

moon (night),’ or with *amāvāsyā*, ‘the new moon (night),’ as in *Phālgunī paurṇamāsī*, ‘the full-moon night in the Nakṣatra Phalgunī’,¹⁰⁴ or, as is usual in the Sūtras, the Nakṣatra adjective alone is used to denote the full-moon night. The month itself is called by a name derived¹⁰⁵ from that of a Nakṣatra, but only Phālguna,¹⁰⁶ Caitra,¹⁰⁷ Vaiśākha,¹⁰⁸ Taisya,¹⁰⁹ Māgha¹¹⁰ occur in the Brāhmaṇas, the complete list later being Phālguna, Caitra, Vaiśākha, Jyaiṣṭha, Āṣāḍha, Śrāvaṇa, Prauṣṭhapaḍa, Āśvayuja, Kārttika, Mārgaśīrṣa, Taisya, Māgha. Strictly speaking, these should be lunar months, but the use of a lunar year was clearly very restricted: we have seen that as early as the Taittirīya Brāhmaṇa there was a tendency to equate lunar months with the twelve months of thirty days which made up the solar year (see *Māsa*).

The Nakṣatras and Chronology.—(I) An endeavour has been made to ascertain from the names of the months the period at which the systematic employment of those names was introduced. Sir William Jones¹¹¹ refers to this possibility, and Bentley, by the gratuitous assumption that Śrāvaṇa always marked the summer solstice, concluded that the names of the months did not date before B.C. 1181. Weber¹¹² considered that there was a possibility of fixing a date by this means, but Whitney¹¹³ has convincingly shown that it is an impossible feat, and Thibaut¹¹⁴ concurs in this view. Twelve became fixed as the number of the months because of the desire, evident in the Brāhmaṇas, somehow or other to harmonize lunar with solar time; but the selection of twelve Nakṣatras out of twenty-seven as connected with the night of full moon can have no chronological significance, because full moon at

¹⁰⁴ Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa, ii. 6, 3. II *et seq.*; vi. 2, 2, 18; xiii. 4, 1, 4; Kauṣītaki Brāhmaṇa, i. 3; iv. 4; v. 1. See also Caland, *Über das rituelle Sūtra des Baudhāyana*, 36, 37, and *Māsa*.

¹⁰⁵ Primarily an adjective, with *māsa* to be supplied—*e.g.*, Phālguna, ‘(the month) connected with the Nakṣatra Phalgunī.’

¹⁰⁶ Pañcaviṃśa Brāhmaṇa, v. 9, 8.

¹⁰⁷ Kauṣītaki Brāhmaṇa, xix. 3.

¹⁰⁸ Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa, xi. 1, 1, 7.

¹⁰⁹ Kauṣītaki Brāhmaṇa, xix. 2, 3.

¹¹⁰ *Ibid.*; Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa, xiii. 8, 1, 4. For the later list, see Weber, *Nakṣatra*, 2, 327, 328.

¹¹¹ *Asiatic Researches*, 2, 296.

¹¹² *Op. cit.*, 2, 347, 348; *Indische Studien*, 9, 455; 10, 230, 231.

¹¹³ *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 6, 413; 8, 85 *et seq.*

¹¹⁴ *Astronomie, Astrologie und Mathematik*, 16.