

## EPIC and Puranic Names

In our inscriptions we get references to Epic and Puranic names which are as follows :—

### 1. *Bali* (No. 14, L. 2) :

The reference to Bali comes in connection with the praise of Lord Viṣṇu.<sup>57</sup> Literally meaning 'one who is powerful or vigorous', Bali was the son of Virocana and the grandson of Prahlāda and has been the king of the Asuras.<sup>58</sup> A famous legend about him runs thus—The demon Bali, by his austerities acquired the dominion over the three worlds, and caused annoyance and anxiety to the gods. Viṣṇu then reincarnated himself as a dwarf, appeared before Bali, and asked for as much land as he could cover with three strides. Bali assented to his request, and Viṣṇu with two strides covered the heavens and the earth, but, in commiseration for Bali, who then humbled himself, left him the dominion over the lower regions below the earth.<sup>59</sup> We get a reference to this legend as early as in the Viṣṇusūkta of the Ṛgveda.<sup>60</sup>

### 2. *Buddha* (No. 23, LL. 6-7) :

He has been given the epithet 'The Divine' (Bhagavān Buddha). He is mentioned in connection with a Buddhist temple. Literally the name means awakened, conscious or intelligent. For Buddhists it stands for a fully enlightened man who has achieved perfect knowledge of the truth and thereby is liberated from all existence and before his own attainment of Nirvāṇa reveals the method of obtaining it. The principal Buddha of the present age was born at Kapilavastu in the year 566 B.C.<sup>61</sup> His father Śuddhodana was the Rājā of that district. His mother was Māyādevī, and his original name was Siddhārtha. He belonged to the Kṣatriya Śākya tribe, while Gautama seems to refer to the race to which his family belonged. He had left his home in quest of truth and after a concentrated