

the fever (Takman) is called upon to go to the *Mūjavants*, the *Mahāvṛṣas*, and the *Balhikas*. The *Mūjavants* are quite certainly a northern tribe, and though the passage may contain a pun on *Bālhika* as suggesting 'outsider' (from *bahis*, 'without'),<sup>543</sup> still there is no doubt that the name was chosen from a northern tribe.<sup>544</sup>

The *Śatapatha Brāhmaṇā*<sup>545</sup> mentions a Kuru king named *Balhika Prātīpīya*. It seems that *Balhika* was a descendant of *Prātīpa*. But there is no evidence to show why he bore the name *Balhika*.<sup>546</sup> He is perhaps the same as *Mahārāja Bāhlika Prātīpeya* of the *Mahābhārata*.<sup>547</sup>

The *Rāmāyaṇa* shows that the Royal Kuru family originally migrated from the *Bāhlika* country. The passage in question<sup>548</sup> says that *Ila*, son of the *Prajāpati Kārdama*, who was the king of the *Vāhli* country, gave up *Balhika* in favour of his son *Śaśavindu*, and founded a new city *Pratiṣṭhānapura* in the *Madhya-deśa*, where his other son *Pururava Aila* continued to rule. This links up the *Ailas*, the progenitor of the *Kurus*, with the *Kardama* royal family of *Bāhli*. *H.C. Raychaudhuri*<sup>549</sup> suggests that *Kārdama*, the name of the ruling family of *Vāhlika*, was obtained from the river of that name in Persia, and thus infers that the home of the *Kārdama* king is to be identified with *Balhika* or *Balkh* in Iran. This view was earlier advocated by *Roth*<sup>550</sup> and *Weber*.<sup>551</sup> But *Zimmer*<sup>552</sup> rightly shows that there is no need to assume any Iranian influence.<sup>553</sup>

We know *Vāhlika* from the Puranic list of peoples.<sup>554</sup> The Account of fifty-six countries<sup>555</sup> is interesting as it mentions them with the *Hūṇas*, *Kauravas*, *Gāndhāras* and *Vidarbhās* among others. In the *Śaktisaṅgama Tantra*<sup>556</sup> *Bāhlika* is described as famous for horses and situated to the east of *Mahāmlechha* and beginning with *Kamboja*. *B.C. Law* on the basis of reference in the *Mahābhārata*<sup>557</sup> places the *Vāhlikas* in the neighbourhood of *Gandhar* and *Kamboja*.<sup>558</sup>

*Katyāyana* (4th century B.C.)<sup>559</sup> mentions *Bāhlāyana* and derives it from the word *Bāhli*, a country also mentioned in the *Arthaśāstra* of *Kauṭilya*.<sup>560</sup>

The *Vāyu Purāṇa*, *Śiva Purāṇa*, *Kāvya-Mīmāṃsā* of *Rājaśekhara* and the *Rāmāyaṇa*<sup>561</sup> place the *Vāhlika* country in the