



Africa has many beautiful rivers and one of them is the Gambia as it snakes its way for some 700 miles across the Republic of Senegal towards the Atlantic Ocean and all along this river we find what appears to be many Sanskrit place names.

Mansa Kunda, Sese Kunda, Baja Kunda, Yamal Kunda, Sara Kunda, Sankuli Kunda, Kantale Kunda, Kuta Kunda, Koli Kunda, Tanda Kunda, Jonka Kunda, Bara Kunda, Sandala Kunda, Kamyama Kunda, and Saba Kunda, all place names on either side of the river Gambia and all Sanskrit names.

And the list continues Mora Kunda, Morta Kunda, Farin Kunda, Foley Kunda, Tomba Kunda, Baro Kunda, Kuoba Kunda, Damfa Kunda, Mane Kunda, Giroba Kunda, Yoro Beri Kunda, Fula Kunda, Kirleh Kunda, Nja Kunda, Sere Kunda, Chau Kunda, Era Kunda, Dubo Kunda and Demba Kunda, all names which appear on either side of the Gambia river.



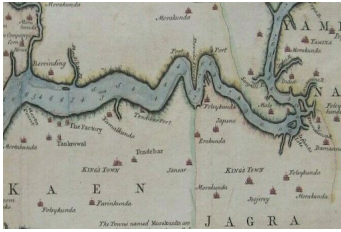
Kunda is formed from 'ku' a root from the language of Sanskrit whose original meaning is 'twisted' 'crooked' 'bent' which then becomes 'kunda' whose primordial meaning is 'depression' 'curvature' 'declivity' and which then comes to mean a 'bowl' a 'basin' a 'lake'.

As place names within the lands of India we see kunda expressed as either a 'lake' or a 'hill' as seen within the lakes of 'Radha Kunda' and 'Shyama Kunda' and as can be seen within 'Nagarjuna Konda' whose meaning is the hill (kunda) of nagarjuna.

Within the local language of Gambia we find that kunda means 'place' or 'city' and as Gambia is a place of flat topped hills and valleys upon which these towns have sprung its perfectly reasonable to suggest that a 'kunda' once described a high ground or a hill.

Written by James Cooper

Saturday, 09 January 2021 09:59 - Last Updated Saturday, 05 November 2022 08:27



Above we see a section of an 18th century map of the river Gambia which shows Morta Kunda, Yamal Kunda and Mora Kunda and we find that Morta Kunda means the place (kunda) of death (morta) a place name which possesses the African 'manti' meaning 'death' which is cognate with both 'mortal' and 'marta' words from Latin and Sanskrit meaning 'death'.

Morta Kunda means 'place of death' and as we proceed along the map we encounter 'Yamal Kunda' whose name 'yamal' is a Sanskrit word meaning 'twins' as in 'Yama' the god of death and 'Yami' his sister, and there further along the river in big bold letters is the region of 'Yami'.

As well as being the sister of the god of death, Yami, is also the sacred river of India known as the 'Yamuna' and if we look on the map and locate 'Yami' we find directly below it the region of 'Yamina' almost a mirror image of the Sanskrit and Vedic Yamal, Yami and Yamuna.

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