IN THE GUPTA INSCRIPTIONS

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11. Šukkraśarmman (No. 43, LL. 8-9): Šukra means 'bright, resplendent; light-coloured, white'.⁴⁵. The name may be based on colour, day (Friday), or the sage Śukra. Literally it would mean 'one who is white-coloured'.

12. Suśarmman (No. 43, L. 7):

'Su' is generally prefixed before names. It means 'good or excellent'. The whole will literally signify 'one who is good'.

Names ending in Siva

1. Aparaśiva (No. 43, L. 6) :

Apara means 'having no rival or superior; having nothing beyond or after'.⁴⁶ The second part is Siva. The literal meaning of the name is 'the unrivalled or the great Siva. We have such names as 'Aparārka';⁴⁷ Pūrņacandra or Pūrņasimha.

2. Vasuśiva (No. 43, L. 6) :

Vasu mean 'good or beneficient'⁴⁸ and Siva refers to Lord Siva. So the whole will mean 'beneficient Siva'.

Names ending in Svāmin

1. Alātasvāmin (No. 43, L. 7):

The first part 'Alāta' means fire.⁴⁹ We have in the Mahābhārata a name 'Alātākṣī' 'having fiery eyes', one of the mothers in Skanda's retinue.⁵⁰ The second part *svāmin* means 'a master, lord or owner'. It is also used for a spiritual preceptor, learned brāhmaņa or paṇḍita (used as a title at the end of names, especially of the natives of the Karnataka).⁵¹ Literally the whole means 'the lord of fire'.

2. Battasvāmin (No. 43, L.7):

The word *Bhatta* literally means 'lord' (from *bhartr*). It is a title of respect but is also affixed to the names of learned brāhmaņas. Here it has been used as the first part of the name while in other examples we find it used as a second part of the name. Bhattasvāmin is also the name of the author of a commentary on the Arthaśāstra. The whole name literally means 'the lord of lords'.

3. Brahmasvāmin (No. 43, L. 7):

Brahman means prayer, the sacred word, the text of mantra used as spell.⁵² We find several personal names based on this