

and predecessor of Narasimhagupta is spelt as Pūrugupta.<sup>89</sup> The reading Pūrugupta is unmistakable on the fragmentary Nālandā Seal of Narasimhagupta and is also fairly clear on the seals of Kumāragupta II. The medial ū sign in the first letter of the name Pūrugupta is indicated by an additional stroke attached to the base of the letter and the downward elongation of its right limb; mere elongation of the right limb by itself would have denoted the short medial *u* as in *puttras* in LL. 2 and 3. In the second letter of the name, viz. *ru*, the medial *u* is shown by a small hook turned to left and joined to the foot of *r*. Palaeographical considerations apart, the name *Purugupta* yields a more plausible sense than *Puragupta* and fits better in the series of the grand and dignified names of the Gupta kings. The first part of the Gupta names constituted the real or substantive name and yielded satisfactory meaning independently of the latter half, viz. *gupta*, which being family surname was a mere adjunct. *Pura*, by itself is neither a complete nor a dignified name while *Puru* is both. *Pūru* or its variant *Puru* may, like *Vainya* in *Vainyagupta* signify the homonymous epic hero of the lunar race who was the ancestor of the Kauravas and the Pāṇḍavas, or may mean abundant or great.<sup>90</sup>

10. *Kumāragupta II* : (No. 48, L. 5) :

*Kumāragupta II* was the immediate successor of *Pūrugupta* in the light of the data given in two dated inscriptions, viz. the Sarnath Buddha Stone Image inscriptions of *Kumāragupta* and *Budhagupta*. The first (No. 48) mentions A.D. 473 as the date of *Kumāragupta* who must, therefore, be taken as *Kumāragupta II* and the second (No. 54) mentions A.D. 476 as the date of *Budhagupta*. No. 48 records the date, Gupta year 154<sup>91</sup> when *Kumāragupta* was protecting the earth.<sup>92</sup> The renovation of the Sun temple mentioned in No. 17, LL. 20-21 seems to have taken place in his reign.<sup>93</sup> It seems that *Mookerji* has by mistake, connected the reference<sup>94</sup> meant for *Kumāragupta I* with *Kumāragupta II*.<sup>95</sup> The temple was originally constructed in the reign of *Kumāragupta I* in M.S. 493=A.D. 436 (L. 19).

11. *Budhagupta* : (No. 54, L. 1; No. 55, L. 2; No. 18, L. 2; No. 33, L. 1; No. 53, L. 8) :

Nos. 54, 55, 18 and 33 respectively mention him as reigning in :