

parently Samjaya made confusion between the duration of the Dvāpara age and the life expectancy of people in that Yuga). J. Simile : The place where the river Narmadā passes along the Vaidūrya mountain is compared to the junction of the Tretā (f.) and the Dvāpara (m.) 3. 121. 18-19. K. Name of Sūrya : Dvāpara appears as 48th name among the hundred and eight names of Sūrya taught by Dhaumya to Yudhiṣṭhira 3. 3. 22. [The words *kṛta*, *tretā*, *dvāpara* and *kali* occurring in 5. 140. 7-15 are wrongly interpreted by Nīlakaṇṭha (Bom. Ed. 5. 142. 7-15) as names of the four Yugas, and not as the names of the throws in the game of dice].

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

A. Computation of time began with it : When the Abhijit *nakṣatra* dropped down from the sky and Indra was confused in calculating time, Brahman ordained that time (*kāla* = *yuga*) began with Dhaniṣṭhā, whereas formerly it began with Rohiṇī (*dhaniṣṭhādis tadā kālo brahmaṇā parinirmītaḥ / rohiṇyā-dyo 'bhavat pūrvam*) 3. 219. 10 (Nī. on Bom. Ed. 3. 230. 10 : *yasya nakṣatrasyā-dyakṣaṇe candrasūryagurūṇām yogas tad yugādinakṣatram / tac ca pūrvam rohiṇy abhūt / tadā 'bhijitpatanakāle tu ekanyūnair ahorātrair bhagaṇasya bhogāt kṛtayugādinakṣatram dhaniṣṭhāivābhud ity arthaḥ*). **B. Religious rites :** (1) Nārada told Devakī (13. 63. 2-4) that if one, with composed mind, gave a cart, yoked with bulls and filled with garments and food (?) under the constellation Dhaniṣṭhā he, in the next life, instantly attained kingdom (*goprayuktaṁ dhaniṣṭhāsu yānam dattvā samāhutaḥ / vastraraśmidharam sadyaḥ pretya rājyam*

prapadyate) 13. 63. 29; (2) Yama told Śaśabindu (13. 89. 1) that if one offered a *kāmya śrāddha* under the Dhaniṣṭhā (*dhaniṣṭhāyām*) he obtained a share in kingdom and did not meet with difficulties 13. 89. 12.

Dharmayuga : See *Kṛtayuga*.

Dhūmaketu m. : A comet; or planet Rāhu (?); according to Nī., name of a subordinate planet (*upagraha*).

Among the bad omens which betokened the annihilation of the Kauravas, and which were pointed out by Vyāsa to Dhṛtarāṣṭra, one was related to a very fierce comet taking hold of the Puṣya constellation (*abhāvaṁ hi viśeṣeṇa kurūṇām pratipaśyati / dhūmaketur mahāghoraḥ puṣyam ākramya tiṣṭhati* //) 6. 3. 12; (*mahāghora dhūmaketu* may stand for Rāhu, cf. 6. 3. 26 where a *tivragraha* which very probably means Rāhu, is compared to *dhūmaketu*; according to Nī. on Bom. Ed. 6. 3. 13 *Dhūmaketu* is a particular *upagraha* (*upagraha-viśeṣaḥ*); he looks upon both Rāhu and Ketu as subordinate planets, cf. his Comm. on Bom. Ed. 6. 17. 2). [See Rāhu]

Dhruva¹ m. : Name of the polar star.

A. Described as the best among the heavenly bodies (*jyotiṣām śreṣṭham*) 12. 326. 53; identified as the son of king Uttānapāda (*uttānapāda*) 13. 3. 15. **B. Bad omen : Among the bad omens reported by Vyāsa to Dhṛtarāṣṭra one was related to the blazing Dhruva's movement towards left which foretold terrible happenings (*dhruvaḥ prajvalito ghoram apasavyaṁ pravartate*) 6. 3. 16. **C. Relation with Nārāyaṇa :** Bhagavān (Nārāyaṇa) pointed out to Nārada that Dhruva, the best among the luminous heavenly bodies moving in the sky, was**