

7.

(The marriage of Prajâpati's daughter Sûrya. The As'vina Shastra was the bridal gift. In what way the Hotar has to repeat it. Its beginning verse.)

Prajâpati gave his daughter Sûrya Sâvitri² in

The first verse of the Shastra is mentioned in the text. It is to be repeated thrice, and to be joined, without stopping, to the first verse of the Gâyatrî part of the *Agneya kratu* (एतयाग्नेयं गायत्रमुप-संतनुयात्. As'v. S'r. S. 6, 5). After the opening verse which stands by itself altogether, just as the opening verse in the Prâtaranuvâka, the three *kratus* or liturgies of the Prâtaranuvâka (*âgneya*, *ushasya*, and *as'vina*) are repeated. These form the body of the As'vin Shastra. Each *kratu* is preceded by the Stotriya Pragâtha, i. e. that couple of verses of the Sandhi Stotra (see page 266) which refers to that deity, to which the respective *kratu* is devoted. So the *âgneya kratu*, i. e. the series of hymns and verses, addressed to Agni, in seven different kinds of metre, is preceded by the first couple of verses of the Sandhi Stotra, which are, *enâ vo agnim namasâ* (Sâm. Sâmh. 2, 99-100); the *ushasya kratu* is preceded by *praty u adars'y âyati* (Sâm. Sâmh. 2, 101, 102), the deity being Ushâs, and the *as'vina-kratu* by *ima u vâm divishtaya* (Sâm. Sâmh. 2, 103-104) being addressed to the two As'vins. Each couple of these verses is to be made a triplet, by repeating the last pada several times, just as the Sâma singers do. (बार्हतास्त्रयस्तृचाः । स्तोत्रियाः प्रगाथा वा

तान्पुरस्तादनुदैवतं स्वस्य वन्दसे यथा स्तुतं शंसेत् As'v. 6, 5).

The Hotar must repeat less than a thousand verses before sunrise (सहस्रावसमेदैतेः) After sunrise he repeats the verses addressed to Sûrya, which all are mentioned in the Aitareya Brâhmaṇam, as well as all other remaining verses of the As'vina Shastra. The whole order of the several parts of this Shastra is more clearly stated in the Kaushîtaki Brâhm. (18, 2), than in the Aitareya. The verses addressed to Indra follow after the Sûrya verses (4, 10). At the end of the Shastra there are two Puronuvâkyâs and two Yâjyâs, for there are two As'vins.

The As'vina Shastra is, as one may see from its constituent parts, a Prâtaranuvâka, or early morning prayer, including the worship of the rising sun, and a Shastra accompanying a Soma libation. It follows the Sandhi Stotra at the end of the Atirâtra, and is regarded as the Shastra belonging to this Stotra. To the fact of its containing far more verses than the Sandhi Stotra, the term *ati-sâmsati*, i. e. "he repeats more verses" (used in 4, 6) refers.

² This is the model marriage. It is described in the well-known marriage hymn *satyenottabhîta* (10, 85).