

must choose none. But the following is his own portion, which he is to enjoy. He must squeeze the airy descending roots of the *Nyagrodha* tree, together with the fruits of the *Udumbara*, *A'svattha*, and *Plaksha* trees, and drink the juice of them. This is his own portion.

(For the origin of the *Nyagrodha* tree is as follows) : When the gods after the (successful) performance of their sacrifice, went up to heaven, they tilted over (*ny-ubjan*) the Soma cups, whence the *Nyagrodha* trees grew up. And by the name of *Nyubja*, i. e. tilted over, they are now called in Kurukshetra, where they grew first; from them all the others originated. They grew descending the roots (*nyañcho rohanti*). Therefore what grows downwards, is a downward growth (*nyagroha*); and for this name, signifying "downward growth," they called the tree "*Nyagrodha*."⁸ It is called by the name *Nyagrodha*, whose meaning is hidden (to men), and not by the more intelligible name *Nyagroha*, for the gods like to conceal the very names of objects from men, and call them by names unintelligible to them.

31.

(*On the meaning of the King's drinking the juice of the Nyagrodha tree instead of Soma.*)

That portion of the juice in these Soma cups which went downwards became the descending roots, and of the other which went up, the fruits were produced. That Kshatriya, therefore, who enjoys (the juice of) the descending roots of the *Nyagrodha* tree, and that of its fruits, is not debarred from his own share (*bhaksha*). Further, he thus obtains the Soma beverage by means of a substitute, though he does not enjoy

⁸ The word is traced to the root *ruh* to grow, the older form of which is *rudh*; compare *avoradha* "the descending roots."