

for sacrificing, conveys him to the heaven-worlds and (grants him) royal dignity, bravery, a kingdom, and subjects over whom he might rule. But should the king not do so, he will be deprived of all these gifts.

25.

(Agni protects the King who appoints a house-priest.)

This Agni Vais'vânara, who is the Purohita, is possessed of five destructive powers. With them he surrounds the king (for his defence), just as the sea surrounds the earth. The empire of such a ruler (*ârya*) will be safe. Neither will he die before the expiration of the full life term (100 years); but live up to his old age, and enjoy the full term apportioned for his life. Nor will he die again (for he is free from being born again as a mortal), if he has a Brâhmaṇa who possesses such a knowledge as his Purohita, and guardian of his empire; for he obtains by means (of his own) royal dignity that (for another, his son), and by means of his bravery that (of another). The subjects of such a king obey him unanimously and undivided.

26.

(The importance of the office of a Purohita proved from three verses of a Vedic hymn.)

To this power of the Purohita a Rishi alludes in the following verses : *sa id rājā pratijanyāni*, &c. (4, 50, 7) *i. e.* the king defeated by his prowess and bravery all his adversaries. By *janyāni* are enemies and adversaries to be understood; he conquers them by means of his prowess and bravery. (The other half of this verse is as follows) *Bṛihaspatim yaḥ subhṛitam bibharti*, *i. e.* "who (the king) supports Bṛihaspati who is well to be supported." For Bṛihaspati is the