

In imitation of this feat achieved by the gods, the Serpents destroyed all consequences of their own guilt. Having in this state (being quite free from guilt and sin) left off the old skin torn, they obtain a new one. Who knows this destroys the consequences of his own guilt.

## 2.

*(How many verses are to be repeated over the Grâvanas. How they ought to be repeated. They are required only at the midday libation. No order for repeating them necessary.)*

They say, With how many mantras should he (the Grâvastut) pray over the Soma squeezing stones? The answer is, with a hundred; for the life of a man is a hundred years, he has a hundred powers, and a hundred bodily organs; by doing so, he makes man participate in age, strength, and bodily organs. (Others) say, He ought to repeat thirty-three verses, for he (the Serpent Rishi) destroyed the sins of thirty-three gods, for there are thirty-three gods. (Others) say, He ought to recite an unlimited number of such mantras. For Prajâpati is unlimited; and this recital of the mantras referring to the Soma squeezing stones belongs to Prajâpati, and in it all desires are comprised. Who does so, obtains all he desires. Thence he ought to repeat an unlimited number of such mantras.

Now they ask, In what way should he repeat these mantras (over the Soma squeezing stones)? Syllable by syllable, or should he take four syllables together, or pâda by pâda, or half verse by half verse, or verse by verse? With whole verses (repeated without stopping) one does not perform any ceremony, nor with stopping at every pâda. If the verses are repeated with stopping at every syllable, or every four syllables, then the metres become mutilated, for