

that he struck him dead on the spot. Such an atrocious Brahminicide filled the murderer himself with remorse. "Fie on anger, said he, fie on wine!" He accordingly undertook a pilgrimage to the Pratilomá Saraswatí with a view to expiate his guilt.

The fourth question gave the birds an opportunity of recounting the story of Harischandra, a king of the Solar race, who had been put to great trouble by the Rishi Viswámitra. The Viswe-devás, five in number, indignant at the hardships inflicted on the good king, heaped reproaches on the proud priest who had caused such sufferings. Brahmins are never forbearing when harshly spoken to. Viswámitra punished the insolence of the five gods by pronouncing a malediction to the effect that they should have to endure the disgrace of *human* existence on the earth. A Brahmin's malediction strikes terror even into gods. The Viswe-devas, accordingly, humbled by such a tremendous curse, entreated the Rishi to withdraw the anathema. But this was simply impossible, for a word, once uttered by a Brahmin, must have its fulfilment. Viswámitra so far consoled the terrified gods as to promise that, though condemned to live as men, they would be freed from the defilement of human matrimony. When therefore they were subsequently born of Draupadí, they were suffered to fall in infancy as victims to an assassin's barbarity. Thus were the problems solved which had distracted the mind of Jaimini. But he now propounded fresh questions, relating to the conception, preservation, and growth of animal life in the mother's womb—and to the separation of body and soul at death. The experience of good and evil as the fruits of actions was also referred to, but it was mixed up with the physical