

27.

(Origin of the three libations. They all are of equal strength.)

What Gâyatrî had seized with her right foot, that became the morning libation; she made it her own place. Thence they think the morning libation to be the most auspicious (of all). He who has such a knowledge becomes the first and most prominent (among his people) and attains to the leadership.

What she had seized with her left foot, became the midday libation. This (portion) slipped down, and after having slipped down, did not attain to the same (strength) as the first libation (held with the right foot). The gods got aware of it, and wished (that this portion should not be lost). They put (therefore) in it, of the metres, the Trishtubh, and of the deities, Indra. Therefore it (the midday libation) became endowed with the same strength as the first libation. He who has such a knowledge prospers through both the libations which are of equal strength, and of the same quality.

What Gâyatrî had seized with her bill, became the evening libation. When flying down, she sucked in the juice of this (portion of Soma, held in her bill), and after its juice had gone, it did not equal (in strength) the two first libations. The gods got aware of that and wished (that the juice of this portion should be kept). They discovered it (the remedy) in cattle. That is the reason that the priests pour sour milk (in the Soma at the evening libation), and bring oblations of melted butter and of flesh (things coming from the cattle). In this way the evening libation obtained equal strength with the two first libations.

He who has such a knowledge prospers through all the libations which are of equal strength and of the same quality.