

## 44.

(How the Shastras should be repeated at each of the three libations. The sun never rises nor sets. How the phenomena of sunrise and sunset are to be explained.)

The Agnishtoma is that one who burns (the sun). The sun shines during the day, and the Agnishtoma <sup>23</sup> should be completed along with the day. It being a *sâhna*, i. e. going with the day, they should not perform it hurriedly (in order to finish it before the day is over), neither at the morning, nor midday, nor evening libations. (Should they do so) the sacrificer would suddenly die.

When they do not perform hurriedly (only) the rites of the morning and midday libations, but hurry over the rites of the evening libation, then this, viz. the villages lying in the eastern direction become largely populated, whilst all that is in the western direction becomes a long tract of deserts, and the sacrificer dies suddenly. Thence they ought to perform without any hurry the rites of the morning and midday, as well as those of the evening libation. (If they do so) the sacrificer will not suddenly die.

In repeating the Shastras, the Hotar ought to be guided by the (daily) course (of the sun). In the

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which consists of three triplets (*trichas*). For performing the twenty-one-fold Stoma at the evening libation, the *Yajñayajñīya* Sâman is used, which consists only of two verses, but by repeating some parts of them twice, the number of three verses is obtained. The same triplet being chanted in three turns (*paryâya*) the twenty-one-fold Stoma appears to be like the *Trivrit*.

<sup>23</sup> Agnishtoma is here taken in the strictest sense, as meaning only a Soma festival, lasting for one day, and completed by means of the four Stomas mentioned. Therefore Agnishtoma is often called the model (*prakṛiti*) of the *Aikâhika* Soma sacrifices, or such ones which last for one day only. But in a more comprehensive sense all the rites which precede it, such as the *Dîkshañīya* and other *Ishtis*, and the animal sacrifice, are regarded as part of the Agnishtoma. For without these rites nobody is allowed to perform any Soma sacrifice.