

monies had been performed, they could not find a person willing to bind him to the sacrificial post. Ajîgarta, the son of Suyavasa, then said, "Give me another hundred (cows) and I will bind him." They gave him another hundred, whereupon he bound him. After he had been bound, the Aprî verses recited, and the fire carried round him,⁹ they could not find a slaughterer. Ajîgarta then said, "Give me another hundred and I will kill him." They gave him another hundred. He then whetted his knife and went to kill his son. *S'unahs'epa* then got aware that they were going to butcher him just as if he were no man (but a beast.) "Well" said he, "I will seek shelter with the gods." He applied to Prajâpati, who is the first of the gods, with the verse, *kasya nûnam katamasya* (1, 24, 1). Prajâpati answered him, "Agni is the nearest of the gods, go to him." He then applied to Agni, with the verse, *agner vayam prathamasya amritânâm* (1, 24, 2). Agni answered him, "Savitar rules over the creatures, go to him." He then applied to Savitar with the three verses (1, 24, 3-5) beginning by, *abhi tvâ deva Savitar*. Savitar answered him, "Thou art bound for Varuṇa the King, go to him." He applied to Varuṇa with the following thirty-one verses (124, 6-25, 21). Varuṇa then answered him, "Agni is the mouth of the gods, and the most compassionate of them. Praise him now! then we shall release you." He then praised Agni with twenty-two verses (1, 26, 1—27, 12). Agni then answered, "Praise the Vis've Devas, then we shall release you." He then praised the Vis've Devas with the verse (1, 27, 13) *namo mahadbhyo namo arbhakebhyo*. The Vis've Devas answered, "Indra is the strongest, the most powerful, the most enduring, the most true of the

⁹ See Ait. Br. 2, 3-5.