\*What will be the values of $a and $b after the code below is executed? Explain your answer. $a = '1'; $b = &$a; $b = "2$b"; in PHP.

Answer-In PHP, when assigning a variable using the reference operator **&**, it creates a reference or an alias to the original variable. Any changes made to the original variable or the reference variable will affect both variables.

Let's ANALYZE the code step by step:

1. **$a = '1'**: Here, the variable **$a** is assigned the value **'1'**.
2. **$b = &$a**: This line creates a reference to **$a**, so **$b** now refers to the same memory location as **$a**. They are essentially two names for the same variable.
3. **$b = "2$b"**: In this line, a string concatenation is performed. The value of **$b** is initially **'1'** (due to the reference to **$a**). The concatenation appends **'2'** to the beginning of **$b**. Therefore, the resulting value of **$b** is **'21'**.