

SIXTH KÂNDĀ.

THE AGNIKĀYANA, OR BUILDING OF THE FIRE-ALTAR.

CREATION OF THE UNIVERSE.

FIRST ADHYĀYA. FIRST BRĀHMANA.

1. Verily, in the beginning there was here the non-existent¹. As to this they say, 'What was that non-existent?' The *Rishis*, assuredly,—it is they that were the non-existent². As to this they say, 'Who were those *Rishis*?' The *Rishis*, doubtless, were the vital airs: inasmuch as before (the existence of) this universe, they, desiring it, wore themselves out (*rish*) with toil and austerity, therefore (they are called) *Rishis*.