CHAPTER FOUR

1. We have arrived from all around at this place of the earth where sacrifices for the bounties of Nature are performed and where all the enlightened ones delight. Crossing over with the help of the hymns of knowledge (*Ṛks*), devotional songs *(Sāmans)* and sacred actions *(Yajus)* may we be pleased with food and abundant riches, and rejoice.(1)

May these divine waters be well for me.(2)

O medicinal herb, save him.(3)

O knife (of the surgeon) may you not injure him.(4)

2. May waters, the mothers of all, cleanse us.

May the purifiers of butter purify us with melted butter. These divine waters carry off all the dirt of sins. Purified with these all around, I rise up clean and pure.(1)

O Lord, you are the embodiment of consecration and penance. You the gracious and pleasing, I adopt and put on a nice appearance.(2)

3. O waters, you are the milk of the earth, bestower of lustre; bestow lustre on me.(1)

You are the pupil of the cloud's eye, bestower of good vision; bestow vision on me.(2)

4. May the Lord of mind purify me.(1)
May the Lord of speech purify me.(2)
May the Creator God purify me with holeless strainer of sun's rays. O Lord of purification, purified with purity itself, may I be able to achieve my heart's desire with which I purify myself.(3)

5. O bounties of Nature, with this sacrifice, as it proceeds, we beg you for all round wealth. We invoke you, O bounties of Nature, for your blessings, the fruits of the sacrifice.(1)

6. To the sacrifice, I dedicate with mind.(1)
I dedicate with the grace of the vast mid-space.(2)
I dedicate with the grace of the heaven and earth.(3)
I began this sacrifice with the grace of the wind. *Svāhā*.(4)

7. For having firm determination I dedicate to the fire of activity.(1)
For having wisdom I dedicate to the fire of mental power.(2)
For having consecration I dedicate to the fire of austerity.(3)
For having speech I dedicate to the nourishing fire.(4)
O divine, vast waters, beneficial to all, O heaven and earth, and extensive midspace, we offer our oblations to the Lord Supreme. *Svāhā*.(5)

8. Let all the mortals desire the company of the creator Lord, our leader. All the people beg Him for riches. May you also approach the glorious Lord for nourishment.(1)

9. You two are the arts and crafts of the *Ṛks* and the *Sāmans*. I begin with both of them May both of them protect me till the last hymn of this sacrifice.(1)
You are the shelter, give me shelter. My reverence to you. May you not injure me.(2)

10. You, soft as wool, are the vigour of the austere. Bestow vigour on me.(1)

You are the girdle of the blissful Lord.(2)

You are the shelter of the sacrifice. Give shelter to the sacrificer.(3)

You are the origin of rain.(4)

Make our agriculture yielding abundant grains.(5)

Grow up, O plant, and spread. Protect me from evil till the last hymn of this sacrifice.(6)

11. Take the sacred vow. The fire is the supreme Divine; the fire is the sacrifice; the sacrificial plant is the sacrifice.(1)

We beg for the divine intellect, bestower of happiness, bestower of lustre, accomplisher of sacrifice, so that our sacrifice may be accomplished. May that intellect, an easy aid to take us across, be in our control.(2)

May the divine faculties, born of mind, endowed with mind, and determined expert workers, guard us; may they protect us. Dedications to them.(3)

12. O waters, having been drunk, become pleasing and refreshing in our belly. May those divine waters, free from diseases and germs, and free from dirt, be of pleasant taste, bestowers of immortality and promoters of law.(1)

13. This is your sacrificial embodiment.(1)

I release the water, but not the offspring. O freers from sin, consecrated by oblations, enter the earth.(2)

Be united with the earth.(3)

14. O adorable Lord, keep well awake so that we may have a pleasant sleep. Guard us without negligence. Prepare us for waking up again.(1)

15. Again the mind has come back to me and again the life. Again the breath and again the soul has come back to me. Again the vision and again the hearing has come back to me. May the adorable Lord, kind to all men, always uninjured, protector of bodies, protect us from dishonourable evils.(1)

16. O foremost adorable God, you are the protector Lord of sacred vows of mortals as well as of the enlightened ones. You are to be adored at sacrifices.(1)

O blissful Lord, give us this much wealth. Give us still more. The Creator Lord, bestower of riches, has already given abundant wealth to us.(2)

17. O brilliant one, this is your embodiment. This is your lustre. Combine with it and glow with splendour.(1)

You are the life upheld by mind and agreeable to sacrifice.(2)

18. By impulsion of yours, whose impulses are always real, may I gain the sturdiness of body. You are brilliant; you are blissful; you are immortal, and agreeable to all the bounties of Nature you are.(1)

