

pura. The name of the viṣaya of which it was a part has been damaged. Since the column bearing the inscription was originally found in front of the northern gate of the old fort of Bihar,²³¹ we can easily identify Ajapura with the modern village of the same name in the Rājagṛha viṣaya which is not very far from Nālandā.²³² The name of the viṣaya which included this town can possibly be restored as Rājagṛha in the damaged part of the inscription.

(2) *Candrāpura*²³³ (No.16, L.5) :

It is the name of Indrapura. See Indrapura.

(3) *Daśapura* (No.17, L.4, L.16) :

In this inscription L.4 refers to the migration of a guild of silk-weavers from Lāṭa viṣaya (Central and Southern Gujarat) to the city of Daśapura. The guild came to this city attracted by the virtues of its kings.²³⁴ The inscription refers itself to the reign of king Kumāragupta, under whom Bandhuvarman, the son of Viśvavarman²³⁵ was the governor at Daśapura. L. 16 of the inscription records that it was under the governorship of Bandhuvarman (in Mālava era 493=A.D. 437)²³⁶, that a lofty temple of the Sun-god was caused to be built by the guild of silk-cloth weavers at Daśapura.²³⁷ Afterwards, under other kings, part of this temple fell into disrepair. And then it was restored by the same guild in the year 529 of the Mālava era (=A.D. 473).²³⁸

Daśapura has been identified with Mandasor in Western Malwa²³⁹ formerly in the Gwalior State. The ancient Daśapura stood on the north or left bank of the Siwana, a tributary of the river Śiprā.²⁴⁰ We also find it mentioned in the Mandasor Fragmentary Inscription of the time of Ādityavardhana (A.D. 490-500).²⁴¹ Under the Imperial Guptas the use of the Mālava or the Kṛta era seems to have been confined to Daśapura.²⁴² Thus Daśapura may have been the main city of the Western Mālavas. We also get a reference to Daśapura in the *Bṛhat-saṁhitā*²⁴³ and the *Meghadūta*²⁴⁴ of Kālidāsa.

The ancient Sanskrit name Daśapura also occurs in an early Nasik inscription of Uṣavadāta,²⁴⁵ and in one inscription of Vikram Saṁvat 1321 (=A.D. 1264) from Mandasor itself.²⁴⁶

There are two explanations of the name Daśapura or Dasor. The local explanation is that the place was originally a city of