

would be cut off, just as (a bullock) who is tired must be cut off (from the rope, for he does not move). They ought to conclude with both the Ekâha and Ahîna verses, just as a man setting out on a long journey takes from station to station fresh animals. Thence their sacrifice becomes connected, and they themselves (the sacrificers) find relaxation.

He ought not to overpraise the Stoma (*i. e.* not to repeat more verses than the singers chant) at the two (first) libations by (more than) one or two verses. When the Stoma is overpraised with many verses, (*i. e.* more than two) then they become for the Hotar like extensive forests (through which he has to pass without a resting place). At the third libation (he ought to overpraise the Stoma) with an unlimited number of verses. For the heavenly world has no limits. (This serves) for obtaining the celestial world. The Ahîna sacrifice of him who with such a knowledge extends it, remains, if once commenced, undisturbed.

## 24.

(*The nature of the Vâ lakhilya Shashtra.*<sup>13</sup> *How to repeat it.*)

The gods after having perceived the cows to be in

---

<sup>13</sup> The way of repeating the so-called Vâ lakhilya Shashtra, the text of which consists of the Vâ lakhilya verses, now arranged in eight hymns, is very artificial, and considered as the most difficult task to be achieved by a Hotri-priest. It is repeated in a manner similar to the repetition of the Sholas'î Shashtra (see page 258). The most general term for the peculiar way of repeating both the Vâ lakhilya and Sholas'î Shastras is *vi hâra*, that is, the dissecting of a verse by joining to each of its pâdas, a pâda taken from another verse, and reciting then both parts in such a way as if they were forming only one verse. The way in which the Vâ lakhilyas are repeated is a modification of the *vi hâra*. It is called *vyatimarśa*. This consists in a mutual transposition of the several pâdas or half verses, or whole verses of the first and second Vâ lakhilya hymns, which are repeated in sets, always two being taken together. The