

mentioned as connected with the village named Vāyigrāma.<sup>676</sup> Literally it means 'surrounded or covered by three sides'. It seems that when the locality was founded the city was surrounded by some natural boundary on its three sides. This may have been in the form of rivulets or streams or hillocks.

### TRIBAL PLACE-NAMES

Following are the place-names which have tribal associations without any mention of the specific boundary :

#### 1. *Āryāvartta* (No. 1, L. 12) :

Samudragupta is stated to have violently exterminated many kings of Āryāvarta such as Rudradeva, Matila, Nāgadatta, Candravarman, Gaṇapati-nāga, Nāgasena, Acyuta, Nandin and Balavarman.<sup>677</sup> We also find references to Āryāvarta in other epigraphic records.<sup>678</sup>

Literally Āryāvarta <sup>679</sup> means 'the abode of the Āryas, or excellent or noble people'. The word 'Ārya' here is significant.

It has been interpreted in two ways : some scholars derive the word Ārya from the root  $\sqrt{Ar}$ , to plough, and suggest that the Vedic Āryans were so called because they despised the pursuits of agriculture and remained shepherds and hunters.<sup>680</sup>

"If *Ārya* were purely a racial term, a more probable derivation would be *Ar*, meaning strength or valour, from  $\sqrt{ar}$  to fight, whence we have the name of the Greek war-god Ares, areios, brave or warlike, perhaps even arete, virtue signifying, like the Latin virtues, first physical strength and courage and then moral force and elevation".<sup>681</sup> "Intrinsically, in its most fundamental sense, Ārya means an effort or an uprising or overcoming. The Āryan is he who strives and overcomes all outside him and within him that stands opposed to the human advance."<sup>682</sup> Wilson says that a variety of ancient designations of which 'Āria' is a component element (cf. Ariāna) are connected with the term Ārya. The Zend name for the country to the west of the Indus was 'Eriene-veejo', that is the Sanskrit Āryāvarta.<sup>683</sup>

In defining the boundaries of Āryāvarta, Vasiṣṭha and Baudhāyana in their Dharmasūtras lay stress on the word Ārya and explain it to mean *śiṣṭa*. Patañjali also in his Mahā-