

'terrible hour' 8. 68. 35); (2) Mythological : During his conversation with Devasenā, Indra observed that the Raudra *muhūrta* had commenced on a new-moon day (*amāvāsyāṁ sampravṛttaṁ muhūrtaṁ raudram eva ca*) 3. 213. 27; (*dharmagataṁ raudram?* 3. 213. 30).

Vasiṣṭha m. : Name of one of the seven stars of the constellation Ursa Major.

Among the bad omens noticed by Vyāsa before the war there was one according to which the star Arundhati shone more brightly than the star Vasiṣṭha (*arundhatī tayāpy eṣa vasiṣṭhaḥ prsthataḥ kṛtaḥ*) 6. 2. 31 (see Editor's note on the stanza, Cr. Ed. Vol. 7, p. 757). [For Vasiṣṭha, also see Section 1. 7]

Vahnidaivata nt. : Name of the *nakṣatra* Kṛttikā (whose regent is god fire).

Events : (1) Epic : Kṛṣṇā (Draupadī) bore a son Śrutaseṇa by Sahadeva under the constellation Vahnidaivata (*nakṣatre vahnidaivate*) 1. 213. 78; (2) Mythological : When the Kṛttikās went to the heaven to fill in the gap caused by the dropping down of Abhijit, they began to shine there as the Vahnidaivata *nakṣatra* having the shape of a cart (*tridivāṁ kṛttikā gatāḥ / nakṣatraṁ śakata-kāraṁ bhāti tad vahnidaivatam*) 3. 219. 11. [See Āgneya, Kṛttikā]

Vāruṇa nt. : Name of the *nakṣatra* Śatabhiṣaj (sacred to Varuṇa).

Yama told Śaśabindu (13. 89. 1) that by offering a *kāmya śrāddha* under the *nakṣatra* Vāruṇa a physician became successful (*nakṣatre vāruṇe kurvan bhiṣak siddhim avāpnuyāt*) 13. 89. 12 (Nī. on Bom. Ed. *vāruṇe śatabhiṣaji*; unknown commentator :

*śatabhiṣāyām*, see Ed.'s note on the stanza, Vol. 17, p. 1090). [See Śatabhiṣaj]

Viśākhā f. (sg., du., pl.) : Name of a *nakṣatra*.

A. Religious rites : (1) *dāna* : Nārada told Devakī (13. 63. 2-4) that if one gave to Brāhmaṇas under the constellation Viśākhā a bull, a milch cow, a cart supplied with an iron yoke (? or a four-cornered covering?) and filled with grain and clothes, he satisfied the manes and the gods and enjoyed infinite bliss after death; he met with no adversities, went to heaven, obtained by giving this gift as prescribed the desired means of maintenance, and he certainly never experienced sufferings of the hell and similar places (*viśākhāyām anaḍvāhaṁ dhenum dattvā ca dugdhadām / saprāsaṅgaṁ ca śakataṁ sadhānyaṁ vastrasaṁyutam / ... dattvā yathoktaṁ viprebhyo vṛttim iṣṭāṁ ca vindati / narakādīṁś ca saṁkleśān nāpnotīti viniścayaḥ*) 13. 63. 19-21 (unknown commentator : *saprāsaṅgaṁ lohayugādi-yuktam ity arthaḥ*, see Editor's note on the stanza, Vol. 17, p. 1080; Nī., however, on Bom. Ed. 13. 64. 19: *prāsaṅgo dhānyādi-pidhānayogyāṁ caturasram*); (2) *śrāddha* : Nārada told Devakī (13. 89. 1) that one who desired to give an offering to the manes (*pitr-yam ihan*) under the Viśākhās (*viśākhāsu*) obtained many sons 13. 89. 8. B. Omens : Among the omens noticed by Vyāsa before the start of the war and reported to Dhṛtarāṣṭra there was one according to which the planets Bṛhaspati and Śanaīścara were stationed near the two Viśākhās (*viśākhāyoh*) and they stayed in that position for a year (for the citation and Nī.'s commentary see Bṛhaspati). C. Simile : (1) Karna's face, adorned with the *kuṇḍalas* on two sides