*. explains, *brahmabandhu* by *brâhmaṇa adhama*, i.e. lowest Brahman. No doubt there is something contemptible in this expression.