Common Slavic *mę že ‘man’

In the Etymological Dictionary of Slavic Languages (ESSJa) 19/1992, 24 f.) O. N. Trubačev reconstructs a Common Slavic root *mę že- underlying Pol. *mięź, Slovin. *mjôšši ‘thick, tight’, Ukr. *mjuzniti intr. ‘thicken’ as related to OInd. Vedic *máthane tr. ‘to present, to offer’, intr. ‘to be ready (to offer)’, superlative *máthiṣṭha- ‘granting most abundantly, very liberal or generous; exceedingly abundant; quite ready for (dat.)’ (actually, there is, in Vedic, a comparative *máthiṣṣyas- too, precisely matching Slavic *mę žešničo). We go a step further in supposing PIE *men/g(ʰ)- to be a reduplicated verbal stem of the adjective *mę űg(ʰ)- ‘big’, and, consequently, the Slavic words cited above to go back to a primary verb *męžti, *męžo ‘to grow’ < PIE *me-męγ(ʰ)₂. The original meaning of OInd. *máthane would have been *‘to be grownup, i.e. equal to something’, cf. also Avest. maṣa-rayi- ‘offering by wealth’, or, rather, ‘augmenting the wealth’, and, for the semantic development of the same PIE root, lat. mactare ‘to offer’ < *’to increase the deity by the offerings’. In this connection, OInd. maháyati ‘exalts’ appears to be a causative to the primary verb cited above rather than a denominative derived from the adjective *mah(i)- ‘big’, as it is usually explained. A dissimilated form of the reduplicated stem *męV-męV(ʰ)₂ may underlie Sl. *µęnogъ, Goth. manags ‘sufficient, large, many’, OIr. *menic(c) ‘tight’, with a centum-reflex in Slavic, comparable to gordъ besides zordъ, etc. Moreover, the word *męž ‘man’, without a plausible etymology (the traditional derivation from PIE *manu- ‘man’ being structurally more than doubtful), may be explained as originally *‘a grownup man’, a postverbal o-grade derivative in -jo from *męžti, comparable to *vodъ ‘guide; leader’ from vesti < *ved-ti; cf. Scythian (with δ = Sl. z < PIE *g(ʰ)*) *man(þ)ja- ‘male (of horses)’, presumably reflected in Scyth. PN Мανόςαςьς = *Manða-asaj- ‘owner of male horses, stallions’, and, as a loanword, in Celt. *mandos > Lat. mannos ‘Gallic breed of small horses’, VLat. *mandius > Rum. mînз ‘foal’, It. manzo, Alb. mez-.