

to the popularity of the Jyestha Liṅga as an object of religious reverence.

4. *Kumāradeva* (No. 43, L. 4) :

Kumāra is the name of Kārttikeya, the son of Lord Śiva and *deva* means 'god', the whole thus meaning 'god Kārttikeya'.

5. *Prajāpati* (No. 43, L. 4) :

Prajāpati means 'lord of creatures'. It was originally applied to the supreme god and later on to Viṣṇu, Śiva and Brahmā.⁴⁹ It is also a name against the rules prescribed in the Dharma-sūtras, the names of gods being prohibited to be directly given to human-beings.

6. *Rāmaśarman* (No. 43, L. 4) :

The first part of the name is *Rāma* based on the name of Lord Rāma of the Epic Rāmāyaṇa. The second part is '*śarman*' meaning 'comfort or happiness' and is often used at the end of the names of brāhmaṇas, they being the well-wishers of society.

7. *Svāmicandra* (No. 43, L. 5) :

The first part is *svāmin* meaning lord or master which according to lexicographers is the name of Lord Śiva.⁵⁰ The second part is *candra*, the whole thus literally meaning 'a Moon on (the forehead of) Lord (Śiva)'.

8. *Umayaśas* (No. 43, L. 4) :

The first part is *Uma* and the second *yaśas*. According to lexicographers *Uma* means a city, town or landing-place,⁵¹ and *yaśas* means fame. The whole thus literally means 'one who has fame in the city'.

NAMES OF MAHATTARAS (Village-headmen)

1. (*De*)*vakīrtti* (No. 29, L. 4) :

The first part is 'Deva' which means 'god' and the second part is *kīrtti*, meaning 'fame'. The whole expression means 'having fame like that of the gods'.

2. *Devaśarman* (No. 29, L. 5) :

The first part of the word 'Deva' means 'god' and the second part '*śarman*' is a name-ending added to the name of brāhmaṇas as prescribed by the Dharmaśāstras.

3. *Gopāla* (No. 29, L. 5) :

Literally meaning one who tends or protects cows, is a synonym