

had done so, he allowed them to pass, that they might enter the (celestial) world.

The Adityas approached and said to him, "Mayest thou allow us to pass on; give us an opportunity." He answered, "If I be not praised, I shall not allow you to pass. Praise me now!" They consented. They praised him with seventeen verses. After they had done so, he allowed them to pass, that they might enter the (celestial) world.

The Vis've Devâs approached and said to him, "Mayest thou allow us to pass on; give us an opportunity." He answered: "If I be not praised, I shall not allow you to pass. Praise me now!" They consented. They praised him with twenty-one verses. After they had done so, he allowed them to pass, that they might enter the (celestial) world.

The gods having praised Agni each with another Stoma (combination of verses), he allowed them to pass.

The sacrificer who praises Agni with all (four) Stomas, as well as he (the priest) who knows it (the Agnishtoma) will pass on beyond him (Agni, who watches with his flames the entrance to heaven).²⁰

To him who has such a knowledge he (Agni) allows to pass and enter the celestial world.

43.

(On the names "Agnishtoma, Chatushtoma, Jyotishtoma." The Agnishtoma is endless.)

The Agnishtoma is Agni. It is called so, because they (the gods) praised him with this Stoma. They called it so to hide the proper meaning of the word;

²⁰ In this sentence we have two peculiar forms: *atî*, instead of *atî* beyond, and *arjâtâi*, 3rd pers. conjunct. middle voice in the sense of a future.