

killing him. He thought, "I will frighten them." He breathed at them, upon which all the gods were flung away and took to flight; only the Marutas did not leave him (Indra); they exhorted him by saying, "Strike, O Bhagavann! kill (Vṛitra)! show thy prowess!" This saw a Rishi, and recorded it in the verse *vṛitrasya tvâ s'vasathâd* (8, 85, 7), i. e. "all the gods who were associated (with Indra) left him when flung away by the breathing of Vṛitra. If thou keepest friendship with the Marutas, thou wilt conquer in all these battles (with Vṛitra)."

He (Indra) perceived, "the Marutas are certainly my friends; these (men) love me! well, I shall give them a share in this (my own) celebration (Shashtra)." He gave them a share in this celebration. Formerly both (Indra as well as the Marutas) had a place in the Nishkevalya²⁷ Shashtra. (But to reward their great services he granted them more, viz: a separate Marutvatîya Shashtra, &c.). The share of the Marutas (in the midday libation) is, that the Adhvaryu takes the Marutvatîya Graha, and the Hotar repeats the Marutvatîya Pragâtha, the Marutvatîya hymn, and the Marutvatîya Nivid. After having repeated the Marutvatîya Shashtra, he recites the Marutvatîya Yâjyâ. Thus he satisfies the deities by giving them their shares. (The Marutvatîya Yâjyâ is) *ye trâhihatye maghavann* (3, 47, 4), i. e. "drink Indra, the Soma juice, surrounded by thy host, the Marutas who assisted thee, O Maghavann, in the battles with the huge serpent (Ahi)," &c. Wherever Indra remained victor in his various engagements, through their assistance, wherever he displayed his prowess, there (in the feast given in his honour) he announced them (the Marutas) as his associates, and made them share in the Soma juice along with him.

²⁷ The second Shashtra to be repeated by the Hotar at the midday libation.