

his second Shastra (with Bṛihatîs) he has the preservation of (his) life in view.

At the evening libation Death sat in the Pavamâna Stotra lurking for Agni. By commencing the Vais'-vadeva Shastra with Anushtubh, Agni overcame Death. Death repaired to the *Yajñâ yajñîya Sâman*.¹¹ By commencing the Agni-Mâruta Shastra with a hymn addressed to Vais'vânara, he overcame Death. For the hymn addressed to Vais'vânara is a weapon; the Yajna yajñîya Sâman is the place. By repeating the Vais'vânara hymn he thus turns Death out of his place.

Having escaped all the meshes of Death, and his clubs, Agni came off in safety. The Hotar who has such a knowledge comes off in safety, preserving his life to its full extent, and attains to his full age (of a hundred years).

15.

(*Marutvatiya Shastra. Indra conceals himself. How he was found.*)

Indra after having killed Vṛitra, thought, I might perhaps not have subdued him (apprehending his revival), and went to very distant regions. He (ultimately) arrived at the most distant place. This place is Anushtubh, and Anushtubh is Speech. He having entered Speech, lay down in her. All beings scattering themselves here and there went in search of him. The *Pitaras* (manes) found him one day earlier than the gods. This is the reason that ceremonies are performed in honour of the Pitaras previous to the day on which they sacrifice for the gods.¹² They (the gods) said, "Let us squeeze the

¹¹ यज्ञा यज्ञा वो अग्रये Sâmaveda Sañh. 2, 53-54.

¹² The Pitaras are worshipped on the Amavâsyâ day (New Moon), and the Dars'apûrnima ishti takes place on the *pratipad* (first day after the New Moon).—Sây.