

commences with a verse addressed to Agni). By using the term *vâch*, *i. e.* speech (when taking out the Agnihotram) he makes a (*pratigara*) *i. e.* response (just as is done at the repetition of a Shastra).

By (thus) repeating every day "Vâch" the Asvina Shastra⁴ is recited by Agni at night, for him who, having this knowledge, brings the Agnihotram.

By offering the morning oblation to Aditya, he commences the Mahâvrata⁵ ceremony. By using (a term equivalent to) *prâṇa* *i. e.* life (when eating the remainder of the Agnihotram) he makes a *pratigara* (also). By (thus) repeating every day the word "food" (life), the Mahâvrata (Shastram) is recited by Aditya at day for him who, with this knowledge, performs the Agnihotram.

The Agnihotrî has to perform during the year 720 evening offerings and also 720 morning offerings, just as many bricks (1440) marked by sacrificial formulas as are required at the Gavâm ayanam. He who with such a knowledge brings the Agnihotram, has the sacrifice performed with a Sattra

⁴ The As'vina Shastra is required at the commencement of the Gavâm ayanam, when making Atirâtra. See 4, 17-11. The author of our Brâhmaṇam here tries to find out some resemblance between the performance of the evening Agnihotram, and the As'vina Shastra. He finds it in the circumstance, that this offering belongs to Agni and the As'vina Shastra commences with a verse addressed to Agni (4, 7). Having thus obtained the commencement of the Shastra, he must find out also the *pratigara* or response which belongs to every Shastra. This he discovers in the formula: *vâchâ tvâ hotre* which the Agnihotrî repeats as often as the offering is taken out for being sacrificed.

⁵ This concludes the Gavâm ayanam. See the note to 4, 12. The resemblance between the Mahâvrata and the morning Agnishtoma is found by our author in the following points: The morning Agnihotram belongs to Aditya, and the Nishkevalya Shastra of the Mahâvrata commences with a mantra addressed to the same deity. The Pratigara he finds in the mantra, *annam payo reto smâsu* which the Agnihotrî repeats as often as he eats the remainder of his offering.