

the coral trees in general and hence those references do not belong here).

**Puṣpaka nt. :** Name of a *vimāna* (a vehicle moving in the air).

**A. Origin :** It was fashioned by Viśvakarman (*viśvakarmaṇā* / *viḥtam*) 3. 158. 35. **B. Description :** Moving in the air (*khecara*) 3. 275. 52; drawn by swans (*hamsayukta*) 9. 46. 27; moving at will (*kāmaga*) 3. 275. 52; heavenly (*divya*) 9. 46. 27; brilliant (*śrīmant*) 3. 158. 35; (*virājant*) 3. 275. 52; pleasant (*rucira*) 3. 221. 5; (*manorama*) 9. 46. 27; equipped with excellent beds and seats (*śayyāsana-vara*) 3. 158. 35; having variegated borders (*citraparyanta*) 3. 158. 35. **C. Epic event :** After Bhīma's fight with the Yakṣas, when the Pāṇḍavas came to meet Kubera, he was seated in the Puṣpaka 3. 158. 35. **D. Rāmāyaṇa events :** (1) When Rāvaṇa defeated Kubera and drove him out of Laṅkā, he deprived Kubera of his Puṣpaka Vimāna; Vaiśravaṇa, however, cursed Rāvaṇa that the Vimāna would never carry him; it would carry only him who would kill Rāvaṇa in a battle (*na tvām etad vahiṣyati / yas tu tvām samare hantā tam evaitad vahiṣyati*) 3. 259. 34-35; (2) Rāma, after making arrangements for the internal security of Laṅkā (*vīdhāya rakṣām laṅkāyām*) crossed the ocean riding the Puṣpaka 3. 275. 51-52; (3) Rāma reached Kiṣkindhā riding the Puṣpaka; on way he described to Sītā the forest from the Vimāna (*vaidehyā darśayan vanam*) 3. 275. 56; (4) When Rāma was anointed the king of Ayodhyā, he worshipped the Puṣpaka and returned it to Vaiśravaṇa (*puṣpakam ca vimānam tat pūjayitvā*) 3. 275. 68. **E. Mythological events :** (1) When Skanda was anointed the leader

of the army of the gods (*yadābhiṣkto ... senāpatyena pāvakiḥ*), Śiva started to meet him at Bhadravata; at that time Kubera, riding his Puṣpaka, was in front of Śiva 3. 221. 1, 5; (2) Kubera practised austerities near a *tīrtha*, which came to be known as Kauberatīrtha; as a result, Kubera received various boons and, as a gift, the Puṣpaka Vimāna as his vehicle (*vāhanam cāsyā tad dattam ... vimānam puṣpakam*) 9. 46. 27.

**Pratismṛti (f.) :** Name of a science.

**A. Description :** Called a science (*vidyā*), a perfection in bodily form (*siddhīm mūrtimatīm*) 3. 37. 27; a secret knowledge (*upaniṣad*) 3. 38. 9; (*brahman*) 3. 37. 36; 3. 38. 10; excellent *yogavidyā* (*yogavidyām anuttamām*) 3. 37. 34. **B. Its power :** When Arjuna would learn it, he would be able to propitiate Rudra, Mahendra, Varuṇa, Kubera and Dharmarāja (Yama) to obtain their weapons 3. 37. 27-28; when one knows that science, the whole world dawns on him (*jagat sarvaṁ prakāśate*) 3. 38. 9. **C. Epic event :** It was taught by Vyāsa to Yudhiṣṭhira when he was ready to receive it and was sanctified (*prapannāya śucaye*) 3. 37. 34-35, 27; Yudhiṣṭhira memorized it by reciting it from time to time (*manasā ... dhārayām āsa ... kāle kāle samabhyasan*) 3. 37. 36; he later taught it to Arjuna who was initiated by him (*dīkṣita*) to receive it 3. 38. 13-14; it was taught to him in a secluded and private place (*vivikte, rahasi*) 3. 38. 2-3, 9, 14; when endowed with Pratismṛti science, Arjuna was to practise austerities and wait for the proper time to receive the favour of the gods (*tena tvaṁ brahmaṇā tāta saṁyuktaḥ ... devatānām*