

The effusion of seed is inaudible ; so is the Japa. It is, as it were, the effusion of the seed.

He mutters the Japa before the call, *s'omśāvom*. For all that is repeated after the call, *s'omśāvom*, forms part of the Shastra. The Hotar addresses this call (*s'omśāvom*) to the Adhvaryu when the latter with his face turned away is lying prostrate on the earth (using the two hands as his two forelegs like beasts). For four-footed beings (animals) emit their sperms (at the time of copulation) having turned their faces away from one another. He (the Adhvaryu) then stands upright on his two legs. For two-footed beings (men) emit their sperms when facing one another in a straight line.

(The several sentences of the Japa are now explained).

He mutters, *pitā mâtaris'vâ*. The breath is *pitâ* (father), and the breath is *mâtaris'vâ*; the breath is seed.

First the Adhvaryu is called upon by the Hotar to turn away his face with the words: पराङ् अध्वर्या i. e. Away, Adhvaryu ! Then he commences the *Japa* with the words : *su-mat*, &c. (see 2, 24).

We here give the whole of it :

सुमन्त्रद्वगदे पिता मातरिश्वाक्छिद्रा पदा धादक्छिद्रोक्था कवयः शंसन्तोमो विश्वविन्नीथानि नेषब्द्रहस्यतिरुक्था मदानि शंसिषद्वागायुर्विश्वायुर्विश्वमायुः क इदं शंसिष्यति स इदं शंसिष्यति.

i. e. " May the father Mâtaris'van (wind, breath) make the verse feet without a breach ! May the Kavis repeat the recitations without a breach ! May Soma, the all-possessing, guide our performances ! May Brihaspati repeat the recitations (and) the joyful choruses ! Vâch (speech) is life, she has the whole life. She is life. Who will repeat this (Shastra) ? He (i. e. I, the Hotar, representing Vâch) will repeat it." From the contents of this *Japa* it is evident, that the Hotar invokes the deities presiding over breath, speech, and literary skill, for a successful recitation of the whole Shastra, to accomplish which is regarded as an arduous task. In one of the sentences of this *Japa* the repeaters are called *kavis*, which appears to have been the more ancient name of the Hotri priests. It is mentioned as signifying a class of priests in the Zend-Avesta also.