

Vais'vânara is the seed which was poured forth. Thence the Hotar commences the Agni-mâruta Shastra with a hymn addressed to Vais'vânara. The first verse is to be repeated without stopping. He who repeats the Agni-mâruta Shastra extinguishes the fearful flames of the fires. By (suppressing) his breath (when repeating the first verse) he crosses the fires. Lest he might (possibly) forego some sound (of the mantra) when repeating it, it is desirable that he should appoint some one to correct such a mistake (which might arise). By thus making him (the other man) the bridge, he crosses (the fires, even if he should commit some mistake in repeating). Because of no mistake in repeating being allowed in this, there ought to be some one appointed to correct the mistakes, when the Hotar repeats it.

The Marutas are the sperm which was poured forth. By shaking it they made it flow. Thence he repeats a hymn addressed to the Marutas.³⁷

अग्निर्वैश्वानरः सोमस्य मत्सत् । विश्वेषां देवानां समित् । अजस्रं
दैव्यं ज्योतिः । यो विड्भ्यो मानुषीभ्यो अदीदेत् । द्युषु पूर्वासु दि-
द्युतानः । अजर उषसामनीके । आ यो द्यां भात्याष्टथिवीं । ओर्वै-
नरिक्षं । ज्योतिषा यज्ञाय शर्म यंसत् । अग्निर्वैश्वानर इह श्रवदिह
सोमस्य मत्सत् । प्रेमां देवो देवहृतिमवतु ०

“ May Agni Vais'vânara enjoy the Soma, he who is the fuel for all gods (for he as the vital spirit keeps them up), he who is the unperishable divine light, who lighted to the quarters of men, who (was) shining in former skies (days), who is never decaying in the course of the auroras (during all days to come), who illuminates the sky, the earth, and the wide airy region. May he, through his light, give (us) shelter ! May Agni Vais'vânara here hear (us), &c.”

³⁷ This is the Sûkta: *pratvakshasah pratavasah* (1, 87). The Nivid of the hymn for the Marutas at the evening libation, is :

मरुतो देवाः सोमस्य मत्सन् । सुद्युमः स्वर्काः । अर्कसुभो बृह-
द्वयसः । सूर्या अनाघृष्टरथीः । त्वेषासः पृश्निमातरः । शुभाहि-