

been poured into the fire, then he would carry off the vital airs of the sacrificer by means of the speech, which is a weapon. For (if he do so) some one should say to the Hotar (afterwards), that he has made the vital airs of the sacrificer go off, (and he the Hotar) would lose his life.¹⁰ It happens always thus. Thence the Hotar should not make his voice heard, before the libations from the Upâñs'u and Antaryâma grahas are poured into the fire. He should when the libation from the Upâñs'u graha is given, mutter the words: "keep in the air inhaled! Svâhâ! (I emit) thee, O speech of good call for pleasing the sun (which is thy presiding deity)." He should then draw in the air, and say (with a low voice): "O breath, who goest in (my body), keep in (my body) the breath!" He should, when the libation from the Antaryâma graha is given, mutter the words: "keep in the air exhaled! Svâhâ! (I emit) thee, O speech of good call for pleasing the sun." (After having spoken these words) he should hale out the air, and say, "O air, haled out, keep this very air (which is to be haled out, in my body)." By the words "(I emit)! thee (O speech!) for the air, circulating (in my body)," he then touches¹¹ the stone used to squeeze the Soma juice for the Upâñs'u graha, and makes his voice heard. This stone to squeeze the Soma juice for the Upâñs'u graha is the soul. The Hotar after having put (thus) the vital airs in his own self, emits his voice, and attains his full age (100 years). Likewise does he who has such a knowledge.

¹⁰ That is to say, some one might charge him afterwards with having murdered the sacrificer.

¹¹ Not struck against another, as is done when the Soma juice is being squeezed.