

of the Kirātārjunīyam and Daṇḍin, the author of the Daśakumār-acaritam are said to have flourished here.⁵⁷⁵

The famous Buddhist dialectician Dinnāga came here to satisfy his intellectual and spiritual thirst and about the middle of the fourth century A.D., the brāhmaṇa Mayūrasāraman, who founded the Kadamba line came here for getting recognition in Vedic learning.⁵⁷⁶ The Ādi-guru Śaṅkarācārya established here the famous Pīṭha known as Kāmakotipīṭha.⁵⁷⁷ Literally Kāñcī means a 'girdle'. It seems to have been so named because it is situated like a girdle round the sea.

5. Kāśī (No. 28, L. 6) :

It is mentioned in Inscription No. 28. According to the inscription a vihāra at Vaṭa-gohālī was inhabited by the disciples of the Nigrantha preceptor (Śramaṇācārya) Guhanandin, belonging to the Pañca-stūpa section (nikāya) of Kāśī.⁵⁷⁸ Evidently Vaṭagohālī was a seat of Jain monks who had their major seat at Kāśī.

The name Kāśī is derived from the root Kaś 'to shine'. The Skandapurāṇa⁵⁷⁹ says that the city of Kāśī became famous by that name because it sheds light on (the way to) nirvāṇa or because, that indescribable refulgence, viz. god Śiva shines forth here.⁵⁸⁰ B.C. Law connects it with Ti-miao meaning 'read sprouts', a Chinese translation of the word and this links it with a certain kind of grass.⁵⁸¹ It has been known for centuries under five different names, viz., Vārāṇasī (modern Banaras), Kāśī, Avimukta, Ānandakānana and Śmaśāna or Mahāśmaśāna.⁵⁸²

The earliest mention of the Kāśīs as a tribal people occurs in the Paipalāda recension of the Atharvaveda.⁵⁸³ Vārāṇasī was the capital of the people of Kāśī.⁵⁸⁴ Thus it seems that geographically Kāśī represented a larger area than Vārāṇasī, the latter being the capital of the former. But in medieval times the position became just the reverse. Vārāṇasī comprehended the entire district and Kāśī generally represented only a small place. In a grant of Mahārāja Vināyakapāla we get a reference to a village of Ṭikkarikā situated in the Pratiṣṭhāna-bhukti, and attached to Kāśī-pāra-Pathaka which belonged to Vārāṇasī viṣaya.⁵⁸⁵ Kāśī pāra-pathaka represented the site of the ancient city of the Kāśī.⁵⁸⁶ The Vividhatīrthakalpa⁵⁸⁷ also mentions