

the Little Vehicle. There are some hundred Dêva temples, and sectaries of various kinds in great number.

On every side of the capital within a precinct of 200 li in circuit is an area called by the men of this place "the land of religious merit."<sup>52</sup> This is what tradition states about it:—In old time there were two kings<sup>53</sup> of the five Indies, between whom the government was divided. They attacked one another's frontiers, and never ceased fighting. At length the two kings came to the agreement that they should select on each side a certain number of soldiers to decide the question by combat, and so give the people rest. But the multitude rejected this plan, and would have none of it. Then the king (*of this country*) reflected that the people are difficult to please (*to deal with*). A miraculous power (*a spirit*) may perhaps move them (*to action*); some project (*out-of-the-way plan*) may perhaps settle (*establish*) them in some right course of action.

At this time there was a Brâhman of great wisdom and high talent. To him the king sent secretly a present of some rolls of silk, and requested him to retire within his after-hall (*private apartment*) and there compose a religious book which he might conceal in a mountain cavern. After some time,<sup>54</sup> when the trees had grown over (*the mouth of the cavern*), the king summoned his ministers before him as he sat on his royal throne, and said: "Ashamed of my little virtue in the high estate I occupy, the ruler of heaven<sup>55</sup> (*or, of Dêvas*) has been pleased to reveal to me in a dream, and to confer upon me a divine book which is now concealed in such-and-such a mountain fastness and in such-and-such a rocky corner."

<sup>52</sup> This is also called the Dharmakshêtra, or the "holy land;" and Kuru-kshêtra, from the number of holy places connected with the Kauravas and Pândavas, and with other heroes of antiquity. For some remarks on the probable extent of this district, see *Anc. Geog. of India*, p. 333, *Arch. Sur. of India*, vol. ii. pp. 212 f., and vol. xiv. p. 100; Thom-

son, *Bhagavad. Gîtâ*, c. i. n. 2; Lassen, *Ind. Alt.*, vol. i. p. 153.

<sup>53</sup> That is, the king of the Kurus and of the Pândus. The struggle between these two families forms the subject of the great Sanskrit epic, the *Mahâbhârata*.

<sup>54</sup> Some years and months after.

<sup>55</sup> This is the general title given to Śakra or Indra, Sakradêvendra.