

by the knowers of stories *sauparnam* (i. e. this very story is called so). The metres went to fetch the king Soma. They consisted (at that time) of four syllables only; for (at that time) there were only such metres as consisted of four syllables. The Jagatî with her four syllables, flew first up. In flying up she became tired, after having completed only half the way. She lost three syllables, and being reduced to one syllable, she took (from heaven) with her (only) the *Dîkshâ* and *Tapas*,¹ and flew back (to the earth). He who has cattle is possessed of *Dîkshâ* and possessed of *Tapas*. For cattle belong to Jagatî. Jagatî took them.

Then the *Trishtubh* flew up. After having completed more than half the way, she became fatigued, and throwing off one syllable, became reduced to three syllables, and taking (with her) the *Dakshinâ*, flew back (to the earth). Thence the *Dakshinâ* gifts (sacrificial rewards) are carried away (by the priests) at the midday libation (which is) the place of the *Trishtubh*; for *Trishtubh* alone had taken them² (the *Dakshinâ* gifts).

26.

(*Gâyatrî* successful; wounded when robbing the Soma.
What became of her nail cut off, &c.)

The gods said to the *Gâyatrî*, "fetch thou the king Soma." She consented, but said, "during the whole of my journey (up to the celestial world) you must repeat the formula for wishing a safe passage for me." The gods consented. She flew up. The gods

¹ These gifts are to be bestowed upon the sacrificer at the *Dikshinîyâ ishti*. See 1, 1-5.

² The words त्रिष्टुब्भिता are to be parsed as follows: त्रिष्टुम् । त्रि । त्ता ।