19. You are the apprehending faculty; you are the mind, you are the intellect; you are the skill incarnate; you are protector from injuries; you are deserving sacrifice; you are the eternity with heads on both the sides. Be pleasing to us while coming forward as well as on the return. May the friendly Lord detain you by holding your foot and may the nourisher Lord guard your pathway to the resplendent Lord, the Overseer.(1)

20. May the mother allow you; may the father, may the brother born of the same mother, and may the friend of the same clan allow you. O illuminating intellect, go to the Lord and fetch bliss for the aspirant. May the dreadful Lord enable you to return safely. Come back along with bliss.(1)

21. (O illuminating intellect), you are the wealth incarnate. You are the eternity. You are the child of eternity as well. You are dreadful; you are bestower of bliss. May the Lord Supreme keep you in comfort and may the dreadful Lord of creatures make you glitter with riches.(1)

22. In the sacrifice for the bounties of Nature, I pour you on the head of the earth. On the earth you are the seat of intellect, rich with melted butter. *Svāhā.*(1)

Play with us.(2)

We are your brethren.(3)

Your riches(4) (are) my riches.(5)

May we never be deprived of riches and nourishment.(6)

Yours be the riches.(7)

23. O illuminating intellect, I have seen you with the divine thought and extensive vision. May you not steal my life, nor shall I yours. May I get a hero-son by your divine grace.(1)

24. May he tell me: "this is your share of bliss pertaining to the *gāyatrī* metre". May he tell me: "this is your share of bliss pertaining to the *triṣṭubh* metre". May he tell me: "this is your share of bliss pertaining to the *jagatī* metre." May he tell me: "you gain the kinship over other metres also". Now O bliss, you are ours. Brightening is your intake. Let the experts pick you out.(1)

25. I worship that God who is the creator of heaven and earth, who is far-sighted in actions, who is of true impulsion, bestower of jewels, who is lovable in all respects, who is wise and sees the past and future as well as the present; whose form and brilliance glow high above in heaven. That golden-handed Lord has measured the space with skilful imagination.(1)

You for living creatures.(2)

May the creatures live following you. May you inspire the creatures to follow you.(3)

26. I purchase you O pure, with pure. I purchase you O blissful, with bliss. I purchase you, O immortal, with immortal.(1)

May the sacrificer have your cow and may we have your gold pieces.(2)

You are the embodiment of austerity and the form of the Lord of creatures. You are purchased with the sublimest of all the creatures. May I flourish with thousandfold nourishment.(3)

27. O helper of good friends, being a friend come to us. May you be seated on the right lap of the resplendent Lord.(1)

Pleasing on pleasing, and comfortable on comfortable.(2)

Teacher, illuminator, enemy of the sin, nourisher of the world, always joyful, skilled in handicrafts, and helper of the weak—these are the prices of your bliss. Keep these secure. May no one divest you of these.(3)

28. O adorable Lord, restrain me firmly from evil conduct. Keep me on the righteous path.(1)

May I rise up to the immortals, leading a long and virtuous life.(2)

29. May we follow the path that leads to real bliss and where there is no crime; treading on which one is far from all animosity and achieves the wealth supreme.(1)

30. You are the skin of the earth.(1)

Be seated in the lap of the earth.(2)

The powerful Lord keeps the sky and the interspace steady in their places. He has measured the expanse of the earth. He, the sovereign, has pervaded all the worlds. All these are the ordinances of the venerable Lord.(3)

31. That venerable Lord has spread the interspace above the forests. He has put speed in steeds, milk in cows, determination in hearts, the fire in homes, the sun in the sky and medicinal herbs on the mountains.(1)

32. Ascend up to the eye of the sun. Reach the pupil of the fire's eye. By the wise you are discerned there glowing with swift coursers.(1)

33. Come on you two illuminators, capable of undertaking the responsibilities, injuring no man, and inspiring the supreme spirit; get yourselves engaged with joy. Take us to the home of the sacrificer safe and secure.(1)

34. You are gracious to me, O lord of the land. Now depart towards all your places. May not the thieves know about you; may not the highwaymen know about you; may not the sinful wolves know about you. Fly becoming a hawk and reach the home of the sacrificer. That is the goal of both of us.(1)

35. Our reverence to the eye of the friend, the Almighty. Worship truly that great Lord. Offer your praises to the sun, who sees far, who is an ensign born of stars, the son of the heaven.(1)

36. O sun, you are a prop for the venerable Lord to rest upon.(1)

You are the strengthening buffets of the pillar of the venerable Lord.(2)

You are the truthful seat of the venerable Lord.(3)

You are the seat of the truth of the venerable Lord.(4)

Sit on the seat of the truth of the venerable Lord.(5)

37. O blissful Lord, may all your glories, which the sacrificers worship with oblations, attend this sacrifice from all sides. O enricher of homes, overcomer of calamities, come to our houses along with your brave followers, never killing the brave.(1)