

One should answer, She is Vâch. For Vâch is Brahma, and Subrahma (good Brahma).

They ask, Why does one call him (the Subrahmanyâ priest) who is a male, a female? (They answer) Subrahmanyâ represents Vâch (which is in the feminine gender).

They further ask, When all the other priests are to perform their respective duties within the Vêdi, and the Subrahmanyâ outside the Vêdi, how is it that the duty of the Subrahmanyâ (in this particular case) becomes performed inside the Vêdi? One should answer, The Vêdi has an outlet where things (which are no more required) are thrown; if the Subrahmanyâ priest calls (the Subrahmanyâ) when standing in this outlet, then, in this way, (his duty is performed within the bounds of the Vêdi). They ask, Why does he, standing in the outlet, repeat the Subrahmanyâ? (On this they tell the following story.)

The Rishis held once a sacrificial session. They said to the most aged man among them, "Call the Subrahmanyâ. Thou shalt call the gods standing among us (on account of thy age), as it were, nearest to them." In consequence of this the gods make him (the Subrahmanyâ) very aged. In this way he pleases the whole Vêdi.

They ask, Why do they present to him (the Subrahmanyâ) a bull as a reward for his services? (The answer is) The bull is a male (*vrishâ*), the Subrahmanyâ is a female, both making thus a couple. (This is done) for producing offspring from this pair.

The Agnîdhra repeats the Yâjyâ mantra for the Pâtnîvata Graha (a Soma vessel), with a low voice. For the Pâtnîvata is the semen virile, and the effusion of the semen virile passing on without noise, as it were, he does not make the Anuvashaṭkâra. For