

(*Bignonia Suaveolens*).<sup>311</sup> As the Sun was about to set, all the students proposed to return home but the young student fascinated by love stayed there fearlessly. Accidentally, next day he was married with the young daughter of an old couple. After a year his wife gave birth to a son. He declined to stay there fearing the exposure to wind and weather. But the old man (the father of the wife) constructed a house for him and made him stay there. When the old capital of Kusumapura was changed, this town was chosen, and "as the genie built the mansion for the youth the country was named as Pāṭaliputra (the city of the son of the Pāṭali tree)."<sup>312</sup>

It is not unlikely that originally the name of the city was Pāṭaliputra and that later suffix Pura was dropped.

The Buddhist literature informs us that Pāṭaliputra was originally a village known as Pāṭaligāma. Ajātaśatru is said to have fortified it in order to check the attacks of the Licchavis who often harassed its inhabitants. The Buddha on his way from Rājagṛha to Vaiśālī, passed through this village on his last journey and is said to have predicted that the village was destined to become a great city.<sup>313</sup>

The Vāyu-Purāṇa attributes the real foundation of Pāṭaliputra to Rājā Ajāta-Śatru's grandson, Udaya or Udayāśva. It was he who first removed the capital from Rājagṛha to Pāṭaliputra (during the last part of the 6th century B. C.)<sup>314</sup>

Pāṭaliputra had closely been associated with multifarious political and cultural activities right from the fifth century B.C. to the later part of the sixth century A.D.<sup>315</sup> It had the honour to be the capital of the Śāiśunāgas, the Nandas, the Mauryas and the great Imperial Guptas upto the Hūṇa invasion in the 6th century A.D. when it was ruined. Harṣavardhana (7th century A. D.) made no attempt to restore it.<sup>316</sup> Śāśāṅka Narendragupta destroyed many Buddhist temples and monasteries at Pāṭaliputra.<sup>317</sup> Dharmapāla, the most powerful of the Pāla kings of Bengal and Bihar, tried to restore its glory.<sup>318</sup>

Coming to medieval times, we find that it remained deserted for a number of centuries. It was Sher Shah, who, in about A. D. 1541 occupied it again as a royal city and built a fort there. It then came into importance under its modern name Patna (from Skt. Pattana) i. e. the town or city. It is even now