

at Puṣpa city. In the capital of the Magadha residents there will be brāhmaṇa controversialists and the king will be surrounded by them. The king will give them riches. His minister was a Buddhist brāhmaṇa, Vararūci, who was of high soul, kind and good. His great friend was a brāhmaṇa, Pāṇini by name'.<sup>300</sup>

The Kāśikā<sup>301</sup> records two divisions of Pāṭaliputra :

1. Pūrva-Pāṭaliputra (eastern on the Gaṅgā)
2. Aparā-Pāṭaliputra (western on the Śoṇa)

Patañjali<sup>302</sup> mentions the western Pāṭaliputra. A citizen of Pāṭaliputra was called Pāṭaliputraka.<sup>303</sup>

The city is named as Palibothra by Megasthenes, the Ambassador of Seleucus Nicator at the court of King Candragupta Maurya.<sup>304</sup> The Pāla inscriptions refer to it by the name Śrīnagara.<sup>305</sup>

The termination 'Putra' in Pāṭaliputra is difficult to explain. We find it being used with 'Brahman' to denote the river 'Brahmaputra'. As regards places-names we find the mention of Satiya puta (Satiya-putra) and Kerala-puta (Kerala putra) in Aśokan Rock-edicts.<sup>306</sup>

The name Pāṭaliputra is taken to mean "the son (putra) of Pāṭali, i. e. the trumpet flower. The words Puṣpapura and Kusumapura also mean 'a city of flowers'. The word 'Śrīnagara' means 'a beautiful city'.<sup>307</sup> Because of the abundance of flowers the city may have looked beautiful. It was known by other names also, viz., Puṣpapura, Puspapurī and Kusumapura.<sup>308</sup> According to Yuan-Chwang, it had been called Kusumapura (K' u-su-mo-pu-lo) on account of the numerous flowers (kusuma) in the royal enclosure.<sup>309</sup> Later its glory was replaced by that of Kānyakubja which came to be known as Kusumapura.<sup>310</sup>

The meaning of 'Pāṭaliputra' is explained in the legendary origin of the city. According to the legend: there was a brāhmaṇa of high talent and singular learning. Many flocked to him to receive instruction. One day all his students went out on a tour of observation. One of them looked very sad. When asked, he told that his life was waning without any company. In a joke his friends made the Pāṭali tree, under which they were standing, his father-in-law: in other words he was to marry the daughter of the tree, or a Pāṭali flower