

By repeating this mantra, *Avatsâra* (an ancient Rishi) obtained Agni's favour and conquered the highest world. The same happens to him who has such a knowledge, and who knowing it has this *havish-pañkti* offered (*i. e.* the sacrificer), or repeats the *Yâjyâ*-mantra belonging to it (*i. e.* the Hotar).

FOURTH CHAPTER.

(*The Dvidevatya Graha libations, i. e. the libations poured from the Aindravâyava, Maitrâvaruna, and As'vina Grahas. Rituyâjas. The Silent Praise*).

25.

(*Story of a race run by the gods for obtaining the right to drink first from a Soma libation. The Aindravâyava Graha. Explanation of a certain custom with the Bhâratas*).

The gods could not agree as to who of them should first taste the Soma juice. They (all) wished for it, (each saying) "might I drink first, might I drink first." They came (at length) to an understanding. They said: "Well, let us run a race.¹ He of us who will be victor, shall first taste the Soma juice." So they did. Among all those who ran the race, *Vâyu* first arrived at the goal; next *Indra*; next *Mitra* and *Varuna*, then the *As'vins*. *Indra* thinking he would be beforehand with *Vâyu*, (ran as fast as he could

them. Agni is Death. They pleased Agni with an offering, repeating "Agni, eat the offering," and were released.

This formula (*havir agne vîhi*) consists of six syllables; the soul consists of six parts,—is six-fold. Thus the sacrificer redeems (by means of this formula) through a soul (represented by this formula) his own soul, and clears off his debts. This is the mantra of *Avatsâra*, the son of *Pras'ravana*.

¹ The expression in the original is: *âjim ayâma*. See 4, 7.