

If the priests have accepted the invitation, then the sacrificer has actually to appoint them to their respective offices. This is the *varaṇam* or selection (of the priests).

The sacrificer first mentions the gods who are to act as his priests, "Agni (the fire) is my Hotar, Aditya (the sun) my Adhvaryu, the Moon my Brahmâ, Parjanya (the god of rain) my Udgâtar, the Sky (*âkâś'a*) is my Sadasya (superintendent), the waters are my Hotrâś'aṁsis (all the minor Hotri-priests); the rays my Chamasa Adhvaryus (cup-bearers). These divine priests I choose (for my sacrifice)." After having thus appointed the gods, who are to act as his divine priests, he now proceeds to appoint the "human" (*mânusha*) priests. This is at the Agnishṭoma done with the following formula, "I (the name) of such and such a Gotra, will bring the Jyotishṭoma sacrifice by means of its Agnishṭoma part, with the Rathantara-Prishṭha, four Stomas (the nine, fifteen, seventeen and twenty-one-fold), for which ten things, cows and so on are required, and for which as fee one hundred and twelve cows must be given. At this sacrifice be thou my Hotar." The Hotar then accepts the appointment by the following formula: "May the great thing thou spokest of (unto me), the splendour thou spokest of, the glory thou spokest of, the Stoma thou spokest of, the way of performance thou spokest of, the enjoyment thou spokest of, the satisfaction thou spokest of; may all that thou spokest of come to me; may it enter me; may I have enjoyment through it. Agni is thy Hotar. He is