

we find them in the As'valâyana Sûtras. The recital of the Sâmidhenî verses (required when kindling the fire at the commencement of any sacrificial rite) is briefly mentioned in the Brâhmaṇas, but minutely described in the Sûtras (1, 2). That they were left out in the Brâhmaṇam cannot be accounted for by assuming that their exposition was alien to the purpose of its author, or that they were unknown to him, but only by believing, that they were regarded as too trivial matters, too commonly known to deserve any special notice on his part. Certain modifications in repeating mantras (required at the great Soma sacrifices), such as the *Dûrohaṇam*, the *Nyûñkha*, the peculiar construction and repetition of the *Shoḷas'î* and *Vâlakhilya* Shastras, &c. are in the Brâhmaṇam almost as minutely and accurately described, as we find them in the Sûtras (compare, for instance, Ait. Br. 4, 19 with As'v. S'r. S. 8, 2). This clearly shows that the authors of the Brâhmaṇas knew as well all the details of the sacrificial art, as the compilers of the Sûtras. The circumstance that many such things, as the recital of the Sâmidhenî verses, &c. were left out in the Brâhmaṇam, though they are neither very simple to comprehend, nor were they unknown, entitles us to assume that they were taught in separate treatises, which could be nothing else than works like the present Sûtras.

The Sûtras which we possess at present are, no doubt, posterior to the Brâhmaṇas to which they belong; but there is every reason to believe that there were Sûtras more ancient, and simple in their