

*Bali* (v)—a son of Virocana and the grandson of Prah-lāda;<sup>1</sup> married Vindhyāvalī and Aśanā; had one hundred sons of whom Bāṇa was the eldest; all of them were kings; king of the Asuras;<sup>1</sup> other chief sons were Kumbhanābha, Gardabhākṣa, and Kuśi; two daughters were Śakunī and Pūtanā;<sup>1</sup> carried away the crown of Hari inlaid with gems; was pursued by the warder of the city, Garuḍa who recovered it after a fight.<sup>2</sup>

Indra on the advice of Hari-Ajita sought an alliance with him and it was concluded; they also agreed to churn the ocean in a co-operative spirit; got exhausted in the Amṛtamathana; appropriated Uccaiśravas which came out of the Amṛtamathana; in the Devāsura war following the Amṛtamathana, Bali became the commander and was riding in an aerial car with the Asuras; finding it difficult to fight Indra and the Gods openly he took to illusory methods by resorting to creating fire, storms, rains, etc.; encouraged by Hari's presence, Indra again called him to battle and Bali fell down unconscious after a strenuous fight; taken to Astagiri where by Sañjivini Vidyā, Śukra brought him back to life; the Bhṛgu Brahmanas aided him in the completion of his Viśvajit sacrifice and anointed him with mahābhiṣeka; receiving gifts from all quarters Bali marched to the city of Indra on a chariot given by Bhṛgu and besieged it; on Indra and the Gods vacating the city on the advice of Bṛhaspati, Bali took possession of it and performed 100 Aśvamedhas with the aid of the Bhṛgu Brahmanas;<sup>3</sup> once Bali was engaged in performing the Aśvamedha in the Bhṛgukaccha on the northern bank of the Narmadā. Thither came the Vāmana Hari in the form of a dwarf and Brahmācārin, whom Bali welcomed and requested to accept some gift; pleased with his speech Vāmana asked for 3 feet of ground, and though Bali offered to give more he declined it; Śukra knew that he was Hari and dissuaded Bali from agreeing to his request; Bali's resolve to keep his word resulting in his being cursed by Śukra to lose all *Śrī*; gift to Vāmana helped by his wife Vindhyāvalī; Vāmana's *viśvarūpa* and his