

meditation for a few years attained the discovery of truths and was called the Buddha or the enlightened.<sup>62</sup>

3. *Kṛṣṇa* (No. 13, L. 13) :

It is a name based on colour, meaning black-dark, dark-blue. "Vasudeva, a descendant of Yadu and Yayāti, had by his second wife Devakī, eight sons of whom the last, Kṛṣṇa, was born with black skin and a peculiar mark on his breast".<sup>63</sup> Yaśodā was Kṛṣṇa's foster-mother to whom he was shifted in Gokula or Vraja immediately after his birth to escape the cruel hands of Kāṁsa. In our inscription Skandagupta has been compared with Lord Kṛṣṇa, who after slaying his enemy Kāṁsa had returned to his mother Devakī.<sup>64</sup>

4. *Pārtha* (No. 17, L. 14; No. 19, L. 5) :

In No. 17, king Viśvavarman is compared with Pārtha in (heroic) deeds of war. In No. 19 Bhānugupta is described as a mighty king equal to Pārtha, exceedingly heroic. Pārtha is formed from Pṛthā and is a metronymic for Arjuna who has been mentioned in the Purāṇas, as the husband of Subhadrā and father of Abhimanyu.<sup>65</sup>

5. *Pṛthu* (No. 2, LL. 7-8) :

Samudragupta is stated to have surpassed the kings like Pṛthu and Rāghava in giving gold. Literally Pṛthu means broad, wide, expansive, extensive, spacious or large.<sup>66</sup>

About nineteen Pṛthus have been mentioned in the Purāṇas,<sup>67</sup> the most important and famous being the Vainya. Here the reference seems to this Pṛthu, the Vainya.

He is the son of Vena got out of by the churning his right arm by the sages to save him from falling into hell and is considered the ninth incarnation of Hari. He was the first king who introduced agriculture. Due to scarcity of supply when people complained of hunger, he armed his arrow and the earth was milked. Hilly tracts were levelled and different kinds of villages, cities and towns were organised for the first time. Pṛthu has been panegyrised by the Gandharvas, and Siddhas playing on different musical instruments.<sup>68</sup>

6. *Rāghava* (No. 2, L. 8) :

Samudragupta is mentioned to have surpassed the kings like Pṛthu and Rāghava in giving gold.<sup>69</sup> Rāghava literally means a descendant of Raghu,<sup>70</sup> and is used as a patronymic of Aja,