

emperor Pr̥thu was born, Brahmā conducted a Yāga. On the day of sutyā at the place of Somābhiṣava of the Yāga a very intelligent Sūta was born. At the same yāga a Māgadha also was born. He was a great scholar. Then the sages told Māgadha and Sūta thus: "Praise this king Pr̥thu, who is the valorous son of Vena. Praising is the fittest work suited to you both. Pr̥thu deserves praise." Then the Sūta-Māgadhas placing their hands on their breasts with respect said, "What do we know of the qualities and capabilities of a king just born? His fame is not known. Based on what should we sing praises of him?" Hearing this the sages said that they should praise him for the qualities which he would be possessing in future. The king was pleased to hear that. Sūta-Māgadhas started singing eulogistic songs based on the qualities and exploits of a Pr̥thu to be. Pr̥thu then appointed Sūta as his charioteer and Māgadha as his adulater. From then onwards the Sūta family became charioteers and the Māgadha family flatterers. (Chapters 13—70 Aṃsa 1, Viṣṇu Purāṇa).

**MĀGADHĪ.** A river which flows through the middle of five mountains. (Sarga 32, Bāla Kāṇḍa, Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa).

**MAGHĀ I.** A sacred place. If one visits this place one would get the benefit of performing the yajñas like Agni-ṣṭoma and Atirātra. (Śloka 51, Chapter 84, Vana Parva).

**MAGHĀ II.** One of the twentyseven constellations. The importance of this constellation is mentioned in the Mahābhārata in several places.

(i) When the planet Kuja (Mars), during its retrograde motion, comes near the constellation of Maghā many unhappy incidents occur in the world. (Śloka 14, Chapter 3, Bhīṣma Parva).

(ii) If Candra stays near Maghā it is an ill omen. (Śloka 2, Chapter 17, Bhīṣma Parva).

(iii) If one gives away land in charity on the day of Maghā one will be rich in children and cattle. (Śloka 12, Chapter 64, Anuśāsana Parva).

(iv) If one gives pudding to the poor on the day of Maghā which comes in the black half of the month of Tulā (October) the Manes will be pleased. (Śloka 7, Chapter 88, Anuśāsana Parva).

(v) If one worships the Manes on the day of Maghā sitting in the shade of an elephant, the manes will be satisfied. (Śloka 8, Chapter 88, Anuśāsana Parva).

(vi) If one conducts the obsequial rites and acts of charity on the day of Maghā one would become the most excellent member of the family. (Śloka 5, Chapter 89, Anuśāsana Parva).

**MĀGHA.** A Sanskrit poet who lived in the 7th Century A.D. The only work of his which has come to light is Śīsupālavadha known popularly as Māgha.

Upamā Kālidāsaya

Bhāraverarthagauravam /

Daṇḍinaḥ padalālityam

Māghe santi trayo guṇāḥ //

This is a very famous verse meaning thus: "The simile of Kālidāsa, the depth of meaning of the words of Bhāravi and the simplicity of language of Daṇḍin are all present in Māgha". This indicates how great a poet Māgha was.

From the last part of this Kāvya it can be surmised that Māgha was the son of Dattaka and grandson of Suprabhaddeva. Suprabhaddeva was the minister of a King

called Dharmadeva. Māgha was born in Gujarat. A literary critic named Jacobi fixes the period of Māgha as the 6th century A.D. while others fix it as the 8th century A.D. Māgha has made references to the drama 'Nāgānanda' written by Harṣa. Harṣa was a King during the period 606 to 649 and that is why the period of Māgha is fixed after that period.

**MĀGHA.** A month (February). This is so called because it is closely associated with the constellation Maghā. This month is between the months of Pauṣa and Phālguna. Mahābhārata makes some statements about the importance of the month of Māgha.

(i) He who bathes at Prayāga during this month will be free from all sins. (Śloka 37, Chapter 25, Anuśāsana Parva).

(ii) He who gives gingelly as gift to Brahmins during this month will never go to hell. (Śloka 8, Chapter 66, Anuśāsana Parva).

(iii) If one takes food only once a day during the whole of this month one will be born very rich in the next birth. (Śloka 31, Chapter 106, Anuśāsana Parva).

(iv) If one worships Śrī Kṛṣṇa fasting on the Dvādaśī day of Māgha one will get the benefit of conducting a Rājasūya yajña. (Śloka 5, Chapter 109, Anuśāsana Parva).

(v) Bhīṣma expressed his desire to Kṛṣṇa to end his life on the aṣṭamī day falling in the bright fortnight of the month of Māgha. (Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 167, Śloka 28).

**MAHĀBĀHU.** One of the hundred sons of Dhṛtarāṣṭra. Bhīmasena killed him in the Bhārata Yuddha. (M.B. Droṇa Parva, Chapter 157, Verse 19).

**MAHĀBALA I.** Minister of Śrīdatta. (See under the word Śrīdatta).

**MAHĀBALA II.** A follower of Lord Subrahmaṇya. (M.B. Śalya Parva, Chapter 45, Verse 71).

**MAHĀBALI.** See under the word Bali.

**MAHĀBHAUMA.** Son of Ariha, a King of the Puru dynasty. He had a son Ayutanāyī by his wife Suyajñā. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 95, Verse 19).

**MAHĀBHAYA.** A Rākṣasa. He was born to Adharma by his wife Nirṛti. Mahābhaya had two brothers named Bhaya and Mṛtyu. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 66, Verse 54).

**MAHĀBHIṢAK.** A King of the Ikṣvāku dynasty. He had another name Śantanu. (For further details see under Śantanu).

**MAHĀBHOJA.** A Yādava King. (Bhāgavata, 9th Skandha).

**MAHĀCŪDĀ.** A woman follower of Subrahmaṇya. (M.B. Śalya Parva, Chapter 46, Verse 5).

**MAHĀDĀNA.** There are sixteen Mahādānas or "Great gifts". They are: (1) Tulāpuruṣadāna, (2) Hiraṇyagarbha dāna, (3) Brahmāṇḍa dāna, (4) Kalpakavṛkṣadāna, (5) Gosahasradāna, (6) Hiraṇyakāmadhenu-dāna, (7) Hiraṇyāśva dāna, (8) Hiraṇyāśvaratha dāna, (9) Hemahastiratha dāna, (10) Pañcalāṅgalakadāna (11) Dhārādāna, (12) Viśvacakra dāna (13) Kalpalatā dāna, (14) Saptasāgaraka dāna, (15) Ratnadhenu dāna, (16) Mahāpūtaghaṭa dāna. (Agni Purāṇa, Chapter 210).

**MAHĀDEVA.** Śiva. (See under Śiva).

**MAHĀDHRTI.** A King of the Solar dynasty. Bhāgavata, 9th Skandha).