

Names of Local Officers

NAMES OF ŚREṢṬHINS (Bankers)

1. *Ccha(cha)ndaka* (No. 46, L. 12) :

He is mentioned as the youngest son of a certain Hari-śreṣṭhin. Chandaka means 'charming'. It was the name of Gautama Buddha's charioteer.¹

2. *Dhṛtipāla* (No. 34, L. 5; No. 35, L. 4) :

It is the name of a *nagara-śreṣṭhin* (the guild-president of the town). The first part of the name is based on the virtue '*Dhṛti*' (which mean firmness, resolution or command).² The second part is *Pāla* which means a guard, protector or keeper.³ The complete expression means 'an observer of firmness'.

3. *Hari-śreṣṭhin* (No. 46, L. 11) :

He was the son of Kaivarttiśreṣṭhin. While he and his father are called *śreṣṭhins*, none of his sons is called *śreṣṭhin* or banker by profession. Hari is the name of god Viṣṇu or Kṛṣṇa:

4. *Kaivartti-śreṣṭhin* (No. 46, L. 11) :

Kaivarta is a fisherman (born of prostitute by kṣatriya or of an *Ayogava* female by a Niṣāda father).⁴ We may infer that his mother was from the family of a fisherman and father belonged to a *Śreṣṭhin* class.

5. *Ribhupāla* (No. 36, LL. 3-4; L. 5, L. 14; No. 37, L. 4) :

The orthographic change in the first letter is to be noted.⁵ Ribhu here may mean property or wealth.⁶ The whole may thus mean, 'a protector of property or wealth'. In No. 36 Ribhupāla has been mentioned as a *nagara-śreṣṭhin*. In No. 37 he is also described as *Āryya*.

6. *Śrīdatta* (No. 46, LL. 11-22) :

He was the eldest son of Hari-śreṣṭhin and the grandson of Kaivartti-śreṣṭhin. Śrī is the goddess of wealth and datta means given. The whole expression will mean, 'born by the grace of