

tioned out for holding together the libations, the libations offered by the sacrificers are then (really) held together. The gods made these rice cakes *before* (the Soma offering). Thence it is called *purodâs'a* (from *puro* before).

About this they say: for each libation one ought to portion out rice cakes, one of eight potsherds (a ball put on eight kapâlas) at the morning, one of eleven potsherds at the midday, and one of twelve at the evening libation. For the form of the libations is defined<sup>17</sup> by the metres. But this (opinion) is not to be attended to. For all the rice cakes, which are portioned out for each libation, are Indra's. Thence they ought to be put (at all three libations) on eleven potsherds only.<sup>18</sup>

About this they say: one ought to eat of such a portion of a rice cake which is not besmeared with melted butter in order to protect the Soma draught. For Indra slew with melted butter as his thunderbolt Vṛitra. But this (opinion) is not to be attended to.<sup>19</sup> For the offering (besmeared with butter) is a liquid sprinkled (into the fire), and the Soma draught is such a liquid sprinkled (into the fire). (Both—Ghee and Soma—being thus of the same nature) the sacrificer

<sup>17</sup> That is to say, at the morning libation *Gâyatrî*, each pada of which consists of eight syllables, is the leading metre, whilst at the midday libation *Trishṭubh* (with four padas, each of eleven syllables), and at the evening libation *Jagatî* (with four padas, each of twelve syllables) are the leading metres. Therefore some sacrificial priests were of opinion, that in accordance with the number of syllables of the leading metre of each libation, the number of kapâlas (potsherds) should be eight at the morning, eleven at the midday, and twelve at the evening libation.

<sup>18</sup> The reason is that Indra's metre, *Trishṭubh*, consists of eleven syllables.

<sup>19</sup> The Soma is not to be brought into contact with anything that is supposed to have been an instrument of murder, as in this case the melted butter was.