PART IIA

REBIRTH AND KARMIC RETRIBUTION
HESITANTLY ACCEPTED

In Part I we used material from the Buddhist and Jaina canons—the two movements that had their roots in Greater Magadha—and also from Brahmanical texts. The justification for doing so was, and had to be, that the culture of Greater Magadha, or at least certain aspects of it, came to exercise an influence on the Brahmanical tradition and in this way found expression in its texts. Part I took all of this more or less for granted. Part IIA will look in some detail at the process in which this happened, considering a few specific cases. These few cases certainly constitute no more than the tip of the iceberg of wide-spread absorption of cultural elements from Greater Magadha into Brahmanical culture.
part ii. brahmanism, rebirth and karmic retribution