

It is the regular month of the Brāhmaṇas,<sup>15</sup> and must be regarded as the month which the Vedic Indian recognized. No other month is mentioned as such in the Brāhmaṇa literature; it is only in the Sūtras that months of different length occur. The Sāmaveda Sūtras<sup>16</sup> refer to (1) years with 324 days—*i.e.*, periodic years with 12 months of 27 days each; (2) years with 351 days—*i.e.*, periodic years with 12 months of 27 days each, plus another month of 27 days; (3) years with 354 days—*i.e.*, 6 months of 30 days, and 6 with 29 days, in other words, lunar synodic years; (4) years with 360 days, or ordinary civil (*sāvana*) years; (5) years with 378 days, which, as Thibaut<sup>17</sup> clearly shows, are third years, in which, after two years of 360 days each, 18 days were added to bring about correspondence between the civil year and the solar year of 366 days. But even the Sāmasūtras do not mention the year of 366 days, which is first known to the Jyotiṣa<sup>18</sup> and to Garga.<sup>19</sup>

That the Vedic period was acquainted with the year of 354 days cannot be affirmed with certainty. Zimmer,<sup>20</sup> indeed, thinks that it is proved by the fact that pregnancy is estimated at ten months, or sometimes a year.<sup>21</sup> But Weber<sup>22</sup> may be right in holding that the month is the periodic month of 27 days, for the period is otherwise too long if a year is taken. On the other hand, the period of ten months quite well suits the period of gestation, if birth takes place in the tenth month, so that in this sense the month of 30 days may well be meant.

<sup>15</sup> Maitrāyaṇī Saṃhitā, i. 10, 8; Aitareya Brāhmaṇa, iv. 12; Kāṭhaka Saṃhitā, xxxvi. 2, 3; Kauṣṭaki Brāhmaṇa, iii. 2; Aitareya Āraṇyaka, iii. 2, 1; Baudhāyana Śrauta Sūtra, xxvi. 10; Bṛhadāraṇyaka Upaniṣad, i. 5, 22. See also Weber, *Naxatra*, 2, 288; Thibaut, *Astronomie, Astrologie und Mathematik*, 8.

<sup>16</sup> Lāṭyāyana Śrauta Sūtra, iv. 8, 1 *et seq.*; Nidāna Sūtra, v. 11. 12; Weber, *Naxatra*, 2, 281-288.

<sup>17</sup> *Op. cit.*, 8, 9.

<sup>18</sup> verse 28.

<sup>19</sup> Cited in the commentary on the Jyotiṣa, 10.

<sup>20</sup> *Altindisches Leben*, 365, 366.

<sup>21</sup> Ten months is the period according to Rv. v. 78, 7-9; x. 184, 3; Av. i. 11, 6; iii. 23, 2; v. 25, 13; Kāṭhaka Saṃhitā, xxviii. 6; Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa, iv. 5, 2, 4-5 (*ibid.*, ix. 5, 1, 63, a six months' embryo is alone able to live). A year is mentioned in Pañcaviṃśa Brāhmaṇa, x. 1, 9 (ten months in vi. 1, 3); Kāṭhaka Saṃhitā, xxxiii. 8; Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa, vi. 1, 3, 8; xi. 5, 4, 6-11; Aitareya Brāhmaṇa, iv. 22.

<sup>22</sup> *Naxatra*, 2, 313, n. 1.