

Nomenclative Expressions of Thought Place Names and Other Names Related to Artisans and Their Work in Karnataka

Jan Brouwer

*Centre for Advanced Research on Indigenous Knowledge Systems,
P.O. Box 1, Saraswatipuram, Mysore 570 009, India
Phone: 0821-542467; Fax: 0821-542459*

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ABSTRACT In this paper the researcher is concerned with place names, sub-caste names and personal names related to the crafts and craftsmen of the Visvakarma caste of Karnataka (South India). Having observed that the Visvakarmas or their craft do not appear as place names, the researcher argue that this absence among place names follows logically from their cultural ideology. The paper examines first the place names of Karnataka and then place names in Visvakarma oral tradition. The discussion then focuses on the principal raw materials used by the craftsmen as they appear in names as well as sub-caste and personal names. Throughout due weight is given to the regional dimension of name-giving. Finally, the analysis of name is placed in the context of the Visvakarma cultural ideology. This comparison makes it clear that the choice of names is not arbitrary but a nomenclative expression of thought.