

the earth, was reported to Yudhiṣṭhira, he, noticing that the day was the twelfth of the (bright) fortnight of the month of Māgha and that the constellation (viz. Puṣya) was favourable, he asked Bhīma to make preparations for the horse sacrifice (*etasminn eva kāle tu dvādaśīm māghapākṣikīm / iṣṭam gṛhītvā nakṣatram*) 14. 86. 4 (N1. on Bom. Ed. 14. 85. 4 : *iṣṭam nakṣatram puṣyam*); (2) Non-Vedic : (a) *snāna* : Āṅgiras told Gautama that if one who had controlled his mind and had strictly observed the vows bathed at Prayāga in Māgha he was purified of the sins and went to heaven 13. 26. 36; (b) *dāna* : One who offered sesame to Brāhmaṇas in Māgha did not go to hell 13. 65. 7; (c) *upavāsa* : If one, who is devoted to father (*pitṛbhaktaḥ*), spends the month of Māgha taking food only once a day he becomes eminent in his illustrious family and among his kinsmen (*śrīmatkule jñātimadhye sa mahattvam prapadyate*) 13. 109. 20. D. Simile : Bhīṣma said that the arrows which pierced his vitals, as (the winter time *śaitirah kālāḥ* 6. 113. 7) in the month of Māgha pierced the vitals of cows, were those of Arjuna and not of Śikhaṇḍin (*kṛtanti mama gātrāṇi māghamāse gavām iva / arjunasya ime bāṇā neme bāṇāḥ śikhaṇḍi-
naḥ*) 6. 114. 60 (see the Editor's note on the stanza, Cr. Ed. Vol. 7, p. 795; for the reading *māghamā* (or *māgamā*) *segavām iva* and the commentators' explanations of it, see the Critical Apparatus on the stanza (p. 677), and for N1.'s expl. see Bom. Ed. 6. 119. 66). [See Māghī]

Māghī f.; adj.: The day of full moon in the month of Māgha; of the month of Māgha.

A. Importance : Āṅgiras told Gautama that on the Māghī (*māghyām*) three crores and ten thousand *tīrthas* visit Prayāga 13. 26. 35. B. Auspicious : (1) for Vedic rites : Yudhiṣṭhira asked his brothers to make preparations for the Āśvamedha since the roaming horse had returned and the day was the full moon of the month of Māgha (*abhito var-tate hayaḥ / māghī ca paurṇamāsiyam*) 14. 86. 8; (2) for non-Vedic rites : (a) The sages, Āṅgiras and others, while on a *tīrthayātrā*, went to the holy river Kauṣīkī on the Māghī (*māghyām*) 13. 96. 6 (for the river Kauṣīkī see the Editor's note on 13. 3. 10, Cr. Ed. Vol. 17, part II, p. 1054); (b) On every Māghī (as well as on the Āṣāḍhī) Virūpākṣa, the king of the Rākṣasas used to give excellent and well-garnished food, as desired, to the Brāhmaṇas (*tasya* (i. e. of Virūpākṣa) *nityam tathāśāḍhyām māghyām ca bahavo dvijāḥ / īpsitam bhojanavaram labhante satkṛtam sadā* ||) 12. 165. 15. [See Māgha]

Mādhava m. : Name of a month.
[See Vaiśākha].

Mārgasīrṣa m. : Name of a month.

A. Importance : Bhagavān, while describing his *vibhūti*s to Arjuna, said that he was the Mārgasīrṣa among the months (*māsānām mārgasīrṣo 'ham*) 6. 32. 35. B. Religious rites : *upavāsa* : Bhīṣma told Yudhiṣṭhira that one who spent the month of Mārgasīrṣa taking food only once a day and fed the twice-born with devotion would be freed from diseases and sins; he would also be born enjoying all blessings, possessing all medicinal herbs, reaping good harvest, wealthy, and would have many sons (*sarva-kalyāṇusaṃpūrṇaḥ sarvaśuśadhisamanvitaḥ* |