

stones), and then, at the third libation, broke up the cavern by means of the Vâlakhilya verses, with the Ekapadâ as *Vâchah kûta*, which served as a weapon and drove the cows out. In this way the sacrificers bore the cavern at the morning libation by means of the Nabhâka, and make, by boring, its structure loose. Hence the Hotri-priests repeat at the morning libation the Nabhâka triplet. The Maitrâvaruna repeats, *yah kakubho nidhâraya* (8, 41, 4-6); the Brâhmanâchhamâsi, *pûrvish ta indra* (8, 40, 9-11); the Achhâvâka, *tâ himadhyam bharânâm* (8, 40, 3-5).

At the third libation they break up the cavern with the Vâlakhilya verses, and the one-footed *Vâchah kûta* which serve as a weapon, and obtain the cows. There are six Vâlakhilya hymns. He repeats them in three turns; for the first time he repeats them foot by foot, dissecting the verse by insertion; for the second time half verse by half verse; and for the third time verse by verse. When he repeats them foot by foot, dissecting the verse by insertion, then he ought to put in every Pragâtha verse (of which each hymn is composed) one additional foot (*ekapadâ*), which is the *Vâchah kûtah*, i. e. the point of the Vâch. There are five such Ekapadâs, four of them being taken from the tenth day and one from the Mahâvrata sacrifice.

He ought (if the two verses joined should fall short of a proper Pragâtha by eight syllables) to supply the eight syllables from the Mahânâmnîs<sup>16</sup> as often as they might be wanting; for the other pâdas (of the Mahânâmnîs which he does not require for filling up the deficiency in the Pragâtha) he ought not to care.

When reciting the Vâlakhilyas half verse by half verse, he ought to repeat those Ekapadâs; and the

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<sup>16</sup> See page 231.