

grade movement under the Maghā (*maghāsu aṅgārako vakrah*) 6. 3. 13; (2) Samjaya told Dhṛtarāṣṭra that the armies of the Kauravas gathered for war at Kurukṣetra on the day when the moon entered the Maghā and the seven principal planets, shining, came together in the sky (*maghāviṣayagaḥ somas tad dinam pratyapadyata / dīpyamānāś ca sampetur divi sapta mahāgrahāḥ* // ) 6. 17. 2 (Nī. on Bom. Ed. 6. 17. 2 has a long commentary trying to reconcile the astronomical statements. He does not interpret *maghāviṣaya* as the region of the constellation Maghā but as *pitṛdeśa* : *maghā pitṛyaṁ nakṣatram tasya viṣayo deśaḥ pitṛlokaś tadgataḥ somaḥ / ... etena yuddhārāmbhaṁ prakṛtya 'maghāviṣayagaḥ somas tad dinam pratyapadyata' iti bhīṣmaparvaṇi sañjayavākyaṇ maghāyām yuddhārāmbha ity api nirastam / ... mahāgrahāḥ rāhuketvor upagrahatvāt saptaiva*). D. Religious rites : (1) *dāna* : Nārada told Devakī (13. 63. 2-4) that by offering plates (? rather 'heaps') full of sesame one had many sons and cattle in this life and enjoyed life after death (*maghāsu tilapūrṇāni vardhamānāni mānavaḥ / pradāya putrapatumān iha pretya ca modate*) 13. 63. 12; (2) *śrāddha* : Yama told Śaśabindu (13. 89. 1) that by offering a *kāmya śrāddha* under the Maghā (*maghāsu*) one became eminent among kinsmen 13. 89. 5; (3) Bhīṣma recited for Yudhiṣṭhira the *gāthās* sung by the manes which were recited for him formerly by the venerable Sanatkumāra; according to these *gāthās* the manes cherished a wish that some one would be born in their line who would offer to them on the thirteenth day under the Maghā, during the Dakṣiṇāyana, rice boiled in milk, together with clarified butter or meat of red goat,

that was fanned, according to the rites, by the (elephant's) ear, under the shadow of an elephant (*gāthāś cāpy atra gāyanti pitṛgītā yudhiṣṭhira / sanatkumāro bhagavān purā mayy abhyabhāṣata* // *api naḥ sa kule jāyād yo no dadyāt trayodaśīm / maghāsu sarpiṣā yuktam pāyasam dakṣiṇāyane* // *ājena vāpi lauhenā maghāśv eva yatavrataḥ / hasticchāyāsu vidhivat karṇavyajanavijitam* // ) 13. 88. 11-13. (Interpretation of *hasticchāyā* as an eclipse in this context is not favoured by the commentators on the Manusmṛti; on Manu 3. 274, which has the reading *prākchāye kuñjarasya ca*, Kullūka observes : *hastinaḥ pūrvām diśam gatāyām chāyāyām ... na tu trayodaśīhasticchāyayoḥ samuccayaḥ* /; Medhātithi on the same stanza : *tathā kuñjarasya hastinaḥ prākchāye prācyām diśi gatāyām chāyāyām aparāṇhetare kāla ity arthaḥ / ... yat tu vyācakṣate rāhūparāgo hasticchāyocyate ... tad ayuktam* /; Rāghavānanda : *kuñjarasyaiva chāyā vivakṣitā na tu yoga-viśeṣaḥ / karṇavyajanavijitam iti vākyaṇtarāc ceti* which latter is an obvious reference to the Mbh. passage).

Māgha, Māghamāsa m. : Name of a month.

A. Description : Holy (*puṇya*) 13. 153. 28. B. Epic Event : Bhīṣma, lying on the bed of arrows, realized that the holy month of Māgha had arrived (*māso 'yam samanuprāpto māsaḥ puṇyo yudhiṣṭhira*); he guessed that it must be the eighth day of the bright fortnight of that month (*tribhāgaśeṣaḥ pakṣo 'yam śuklo bhavitum arhati*) 13. 153. 28 (Nī. on Bom. Ed. 13. 167. 28 : *tenādyāṣṭamīty arthaḥ*). C. Religious rites : (1) Vedic : *Aśvamedha* : when the return of the horse, wandering on