

of ancient Ceylon, was equally well known. Thus the Kanhad plate of Kṛṣṇa III refers to the island of Siṃhala.<sup>461</sup> In another inscription the king of Siṃhala is described as waiting on the shore.<sup>462</sup> In other inscriptions Siṃhala is variously designated as Siṅgala-deśam,<sup>463</sup> Silam<sup>464</sup> and Sihala.<sup>465</sup> All this evidence favours the suggestion that as territorial names Siṃhala and Laṅkā were convertible terms, although the latter is also used as the name of a city. Priaux remarks and probably, correctly, that Laṅkā was the old mythological name for Ceylon, and that later on it was supplanted by Tāmraparṇī, and subsequently when the Periplus was written, by *Palaesimundus* or *Palaesimoundon* which itself was transformed into *Salike*, *Serendiva* derived from Pali *Sihala* or *Sihala dīpa*.<sup>466</sup> The name *Palaesimoundon* is very plausibly based on “*pāre samudrasya*”,<sup>467</sup> in the description given of Laṅkā as noted above. Ptolemy’s Simoundon<sup>468</sup> also refers to that name. But in Ptolemy’s Geography the island is called *Salike* which responds to *Siele dīpa* of *Kosmas Indicopleustes*<sup>469</sup> both of which have their sources in *Sihalam* “the Pāli form of Sanskrit Siṃhala” or Ceylon. To this source may be traced its other names such as *Serendib*, *Zeilan*, *Sialan*,<sup>470</sup> the last one yielding to Ceylon. Marco Polo’s *Seilan*<sup>471</sup> is a nearer approach to the modern name. Van-der-turk suggests that the name may have been derived from *Sela* or ‘precious stone’, hence the island was anciently called *Ratnadvīpa*.<sup>472</sup> An Arab historian called it the “Island of Rubies”. The Chinese name for the island also implies reference to gems. The name *Sailān* also occurs in the works of Rashiduddin, Hayton and Jordanus.<sup>473</sup> Al-Beruni called it *Singaldīb*.<sup>474</sup> Siṃhala is perhaps so called as once abounding in lions.<sup>475</sup>

We may note here that there are references to another Siṃhala quite different from Ceylon.<sup>476</sup> It was placed to the east of Marudeśa and to the south of the Kāmādri. It is evidently in the Punjab-Rajasthan region and reminds us of the kingdom of *Siṃhapura* mentioned by Hiuen Tsang.

20. *Śaka* (No. 1, L.23) :

One of the tribes which is said to have paid homage to Samudragupta. As we have already discussed in connexion with the Muruṅḍas, the expression, ‘Śaka-Muruṅḍa’ should