

seven mountains of the Śākadvīpa are adorned with gems (*maṇibhūṣitāḥ*) and are mines of jewels (*ratnākaraḥ*) 6. 12. 13; the Varṣa of Mahāmeru is called Mahākāṣa 6. 12. 23; the extent of these seven mountains doubles as one proceeds from one to the other (*teṣāṃ yojanaviṣkambho dviguṇaḥ pravibhāgataḥ*) 6. 12. 22.

Maināka¹ m. : Name of a mountain.

A. Location : To the north-east of Indra-prastha (*prāgudicim agād diśam*) 2. 3. 7; to the north of Kailāsa, and close to the Hiraṇyāśṛṅga mountain (*uttareṇa tu kailāsaṃ mainākaṃ parvataṃ prati / hiraṇyāśṛṅgo ... giriḥ*) 2. 3. 8, 2; 6. 7. 40; 3. 145. 39; near the Kailāsa, the Gandhamādana and the Meru mountains (*avekṣamāṇaḥ kuilāsaṃ mainākaṃ caiva parvatam / gandhamādanapādānś ca meruṃ cāpi tilocayam* //) 3. 155. 14; near the Uśīrabija and the Kālāśila mountains in the north; from there one could reach the Śveta and the Mandara mountains (*uśīrabijam mainākaṃ giriṃ śvetaṃ ca bhārata / samatīto 'si kaunteya kālāśilaṃ ca pāṛthiva* // ... *śvetaṃ giriṃ pravekṣyāmo mandaraṃ caiva parvatam* /) 3. 140. 1, 4; Maināka could be seen from the Naraṇārāyaṇāśrama at the Viśālā Badarī on the Himālaya 3. 145. 10, 16, 39. **B. Description :** Immeasurable and unassailable (*aprameya, anādhrīya*) 3. 149. 13; full of many kinds of birds (*nānādvijaganāyuta*) 3. 145. 39; called the king of mountains (*parvatarājan*) 3. 135. 4; (also see the next section C). **C. Characteristics :** As revealed in comparisons : (i) not shakable (*nākampayad ... mainākaṃ iva parvatam*) 6. 45. 19; 7. 46. 15; 7. 74. 28; 7. 99. 2; 6. 43. 64; 6. 88. 23; immovable (*na cacāla ... maināka iva parvataḥ*) 9. 18. 43; (ii)

huge (*mahākāyaḥ ... vyadrīyata maināka iva parvataḥ*) 7. 150. 58-59; (iii) Great and irresistible (*mahāntam iva mainākaṃ asahyam*) 7. 3. 4; (also see the section G). **D. Holiness :** (1) A place in the cave of the Maināka was known as Vinaśana; by ascending the mountain and by reaching this place it was possible to destroy evil fortune that is disgraceful and unspeakable (this explains the name Vinaśana) (*etad vinaśanam kuṅṣau mainākasga...enam parvatarājanam āruhya...ayaśasyām asaṃśadyām alakṣmīm vyapanotsy atha* //) 3. 135. 3-4; (2) One who has observed chastity for a month if he performs the *sāṃdhyā* ceremony after bathing on Maināka he gets the fruit of a Sarva-medha (*maināke parvate snātvā tathā sāṃdhyā upāsya ca kāmam jītvā ca vai māsam sarvamedhaphalam labhet*) 13. 26. 56. **E. Epic events :** (1) Asura Maya went to Maināka to reach the lake Bindusaras on the Hiraṇyāśṛṅga mountain 2. 3. 2, 8; (2) Lomaśa referred to the holy place Vinaśana on Maināka and advised the Pāṇḍavas to ascend the mountain 3. 135. 3-4; (3) The Pāṇḍavas had crossed Maināka before entering the Śveta and the Mandara mountains 3. 140. 1, 4; (4) The Pāṇḍavas could see Maināka from the hermitage of Nara and Nārāyaṇa at Badarī 3. 145. 39; Yudhiṣṭhira could see it while on his way northwards to the Śveta mountain from the Nārāyaṇāśrama 3. 155. 14. **F. Past events :** (1) Nārāyaṇa practised severe austerities on Maināka 7. 172. 52; (2) At the Vinaśana in the cave on Maināka, Aditi, in bygone days, cooked food (for gods) to get a son (*aditir yatra putrārtham tad annam apacat purā*) 3. 135. 3 (NI. on Bom. Ed. 3. 135. 3 : *annam brahmaudanam / aditiḥ putrakāmā sādhyebhyo deve-*