

Names of Brahmanas ; Jainas and Bauddhas

NAMES OF BRĀHMAṆAS

Names ending in Bhaṭṭa

1. *Devabhāṭṭa* (No. 43, LL. 14-15; L. 26) :

Deva, the first part of the name, means 'god, heavenly or divine'. The second part is a name-ending suffix used for learned brāhmanas. The ending Bhaṭṭa denoting a scholar later became a surname, just as the English word 'Master' is undergoing a change in usage with the Gujarati-speaking people and the word 'professor' may soon have with the Marāṭhī-speaking people.¹

Devabhāṭṭa was a brāhmaṇa. He was an inhabitant of Puṇḍravardhana. He belonged to Vājasaneyacaraṇa, and was versed in the four Vedas.

2. *Kuramā(ā)avyabhāṭṭa* (No. 39, L. 5) :

He is mentioned as a teacher of Chandoga (*Veda*), with the *gotras* Aśva and Vājin. *Kuramā* means bad (or misused) wealth and '*avya*' means 'famous'; *bhaṭṭa* is a surname added to the names of scholarly brāhmanas. So the whole expression may mean 'a teacher who is known for the ill use of his wealth'. Though such queer names are actually in practice it is not unlikely that in the present case it is the nick-name which has been mentioned.

3. *Viṣṇupālita*bhaṭṭa (No. 39, L. 5) :

He was the son of Kuramāavyabhāṭṭa, a teacher of the Chandoga (*Veda*), with the *gotras* Aśva and Vājin. The first part of his name 'Viṣṇupālita' literally means 'protected by god Viṣṇu'; the second part '*bhaṭṭa*' signifies a learned brāhmaṇa.