

lasting all the year (and) with Agni Chitya<sup>6</sup> (the hearth constructed at the Chayana ceremony).

## 29.

*(Whether the morning oblation of the Agnihotri is to be offered before or after sunrise.)*

*Vrishas'ushma*, the son of *Vatavata*, the son of *Jâtukarna*, said, "We shall tell this to the gods, that they perform now the Agnihotram, which was brought on both days, (on the evening of the preceding, and the morning of the following day) only every other day." And a girl who was possessed by a Gandharva, spoke thus, "We shall tell it to the Pitaras (ancestors), that the Agnihotram, which was performed on both days, is now performed every other day."

The Agnihotram performed every other day is performed at evening after sunset, and at morning before sunrise. The Agnihotram performed on both days is performed at evening after sunset, and at morning after sunrise. Therefore the Agnihotram is to be offered after sunrise. For he who offers the Agnihotram before sunset, reaches in the twenty-fourth year the Gâyatrî world, but if he brings it after sunrise, in the twelfth. When he brings the Agnihotram before sunrise during two years, then he has actually sacrificed during one year only. But if he sacrifices after sunrise, then he completes the yearly amount of offerings in one year. There-

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<sup>6</sup> At each Atirâtra of the Gavâm ayanam the so-called *Chayana* ceremony takes place. This consists in the construction of the Uttarâ Vedi (the northern altar) in the shape of an eagle. About 1440 bricks are required for this structure, each being consecrated with a separate Yajus mantra. This altar represents the universe. A tortoise is buried alive in it, and a living frog carried round it and afterwards turned out. The fire kindled on this new altar is the *Agni Chitya*. To him are the oblations of flesh and Soma to be given. The whole ceremony is performed by the Adhvaryu alone.