

Annexure-2

Pāṇini defines gotra for grammatical purposes as " Apatyam Pautraprabhrti Gotram (IV. 1. 162). "The word gotra denotes the progeny (of a sage) beginning with the son's son.

According to the Vedic theories, the Brahmins are direct descendants of seven sages. These seven Sages are the sons of Brahma, borne out of his mind through yogic prowess.

They are (1) Shandilya,
(2) Gautama Maharishi,
(3) Bharadwaja,
(4) Vishvamitra,
(5) Jamadagni, (6) Vashista,
(7) Kashyapa and
(8) Atri.

To this list, Agastya is also sometimes added. These eight sages are called Gotrakarins, from whom all 49 gotras have evolved.