

the son of *S'ibya*. Thence a Kshattriya should not cheat a Brahman who has this knowledge and performed this (inauguration) ceremony, unless he wishes to be turned out of his dominions, and to lose his life.

FIFTH CHAPTER.

(On the office of the Purohita, or house-priest. The brahmanah parimara, i. e. dying around the Brahma.)

24.

(The necessity for a King to appoint a house-priest. In what way the King keeps the sacred fires. How to appease the five destructive powers of Agni).

Now about the office of a Purohita (house-priest). The gods do not eat the food offered by a king who has no house-priest (Purohita). Thence the king even when (not) intending to bring a sacrifice, should appoint a Brahman to the office of house-priest.

The king who (wishes) that the gods might eat his food, has, after having appointed a Purohita, however, the use of the (sacred) fires (without having actually established them) which lead to heaven; for the Purohita is his Ahavanîya fire, his wife the Gârhapatya, and his son the Dakshîṇa fire. When he does (anything) for the Purohita, then he sacrifices in the Ahavanîya fire (for the Purohita represents this fire). When he does (anything) for his wife, then he verily sacrifices in the Gârhapatya fire. When he does (anything) for his son, then he verily sacrifices in the Dakshîṇa fire. These fires (which are led by the Purohita) which are thus freed from their destructive power,¹ (for the Kshattriya, i. e.

¹² Literally, the bodies of which are appeased.