

is boundless. To Prajâpati belongs the recitation which makes up the Prâtar-anuvâka. Therein are all desires contained. When he repeats an unlimited number (it is done) to obtain fulfilment of all desires. He who has such a knowledge obtains fulfilment of all wishes.

Thence one should repeat an unlimited¹⁸ number (of verses). He repeats verses of seven (kinds of) metres for Agni; for there are seven worlds of the gods. He who has such a knowledge becomes successful in all of them. He repeats verses of seven (kinds of metres) for Ushas; for there are seven (kinds of) cattle¹⁹ in villages. He who has such a knowledge, obtains these seven (kinds of) cattle in the villages.

He repeats seven (kinds of verses) for the As'vins; for speech spoke in seven (different tones). In as many tones (*i. e.* seven) then spoke Speech (in all made men). (These seven tones are made) for comprising the whole speech (the worldly talk and singing), the whole Brahma. He repeats verses for three deities; for three worlds are three-fold. (This repetition therefore serves) for conquering (all) these worlds of the gods.

18.

They ask: how should the Prâtar-anuvâka be repeated? It is to be repeated²⁰ according to the metres (verses of the same metre to be put together). The metres are the limbs of Prajâpati. He who brings the sacrifice is Prajâpati. For the benefit of the sacrificer the several verses of the Prâtar-anuvâka are to be recited pada (foot) by pada.²¹ For cattle

¹⁸ As many as a Hotar can repeat from after midnight to sunrise.

¹⁹ Such as goats, sheep, cows, horses, asses, camels, &c. As the seventh kind, Apastamba counts man.

²⁰ That is to say: he should take together all the verses in the Gâyatri, or in the Trishtubh or other metres, without mixing them.

²¹ There are in most cases four.