

metres.<sup>8</sup> They come on the call of him who has such knowledge.

As Prajâpati, when he himself was (once) Hotar, was just about to repeat the Prâtar-anuvâka, in the presence of both the Devas and Asuras, the first thought, he will repeat the Prâtar-anuvâka for our benefit; the latter believed, he will do so for us. He then repeated it for the Devas. Thence the Devas became masters of the Asuras. He who has such a knowledge becomes master of his enemy, adversary, and gainsayer. It is called Prâtar-anuvâka (morning prayer); for Prajâpati prayed it early in the morning. It is to be repeated in the dead of night.<sup>9</sup> For people follow in their sayings him who possesses the whole speech, and the full Brahma, and who has obtained the leadership.<sup>10</sup>

Therefore the Prâtar-anuvâka is to be repeated in the dead of night: for it must be repeated before people commence talking. Should he, however, repeat the Prâtar-anuvâka after people have commenced talking, he would make the Prâtar-anuvâka (which should be the *first* speech uttered in the morning) follow the speech of another. (Such being contrary to its nature) it must be repeated in the dead of night. He should repeat it even before the voice of the cock is heard.<sup>11</sup> For all the birds, including the cock, are the

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<sup>8</sup> To each of these three deities are mantras in the following seven metres addressed: *Gâyatri*, *Anushtup*, *Trishtup*, *Brihati*, *Ushnih*, *Jagati*, and *Pankti*.

<sup>9</sup> This appears to be the meaning of: *mahati râtryâh*. Sây. explains it rather artificially "as the great portion of the night following the day on which the animal sacrifice for *Agnîshomîya* had been performed."

<sup>10</sup> The author alludes here to the relation of subjects to the king, and of pupils to their teacher.

<sup>11</sup> By *s'akuni* only the cock is to be understood. The original form being *kakuni*, we are reminded of the very word "cock." Great importance is attached to this bird in the Zend-Avesta, where it is named *paro-dars*.