

of Daśaratha and of Rāmacandra. In dual number (rāghavau) it refers to Rāma and Lakṣmaṇa.⁷¹

7. *Sagara* (No. 36, L. 12; No. 37, L. 21) :

He is mentioned in these inscriptions as a donor of lands.⁷² Literally *Sagara* means 'containing poison or poisonous' It is the name of a king of the solar race, sovereign of Ayodhyā, son of Bāhu. He is said to have been called *Sa-gara*, as born together with a poison administered to his mother by the co-wives of her husband. He was father of *Asamañjasa* by Keśinī and of sixty thousand sons by Sumati; the latter were turned into a heap of ashes by the sage *Kapila*, and their funeral ceremonies could only be performed by the waters of *Gaṅgā* to be brought from heaven for the purpose of purifying their remains; this was finally accomplished by *Bhagīratha*.⁷³

8. *Vyāsa* (No. 28, L. 21; No. 29, L. 14; No. 36, L. 15; No. 43, L. 30; No. 44, L. 21; No. 52, LL. 11-12) :

Vyāsa has been mentioned as *Bhagavān* (venerable) *Vyāsa* in No. 28; as *Dvaipāyana* in No. 29 and as *Vedavyāsa* in No. 44. In No. 43, there is a reference to his sayings in the *Mahābhārata*.⁷⁴ In No. 52 he is described as the compiler of the *Vedas* and as a son of *Parāśara*.⁷⁵

Literally *Vyāsa* means 'division or extension' and as the name of a person it signifies an arranger, complier or narrator. *Vyāsa* is said to have rearranged the *Vedas* into four parts, and taught each of them to four respective pupils—*Paila*, *Vaiśampāyana*, *Jaimini* and *Sumantu*; he also rearranged *Itihāsa*—*Purāṇas* and composed the *Bhārata* and the *Bhāgavata*.⁷⁶ Subsequently, the name *Vyāsa* came to be applied to any great typical compiler or author.⁷⁷ He was the son of the sage *Parāśara* and was brought forth by his mother *Satyavati* on an island in the river *Yamunā*. Hence he is also known as *Dvaipāyana* and *Bādarāyaṇa*.⁷⁸ As he was called *Kṛṣṇa-Dvaipāyana*, it seems that *Vyāsa*, *Dvaipāyana*, and *Bādarāyaṇa* were epithets; his original name might have been *Kṛṣṇa* due to his dark complexion,⁷⁹ and he was called 'Dvaipāyana for being born on an island (*dvīpa*).'

9. *Yudhiṣṭhira* (No. 28, L. 24; No. 29, L. 16; No. 35, L. 12; No. 36, L. 17; No. 43, L. 33; No. 44, L. 24; No. 52, L. 14) :