

through the intervention of another (the Brahma priest), the portion appears to be eaten by him, though he does not eat it with his own mouth. For the sacrifice is there where the Brahma (priest) is. The entire sacrifice is placed in the Brahma, and the sacrificer is in the sacrifice. They throw the sacrifice (in the shape of the portion which is to be eaten by the sacrificer) into the sacrifice (which has the form of the Brahma) just as they throw water into water, fire into fire, without making it overflow, nor causing any injury to the sacrificer. Therefore is this portion to be eaten by the sacrificer (if he be a Kshattriya) to be given up to the Brahmâ.

Some sacrificial priests, however, sacrifice this portion to the fire, saying, "I place thee in Prajâpati's world, which is called *vibhân* (shining everywhere), be joined to the sacrificer, Svâhâ!" But thus the sacrificial priest ought not to proceed. For the portion to be eaten by the sacrificer is the sacrificer himself. What priest, therefore, asserts this, burns the sacrificer in the fire. (If any one should observe a priest doing so) he ought to tell him, "Thou hast singed the sacrificer in the fire. Agni will burn his breaths, and he will consequently die." Thus it always happens. Therefore he should not think of doing so.

FIFTH CHAPTER.

(On the sacrificial drink which the King has to taste instead of Soma according to the instruction given by Râma Mârgaveya to the King Vis'vantara.)

27.

(Story of the S'yâparṇas. Râma defends their rights.)

Vis'vantara, the son of Sushadman, deprived the S'yâparṇas of their right of serving as his sacrificial