

the ascent to heaven; it is the ladder for climbing up to heaven. (Therefore) he ought to recite it (stopping at regular intervals) as if he were climbing up (a height) by means of a ladder. Thus he can take along with him (up to the celestial world) that sacrificer to whom he is friendly. Now he who desires heaven, avails himself of this opportunity of going thither.

Should the Hotar intend to do any harm (to the sacrificer) thinking, "may I slay the Vis' through the Kshatra," he need only repeat the Nivid in three different places of the hymn (in the commencement, middle, and end). For the Nivid is the *Kshatram* (commanding power), and the hymn the *Vis'* (prototype of the Vais'yas); thus he slays the Vis' of any one whom he wishes through his Kshatra.²⁶ Thus he slays the Vis' through the Kshatram.

Should he think, "may I slay the Kshatram through the Vis'," he need only thrice dissect the Nivid through the hymn (by repeating the hymn at the commencement, in the middle, and at the end of the Nivid). The Nivid is the Kshatram, and the

mâni) grow (increase in strength); these (sacred rites) are through their power inviolable. He makes presents to the gods, he who is with the Marutas his friends. May Indra with the Marutas here hear (our prayer), and drink of the Soma. May the god come to this oblation offered to the gods with (our) thoughts being directed to the gods. May he protect this Brahma (spiritual power), may he protect this Kshatram (worldly power) may he protect the sacrificer who prepares this (the Soma juice); (may he come) with his manifold helps. May he (Indra) hear the sacred hymns (*brahmâni*), may he come with (his) aid!

²⁶ These sentences can be only understood when one bears in mind, that men of the higher caste are supposed to have a share in a certain prototype. Kshatra represents the commanding power. A Brahman, deprived of his Kshatra, loses all influence and becomes quite insignificant in worldly things; if deprived of his Vis', he loses his means of subsistence. A Kshatriya loses his power, if deprived of his kshatram, and his subjects, if deprived of his Vis'.