

Monier Williams derives it from $\sqrt{\text{panth}}$ to go, to move. It means a way, path, a road or route.¹⁹² In the Samarāṅga-nasūtradhāra¹⁹³ we find the word 'Jaṅghā-patha (foot-path)'. The suffix 'patha' has been used as early as the later Vedic period.¹⁹⁴ Originally patha meant 'a path', 'a road' but later on it came to denote 'a country'. Even now-a-days, the suffix 'road' is used for inhabitations and localities.

Following are the place-names ending in this suffix :

(1) *Ādyapatha* (No. 43, L. 23) :

It was situated to the east of a village called Gulmagan-dhikā.¹⁹⁵ Literally *Ādyapatha* means 'the first route'. It seems to have been a small area like a mohalla.

(2) *Dakṣiṇāpatha* (No. 1, L. 20) :

According to inscription No. 1 all the kings of the region of the north were conquered by Samudragupta who attained great fame by liberating them.¹⁹⁶ The kingdoms specifically named as included in the southern region are : Kosala, Mahākāntāra, Kurāḷa, Piṣṭapura, Kcṭṭūra, Eraṇḍapalla, Kāñcī, Avamukta, Veṅgī, Palakka, Devarāṣṭra and Kusthalapura.¹⁹⁷ "The earliest epigraphical mention of the *Dakṣiṇāpatha* is found in the Nānāghaṭ Cave Inscription (Second half of first Century B. C.).¹⁹⁸ It later appears in the Junāgaṛh Rock Inscription of Rudradāman (A. D. 150)¹⁹⁹ as also in the Nasik Cave Inscription of Vāsiṣṭhīputra Pulumāvi (A.D. 149).²⁰⁰

Literally it means 'the path or road leading to the south' and in short the 'south country'. As a designation of the Deccan,²⁰¹ the term is found as early as the Baudhāyana Dharmasūtra.²⁰² A similar expression is *Dakṣiṇā padā*, 'with southward foot', occurring in the Ṛgveda,²⁰³ and refers to the place to which exiles are expelled.²⁰⁴ Thus the term denoted 'South' beyond the limits of the recognised Āryan world.

In the Buddhist literature originally the name seems to have been restricted to a remote settlement on the Upper Godāvarī.²⁰⁵ Some hold that it was situated to the south of the Narbadā and was identical with the Dakhinabades of the Greeks.²⁰⁶

According to the Yādavaprakāśa, *Dakṣiṇāpatha* is the name of the country to the south of the Vindhyas and includes Pāṇḍya, Kuntala, Cola, Mahārāṣṭra, Kerala, Kulya, Setuja,