

Magadha; up to the present day it is a common practice in India, for Brahmans to be distinguished by the name of the country whence they themselves or their forefathers have come; so that, in Benares for instance, there are Kányakubja Brahmans, Mahratta Brahmans, Drávida Brahmans, &c., many of whom have never seen the country of their forefathers. As Utpala repeats his statement, I think it improbable that the words Magadha Brahman are an error of the MSS. for Maga Brahman, the name given to the sun-worshippers, although this would not unnaturally suggest itself at first sight.

No information is to be found in the works of our author which have come to us, about the year of his birth, nor could we expect to find it but in his astronomical treatise *Pancasiddhántiká*, which unhappily seems to be lost beyond hope of recovery. There is every reason to believe that we should find the author's date in that treatise, because it is the all but universal practice of the *scientific* Hindu astronomers to give their own date. In one way or another the Hindu astronomers at Ujjayani must have had means to know the date of Varáha-mihira, for in a list furnished by them to Dr. Hunter and published by Colebrooke,* the date assigned to him is the year 427 of the S'áka-era, corresponding to 505 A. D.

It is not added to what period of his life this date refers. The trustworthiness of the Ujjayaní list is not only exemplified by the fact that others of its dates admit of verification, but also in a striking manner by the information we get from Albírúní. This Arabian astronomer gives precisely the same date† as Dr. Hunter's list eight centuries afterwards, from which it is evident that the records of the Hindu astronomers have remained unchanged during the lapse of more centuries than there had elapsed from Varáha-mihira till Albírúní. The latter adds, what is not stated distinctly in the Ujjayaní list, that 505 A. D. refers to the author's *Pancasiddhántiká*. This state-

* Algebra, p. XXXIII.

* Reinaud, *Mémoire sur l' Inde*, p. 336.