

the half months, repaired to Day and Night (*ahorâtra*). The Devas said, Let us perform the Upasads. Thus they did. By means of the Upasad which they performed for the first part of the day, they turned them out of day, and by means of that which they performed for the second part of the day, they turned them out of night. Thus they disappeared from both, day and night. Thence the first Upasad is to be performed during the first part of the day, and the second, during the second part. By doing so the sacrificer leaves only so much space to his enemy (as there is between the junction of day and night.)

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The Upasads are the goddesses of victory (*jîtayah*). For by means of them the gods gained a complete victory destroying all their enemies. He who has such a knowledge gains a victory destroying all his enemies. All the victories which the gods gained in these (three) worlds, or in the Ritus (seasons), or in the months, or the half months, or in day and night, will he (also) gain who has such a knowledge.

(*The Tânûnaptram* ²¹ ceremony, or solemn oath taken by the priests).

The Devas were afraid, surmising the Asuras might become aware of their being disunited, and seize

²¹ The Tânûnaptram ceremony which is alluded to and commented on in this paragraph, is to take place immediately after the *Atithya-ishti* is finished, and not, as it might appear from this passage, after the Upasad. It is a solemn oath taken by the sacrificer and all the officiating priests pledging themselves mutually not to injure one another. It is chiefly considered as a safeguard for the sacrificer who is, as it were, entirely given up to the hands of the priests. They are believed to have the power of destroying him, or cheating him out of what he is sacrificing for, by not performing the ceremonies required in the proper, but in a wrong way. This oath is taken in the following way: The Adhvaryu takes one of the large sacrificial spoons, called *Dhruvâ*, and puts melted butter