

Here they say: if there be eleven potsherds on which portions of the rice-cake are put, and (only) two deities, Agni and Vishnu, what arrangement is there for the two, or what division?

(The answer is) The rice-cake portions on eight potsherds belong to Agni; for the *Gâyatrî* verse consists of eight syllables, and the *Gâyatrî* is Agni's metre. The rice-cake portions on the three potsherds belong to Vishnu; for Vishnu (the sun) strode thrice through the universe.⁸ This the arrangement (to be made) for them; this the division.

He who might think himself to have no position (not to be highly respected by others) should portion out (for being offered) *Charu*⁹ over which clarified

In this passage the meaning "to worship," as given by Sâyana, is too vague, and appears not quite appropriate to the sense. On account of its governing the accusative, we must take it here in the sense of a transitive verb, although it is generally an intransitive one. The meaning which lies nearest, is, "to make prosperous." At the first glance it might appear somewhat curious, how men should make the gods prosperous by sacrificial offerings. But if one takes into consideration, that the Vedas, and particularly the sacrificial rites inculcated in them, presuppose a mutual relationship between men and gods, one depending on the support of the other, the expression will no longer be found strange. Men must present offerings to the gods to increase the power and strength of their divine protectors. They must, for instance, inebriate Indra with Soma, that he might gather strength for conquering the demons. The meaning "to satisfy, to please," which is given to the word "*ridhnuvanti*" of the passage in question in Böhtlingk's and Roth's Dictionary, is a mere guess, and wholly untenable, being supported by no Brahmanic authority.

⁸ This refers to the verse in the Rigveda Sâmhita 1, 22, 17, 18: *idam Vishnur vichakrame tredhâ nidadhe padam*, i.e. Vishnu strode through the universe; he put down thrice his foot; and *trîni padâ vichakrame*, he strode three steps. These three steps of Vishnu, who represents the sun, are: sunrise, zenith, and sunset.

⁹ *Charu* is boiled rice. It can be mixed with milk and butter; but it is no essential part. It is synonymous with *odanam*, the common term for "boiled rice." S'atap. Brah. 4, 42, 1. There were different varieties of this dish; some being prepared with the addition of barley, or some other grains. See Taittirya Sâmh. 1, 8, 10, 1.