

(propitiation, appeasing). Such dangerous words are for instance, *vâushat* (see 3, 8) and *rudra*, the name of S'iva, the god of destruction (3, 34).

The sacrificer, who is the object of all these mystical operations on the part of the priests by means of their mantras, chants, and manual labour, is not allowed to remain inactive, but he himself has to repeat certain mantras, expressive of his desires. When, for instance, the Hotar is performing the mystical operation of placing him among cattle, he must say, "May I become rich in cattle!" When the same priest makes a firm standing place (a *prastisthâ*) for him, he must say, "May I go to my place!" Thus he obtains the fulfilment of any desire which might be obtainable by means of a particular verse, or mode of repeating, or chant, or performance of a particular rite, when he repeats the appropriate formula at the right time and occasion. For what he himself speaks, connects him with the ideals of his wishes, which are brought within his grasp by the priest.

The objects sacrificed for are manifold, viz. offspring, cattle, wealth, fame, theological learning, skill for performance of sacrifices, and heaven. For gaining heaven a Soma sacrifice is indispensable. For the sacred Soma juice has, according to the opinions of the ancient Hindu theologians, pre-eminently the power of uniting the sacrificer on this earth with the celestial king Soma, and make him thus one of his subjects, and consequently an associate of the gods, and an inhabitant of the celestial world.