

them the curse, "you shall have the lowest castes for your descendants." Therefore are many of the most degraded classes of men, the rabble for the most part, such as the *Andhras*, *Pundras*, *S'abaras*, *Palindas*, and *Mûtibas*, descendants of Vis'vâmitra. But Madhuchhandâs with the fifty younger sons, said, "What our father approves of, by that we abide; we all accord to thee (S'unahs'épa) the first rank, and we will come after thee!" Vis'vâmitra, delighted (at this answer) then praised these sons with the following verses :

"Ye my sons will have abundance of cattle and children, for you have made me rich in children by consenting to my wish."

"Ye sons of Gâthi, blessed with children, you all will be successful when headed by Devarâta; he will (always) lead you on the path of truth."

"This Devarâta, is your master (man); follow him, ye Kus'ikas! He will exercise the paternal rights over you as his heritage from me, and take possession of the sacred knowledge that we have."

"All the true sons of Vis'vâmitra, the grandsons of Gâthi, who forthwith stood with Devarâta, were blessed with wealth for their own welfare and renown."

"Devarâta is called the Rishi who entered on two heritages, the royal dignity of Jahnû's house, and the divine knowledge of Gâthi's stem."¹³

This is the story of S'unahs'épa contained in the stanzas which are beyond the number of the hundred Rik verses ¹⁴ (recited along with them). The Hotar

¹³ Jahnû is the ancestor of Ajigarta, and Gâthi the father of Vis'vâmitra.

¹⁴ Sây. says that ninety-seven out of them had been seen by S'unahs'épa, and three by another Rishi. The term *pararik-s'ata gâtham âkhyânânam* means, the "story which contains besides one hundred Rik verses Gâthâs (stanzas) also." The number of the latter is thirty-one.