

THIRD CHAPTER.

(*The Apo naptrīyam ceremony. The Upâñs'u and Antaryâma oblations. The Hotar has no share in the Bahishpavamâna meal. The libation for Mitrâ-Varuna to be mixed with milk. On the Purodâs'as belonging to the libations. Havish-pañkti. Akshara-pañkti. Narâs'añsa-pañkti. Savana-pañkti*).

19.

(*Story of the S'ûdra Rishi Kavasha* ¹).

The Rishis, when once holding a sacrificial session on (the banks of) the Sarasvatî, expelled Kavasha, the

¹ In the Kaushîtaki Brâhmanam (12, 3) the story of Kavasha is reported in the following way :—

माध्यमाः सरस्वत्यां सवमासत तद्वापि कवषो मध्ये निषसाद् । तं हेम
उपोदुर्दास्या वै त्वं पुत्रो ऽसि न वयं त्वया सह भक्षयिष्याम इति स ह
क्रुद्धः प्रद्रवन्त्सरस्वतीमेतेन सूक्तेन तुष्टाव । तं हेयमन्वेयाय त उ हेमे
निरागा इव मेनिरे तं हान्वाहृत्योचुर्ऋषे नमस्ते अस्तु मा नो हिंसोस्त्वं
वै नः श्रेष्ठो ऽसि यं त्वेयमन्वेतीति । तं ह यज्ञपयां चक्रुस्तस्य ह क्रोधं
विनिन्युः । स एष कवषस्यैष महिमा सूक्तस्य चानुवेदिता ॥

i. e. the Rishis called the "middle ones" (Gṛitsamada, Vis'vâmitra, Vâmadeva, Atri, Bharadvâja, Vasishṭha, see As'v. Gṛihya Sûtras, 3, 4), held once a sacrificial session on the Sarasvatî. Amongst them there sat Kavasha. These (Rishis) reproached him (that he had come among them) saying : "thou art the son of a slave girl, we shall neither eat nor drink with thee." Having become angry, he ran to the Sarasvatî, and obtained her favour by means of this hymn (*pra devatrâ brahmane*). She followed him. These Rishi then thought that he was guiltless. Turning to him, they said Rishi! adoration be to thee, do us no harm! thou art the most excellent among us, for she (Sarasvatî) follows thee." They made him the manager of the sacrifice, and thus appeased his wrath. This is the importance of Kavasha, and he it was who made that hymn known.

The occasion on which Kavasha had this hymn revealed to him is thus related in the Kaushîtaki Brahm. (12, 1) :—