

measuring the Earth and Heaven by two feet; seeing the Asuras beaten by Hari's attendants, Bali asked them not to fight; knowing Hari's mind Garuḍa bound Bali with Varuṇa's cords; on the sutya day of the sacrifice Bali thought of Prahlāda; asked by Vāmana to show room for placing his third foot, Bali was unable to find any space except his head and was doomed to hell; Bali's prayer to Hari; Prahlāda's arrival and prayer to the Lord; appeal of Vindyaśālī and Brahmā; humbled by Vāmana; blessed by Hari to be the Indra of the Sāvartī epoch and in the meantime king of Sutala; attained permanent fame.<sup>4</sup>

After taking leave of Hari and praising him duly, Bali and Prahlāda entered the cave Sutala; the lordship of the worlds had no charm for him; moved by his devotion, Viṣṇu once acted as his door-keeper; got the grace of Hari and attained permanent fame and final release by *satsaṅga*,<sup>5</sup> a devotee of Hari; was obliged to Viṣṇu and knew his *yoga-māyā*; one of the twelve, who knew the *dharma* ordained by Hari;<sup>6</sup> Parīkṣit compared to, for his courage.<sup>7</sup> His queen was Aśanā.<sup>8</sup> A resident of Pātala;<sup>9</sup> anointed his five sons in the seventh yuga of the Treta, and wandered unseen by others;<sup>10</sup> a servant of Hiranyakaśipu.<sup>11</sup>

Bali asked Prahlāda the reason for the loss of refulgence on the part of the Asuras; he discovered the Lord in the womb of Aditi and spoke of his incarnation and the consequent ruin of the Asuras; Bali spoke of his prowess and insulted the Lord when Prahlāda cursed him to lose all his kingship. He consulted Śukra as to what should be done if the Lord should visit his *yajña*; Śukra said he must be given some choice gift. The Lord appeared and wanted space for three steps. Bali consented. The first and second was placed in heaven and the earth and the third on his head. The Lord asked Bali to reside in the Pātala region and made Indra the king of the three worlds. Bali to occupy the place of Indra in the Sāvartī epoch; until then he was to receive the gifts not given properly, ceremonies