

12.

(*The Chaturviṃś'a⁹ day of the sacrificial session, called Gavâm Ayanam.*)

On this day¹⁰ (which follows the Atirâtra ceremony) they celebrate the Chaturviṃś'a (Stoma). It is the beginning day (of the year during which the sacrificial session is to last). For by this day they begin the year, and also the Stomas and metres, and (the worship of) the deities. If they do not commence (the Sattrâ) on this day, the metres have no (proper) beginning and the (worship of the) deities is not commenced. Thence this day is called ârambha-nîya, i. e. the beginning day. On account of the Chaturviṃś'a (twenty-four-fold) Stoma being used on it, it is (also) called Chaturviṃ'sa. There are twenty-four half months. (By beginning the Sattrâ with the Chaturviṃ'sa Stoma, i. e. the chant, consisting

⁹ This is the name of a day, and a Stoma, required at the Sattrâ or sacrificial session, called the *gavâm ayanam* (see more about it, 4, 17). It lasts for a whole year of 360 days, and consists of the following parts: 1) The Atirâtra at the beginning. 2) The Chaturviṃś'a or beginning day; it is called in the Aitareya Br. *ârambha-nîya*, in the Tândya Br. (4, 2,) *prâyanîya*. 3) The periods of six days' performance (*Shalâha*) continued during five months so that always the four first *Shalâhas* are *Abhiplavas*, and the fifth a *Prishṭhya* (see on these terms 4, 15-17). 4) In the sixth month there are three *Abhiplava Shalâhas*, and one *Prishṭhya Shalâha*. 5) The *Abhijit* day. 6) The three *Svarasâman* days. 7) The *Vishuvan* or central day which stands quite apart. 8) The three *Svarasâman* days again. 9) The *Vis'vajit* day. 10) A *Prishṭhya Shalâha*, and three *Abhiplava Shalâhas*. 11) One *Prishṭhya Shalâha* at the beginning, and four *Abhiplavas* during four months continuously. 12) In the last month (the twelfth of the Sattrâ) there are three *Abhiplavas*, one *Gostoma*, one *Ayushtoma*, and one *Das'arâtra* (the ten days of the *Dvâdas'âha*). 13) The *Mahâvrata* day, which properly concludes the performance; it corresponds to the Chaturviṃś'a at the beginning. 14) The concluding Atirâtra. See As'v. S'r. S. 11, 7.

¹⁰ *Ahaḥ* has according to Sây. the technical meaning of the Soma ceremony, which is performed on every particular day of a sacrificial session.