

northern part of the Andhra country on the shores of the Bay of Bengal,<sup>444</sup> and with an island off the south-east Coast of Ceylon.<sup>445</sup> All these theories are refuted by S.B. Chaudhuri<sup>446</sup> who remarks that the assumption that Laṅkā is not Ceylon is gratuitous.<sup>447</sup> He points out that in the Rāmāyaṇa Rāvaṇa while entreating Sītā to be his wife says : “*Laṅkānāma samudrasya madhye mama mahāpurī sāgareṇa parikṣiptā niviṣṭā.....*”<sup>448</sup> Hanuman makes a similar statement in describing the strategic position of Laṅkā : *Sthitā pāre samudrasya dūrāpārasya*.<sup>449</sup> Kālidāsa in his Raghuvamśa in connexion with ‘*Purīm Laṅkāṃ*’ writes : “*Mahārṇava parikṣepam laṅkāyāḥ parikhālaghum*”.<sup>450</sup> With regard to the bridge built by Rāma Kālidāsa notes : *sa setum bandhayāmāsa plavaṅgairlavaṅāmbhasi*.<sup>451</sup> In the Skanda Purāṇa<sup>452</sup> and in the Kathāsaritsāgara, we have similar references to Laṅkā.<sup>453</sup> All these passages point distinctly to the great sea on the other side of which was situated the great city of Laṅkā.

The separate mention of Siṃhala and Laṅkā in many Sanskrit texts is quoted to show that Laṅkā was distinct from Ceylon.<sup>454</sup> This is hardly convincing for the separate mention of Mathurā and Śūrasena, Sāketa and Kosala, Gāndhāra and Takṣaśilā, Avanti and Ujjainī, did not imply any material geographical difference as they were treated only as convertible terms in geographical texts of the Purāṇas. In the Puranic lists, Laṅkā is a territorial name and Siṃhala is an ethnic name. As the name of a city in the island of Siṃhala, Laṅkā passed off as a *dvīpa*, and the two names were used in the same geographical sense. A passage in the Rāmāyaṇa runs thus : “*Siṃhalān barbarān mlecchān ye ca laṅkānivāsinaḥ*”.<sup>455</sup> Hiuen Tsang also mentions *Seng-ka-lo* (Ceylon) which included *Leug-ka* (Laṅkā).<sup>456</sup> As pointed out by B.C. Law, the Mahāvamśa and its commentary show that Laṅkādvīpa (the lower portion) was one of the main divisions of the island of Ceylon.<sup>457</sup>

It is a valid presumption, therefore, that the ancient name Laṅkā referred to Ceylon.<sup>458</sup> We may assume further, as seems very likely, that Laṅkā was the early name of Ceylon and its literary name as well. Mention is made of *Laṅkādvīpa* even in medieval inscriptions.<sup>459</sup> The Madras museum plates of Jaṭilavarman refer to the beautiful island of Laṅkā as *Ilangai*.<sup>460</sup> Epigraphic evidence, however, shows that Siṃhala, another name