

a miscreant and aimed his arrow at him. Persuaded by Brahmā, he controlled his rage and became friendly to Indra. On advice from Viṣṇu, he cast off his enmity to Indra and embraced him. Asked of the Lord to be ever devoted to him.⁴

On his return to the capital, the citizens accorded him a welcome. Made the middle country between Gangā and Yamunā his home. Advised his subjects, who praised him, to conduct themselves righteously. Was visited by Sanatkumāra with three other sages who taught him *ātmagñāna*.⁵ His queen Arcis gave birth to five sons, all rising to his ideal. He followed the path of the Lokapālas, and his fame as of Somarāja reached the ears of women as that of Rāma the ears of the virtuous.⁶ Finding himself aged, he entrusted the kingdom to his sons and left with his queen to the forest. Launched on a course of severe penance until his last breath went out of his body. In the funeral pyre which the queen lighted for her husband's cremation, she threw herself and ascended to heaven, praised by the wives of the gods.⁷ Thus Pṛthu, the lord of seven dvīpas, still thirsting to have more territory, renounced his kingdom and sought refuge with Hari.⁸ A Mantrakṛt of the Cākṣusa Manu line. The first Kṣatriya to be a Rāja. By him the earth became known as Pṛthvi.⁹

His accession was the occasion of a *pratisarga* when rulers were appointed over several classes of beings; got the grace of Viṣṇu and milked the cow-earth, got grains and eatables and made the earth flow with milk and honey; there was no need for the application of the Arthaśāstra maxims; he levelled the ground from Cape Comorin to the Himālayas and cleared the forests;¹⁰ made it safe and secure; made the 16 gifts.¹¹

¹ Bhā. II. 7. 9; III. 1. 22; IV. 13. 20; I. 3. 14; M. 4. 44; 8. 2-12; Vā. 62. 126-182; ch. 63; Vi. I. 13. 39. ² Bhā. IV. chh. 15-16 (whole).
³ Ib. IV. chh. 17-18 (whole) Vi. I. 13. 9, 40-43. ⁴ Ib. IV. 19 (whole); 20. 1-31. ⁵ Ib. IV. 20. 38; 21 (whole); 22. 1-48. ⁶ Ib. IV. 22. 53-63. ⁷ Ib. IV. 23 (whole). ⁸ Ib. VIII. 19. 23; XII. 3. 9; X. 60. 41.
⁹ Br. II. 36. 83. ¹⁰ M. 10. 10-35. ¹¹ Ib. 274. 12.