

Indra said to them (the gods), "you also shall have (a share) in this (Shastra)." The gods said, "let it be the Yâjyâ verse³⁵ in the Virât metre of the Nishkevalya Shastra." The Virât has thirty-three syllables. There are thirty-three gods, viz. eight Vasus, eleven Rudras, twelve Adityas, (one) Prajâpati, and (one) Vashaṭkâra. He (thus) makes the deities participate in the syllables; and according to the order of the syllables they drink, and become thus satisfied by (this) divine dish.

Should the Hotar wish to deprive the sacrificer of his house and estate, he ought to use for his Yâjyâ along with the Vashaṭkâra a verse which is not in the Virât metre, but in the Gâyatrî or Trishtubh, or any other metre (save the Virât); thus he deprives him of his house and estate.

Should he wish to procure a house and estate for the sacrificer, he ought to repeat his Yâjyâ in the Virât metre: *piba somam indra mandatu*, (7, 22, 1). By this verse he procures for the sacrificer a house and estate.

23.

(On the close relationship between Sâman and Rik. Why the Sâma singers require three richas. The five-fold division of both. Both are contained in the Virât. The five parts of the Nishkevalya Shastra.)

First there existed the Rik and the Sâman (separate from one another); *sâ* was the Rik, and the name *amah* was the Sâman. *Sâ*, which was Rik, said to the Sâman, "let us copulate for begetting children." The Sâman answered, "No; for my greatness exceeds (yours)." (Thereupon) the Rik became two; both spoke (to the Sâman to the same effect); but

³⁵ This is *piba somam indra* (7, 221).