

them, they (the priests) provide the sacrificer with vital airs. By repeating six mantras containing the singular *ritunâ* to the Ritus, they provide the sacrificer with the air inhaled (*prâna*); by repeating four mantras containing the plural *ritubhiḥ* they provide him with the air exhaled (*apâna*); by repeating, at last, two mantras containing the singular *ritunâ* they provide him with the circulating vital air (*vyâna*). For the vital airs are three-fold, viz. air inhaled, air exhaled, and the air circulating in the body. (These Ritu offerings being made in three sections) in the first (series of mantras when six are given) the singular *ritunâ* is used; in the second the plural *ritubhir*; and in the third the singular again *ritunâ* are applied. (This is done) to keep together the vital airs, to prevent them from being cut off.

---

nâchhansi. The sixth is repeated for Mitra-Varuṇa (who are called प्रशास्त्रौ) by the Maitrâvaruṇa. These six mantras contain the formula ऋतुना सोमं पिबतु.

The seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth Rituyâjas which are repeated by the Hotar, Potar, Neshtar and Achhâvâka respectively, belong to *deva dravinodâh* (a name of Agni). These four mantras contain the term ऋतुभिः सोमं पिबतु. The eleventh and twelfth Rituyâjas are repeated by the Hotar with the term ऋतुना सोमं. The eleventh belongs to the As'vins as the two Adhvaryus; the twelfth to Agni Grihapati.

The first Soma libation for the Ritus is poured from the Hotra-pâtra, the second from the Potra-pâtra, the third from that of the Neshtar, the fourth from that of the Agnîd, the fifth from the Brâhmaṇa-pâtra, the sixth from that of the Pras'âstar (Mâitrâvaruṇa).

The seventh, eighth and ninth from the Pâtras of the Hotar, Potar, and Neshtar respectively. The tenth libation is not poured from one of these Pâtras already mentioned, but in addition to the Pâtras of the Hotar, Potar, and Neshtar, a "fourth vessel" (*turiyam pâtram*) is mentioned, which is called *amartyam*, i. e. immortal. The *deva dravinodâh* (Agni) is called upon to prepare the Soma draught himself and repeat himself the Yâjyâ. The eleventh libation is poured from the Adhvaryava-pâtra, and the twelfth from the Gârhapatya. (*Sapta-Hautra*).