

Ueber den Verfasser des Aitareyabrāhmaṇa theilt Sāyana in der Einleitung zu seinem Commentare folgende Ueberlieferung mit:

Prakṛitasya tu brāhmaṇasyaitareyakatve sampradāya-
vida etām ākhyāyikām ācakshate | kasyacit khalu maha-
rsher bahvyaḥ patnyo vidyante | tāsām madhye kasyāṣcid
Itareti nāmadheyam | tasyā Itarāyāḥ putro Mahidāsākhyah
kumāraḥ | etac cāranyakāṇḍe samāmnāyate | etad dha sma
vai tad vidvān Mahidāsa Aitareya iti | tadīyasya tu pitur
bhāryāntaraputreshv eva snehātisayo, na tu Mahidāse | tataḥ
kasyāṁcid yajñasabhāyām tam Mahidāsam avajñāyānyān
putrān svotsaṅge sthāpayām āsa | tadānīm khinnavadanam
Mahidāsam avagatyetarākhyā tanmātā svakīyakuladevatām
bhūmim anusasmāra | sā ca bhūmir devatā divyamūrtidharā
satī yajñasabhāyām samāgatya Mahidāsāya divyam sinhā-
sanam dattvā tatrainam upaveṣya sarveshv api kumāreshu
pāṇḍityādhiḥyam avagamayyaitadbrāhmaṇapratibhāsanarū-
pam varam dadau | tadanugrahāt tasya Mahidāsasya ma-
nasā: Agnir vai devānām avama ityādikaṁ strīṇute strīṇuta
ityantam catvāriṇṣadhyāyopetam brāhmaṇam prādur abhūt |
tata ūrdhvam: Atha mahāvratam ityādikaṁ ācāryā ācāryā
ityantam āraṇyakavratarūpam ca brāhmaṇam āvir abhūd
iti | tasyaitareyasya prādurbhūte catvāriṇṣadadhyāyopeta-
brāhmaṇe catuḥsamsthō jyotiṣṭomaḥ prathamam vidhīyate,