

the first derivation seems to be more plausible from linguistic point of view⁵² while the other explanation may be more important from socio-psychological or mythological point of view.

It is possible that it was the nickname of Ghaṭotkaca which might have become his famous name.

3. *Candragupta I* : (No. 47, L.2; No. 53, L. 2; No. 40, L. 3; No. 21, L. 5; No. 1, L. 28; No. 30, L. 1) :

While his two predecessors are each given the title of *Mahārāja*, Candragupta I is described in the inscriptions as *Mahārājādhirāja*, 'king of kings'. Mookerjee connects the passage from the Purāṇas defining the extent of the Gupta territory with the period before Samudragupta, i.e., under Candragupta I.⁵³ It has been suggested that Caṇḍasena of the play 'Kaumudī-Mahotsava' is to be identified with Candragupta I. The Licchavi alliance is the common point in the account given by the drama and the inscriptions.⁵⁴ Other details of the drama, however, do not support this identification. The drama condemns Caṇḍasena as an usurper and belonging to low caste whom the citizens of Magadha could not tolerate and drove out to die in exile. Linguistically also Caṇḍasena and Candragupta are different names. Candra can become Caṇḍa in Prakrit but Gupta cannot be transformed into Sena. Moreover, in the fifth act of the play we are informed through a character Lokākṣī that the cursed Caṇḍasena has been killed and his royal family uprooted.⁵⁵ Thus we know about the total annihilation of the dynasty after the death of Caṇḍasena which is not applicable to the dynasty of Caṇḍragupta which ruled for several generations after him.⁵⁶ The name of the deity *Candra* 'moon' has been given to this king; Gupta is the surname. It may refer to his handsome physical features.

4. *Samudragupta* (No. 1, L. 29; No. 47, L. 3; No. 53, L. 3; No. 21, LL. 6-7; No. 2, L. 10; No. 40, L. 4; No. 41, L. 1; No. 10, L. 4; No. 49, L. 3; No. 50, L. 3; No. 13, L. 4; No. 12, L. 19) :

He is introduced as *Mahārājādhirāja* in all references except the Mathurā Pillar Inscription of Candragupta II, G.E. 61⁵⁷ where he is mentioned as *Bhaṭṭāarakamahārāja rājādhirāja*. He was the daughter's son of the Licchavis, and son of *Mahārājā-*