CHAPTER VI

SUCCESSIONS OF KANISHKA I

Kaniska's inscriptions range between the years 1 and 23. It is, therefore, believed that he enjoyed power for twenty three years. We learn from Fou-fa-tsang-in-iuen-tchoen that he was put to death by his Army Generals at the time when he was on an expedition to the north.

2. EI Vol XXVIII pp 42-44.
3. FFT chap 5; IA Vol XXXII p.387.
After Kaniska we find the inscriptions of Vāsīśka, ranging between the years 24 and 28. It is certain that Vāsīśka succeeded Kaniska in power. The records of Huviska, who calls himself a son of Kaniska, range between the years 28 and 60. The Kaniska mentioned in the inscription of the year 41 from gra is the second king of this name, and his identification with Kaniska I by some scholars is no longer accepted. This is the only record of this Kaniska available so far. After the year 60 we find the first dated record of the succeeding king Vāsudeva of the year 64 or 67 (?). His last dated record is of the year 98. The Kuśāna ruler who ruled between the years 60 and 64 (67?) is yet to be identified.

1. JRAS for 1910 pp.1311-15
2. EI Vol IX pp.244 ff.
3. EI Vol XXI pp.55-61
4. EI Vol I p.386 No.VIII
5. CII Vol II Pt I pp.165 ff.
7. EI Vol XXX pp.181-84
8. IA Vol XXXIII p.108 No.23
PART I

VĀSIŚKA

Career:

Vāsiśka succeeded Kaniska in the year 24 of the Kaniska era. He ruled up to the year 28. He should not be identified with Rājan Vaskuśāna of Sanchi inscription of the year 22. Therefore, we find no evidence that he was associated with Kaniska.

We find no coinage issued by Vāsiśka bearing his legend. Therefore, some scholars suggest that Vāsiśka was merely a viceroy and not a sovereign ruler. But the highly sounding titles assumed by him in his inscriptions, make it certain that he was a sovereign ruler.

If Juska as recorded in the Rajatarangīnī of Kalhana be identified with the Kuśāṇa king, Vāsiśka, then we have to accept that Kashmir was under the rule of Vāsiśka.

1. JRAS for 1910 pp 1311-15
2. EI Vol IX p.244
3. MS Vol I p.386
4. Maharaja Rajārāja Devaputra Sahi Vāsiśka
   JRAS for 1910 pp 1311-15 ; EI Vol IX p.244
   Kalhana
5. EJ Vol I p.30 No.168
He was the founder of two cities namely Juskapura and Jayasvāmipura. Juskapura has been identified with the large village of Zukur by Cunningham.

It is stated in his Mathura inscription of the year 26 that he arranged for the repair of a stūpa. In it is mentioned that he built a monastery at Juskapura.

Pag-Sam-Jon-Zang mentions that Kaniska’s son maintained 10,000 monks headed by 100 venerables for five years in the palace called Rgas-i-dam and helped in the preparation of many volumes of the Buddhist scriptures. Kalhana describes him as a wise king.

We find that in the Mathura stone slab inscription of the year 28 one of the feudatories calls Huviska Devaputra Sahi and invokes blessings for him and not for Vāsiśka, who was present in the Sanchi inscription of the

1. AGI p.101
2. ASIAR for 1911-12 pp 132
4. JASB for 1910 p.480
5. Kalhana Vol I p.30 No.169
6. Kalhana Vol XXI pp 55-61; It was issued on 1st August
year 28, which was issued after the first one. Therefore, it seems that during the last year of his reign Vasiṣṭha was associated with his younger brother Huviṣṭha who was allowed to exercise ruling but not full sovereign powers.

Inscriptions:

1. Isapur Vīpa inscription of the year 24

Provenance:

Isapur on Jamna river.

Date:
30th day of the 4th month of summer.

Script:
Brāhmī

Language:
Sanskrit

References:

Text:

1. सिद्धू महाराजस्य राजातिरिक्त देवपु -

1. I. Vol IX pp 244 ff; It was issued on 1st November.


3. From the facsimile in ASIAR 1910-11
Success! In the reign of the Maharaja rājaśrī, devaputra sahi Vasiśka, in the twenty-fourth (24th) year, in the fourth (4th) month of summer, on the thirtieth (30th) day - on this date, Dronala, the son of Budrila, a Brahmana maṇa (?) Chanter of holy hymns, while performing a sacrifice of a session of twelve days (nights) has set up this sacrificial post. May the three Fires be propitious.

II. Mathura Jain image inscription of the year 25

Provenance:
Kankali mound near Mathura.

Date: 20th day of the 3rd month of winter.

Script: Brāhmū.

1. ASI (for 1910-11) pp. 41
Language: Prakrit

References:
Bührer, El Vol I p.384 No.5; Ludess, IA Vol 33 p.37 No.7; LBI No.32.

1 Text

1. सवत्तारे वचारिः हरितम् (ढे) निलिये दिवसे बोसे वरित लूँगे

2. कृतिकत्वां गणनो बु(ढे) दासिक्ता खुदने उवेनगरिते शासवी अक्कङ्कत्व सिंहः सवि

3. स्य शिष्यिनि गुरु - - ति - वतन्ति नाविश्न विद्वान् (ढे) स्य वशु क्य [मूष] स्य शुंकितो रघुनिति बुध्य

Text Sanskritised

सवत्तारे वचारिः हरित माते नूलोये दिवसे बोसे वरित लूँगे कृतित्वां गणनो बु(ढे) दासिक्ता खुदने उवेनगरिते शासवी अक्कङ्कत्व सिंहः सवि शिष्यिनि गुरु - - ति - वतन्ति नाविश्न विद्वान् (ढे) स्य वशु क्य [मूष] स्य शुंकितो रघुनिति बुध्य

(केन्द्र)

1. Facsimile from El Vol I
Translation

In the twenty-fifth year, in the 3rd month of winter, on the twentieth day, at this moment (this was dedicated) by the washerwoman Vasu, wife of Jayabhatta, daughter-in-law of Jabhaka, daughter of Nadi, the request (having made) by Graha---the female pupil of Sadhi, pupil of the venerable Balatrata of the Kotiya gana, Brahmadasiaka kula and Uchchenagarī sākha.

III. Peshawar Museum Inscription No. 21

Provenance:


Date: ?

Script: Kharosthi

Language: Mixed Sanskrit and Prakrit

References:

Sten Konow, C 11 Vol I Pt. I p. 155

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Of the Maharāja - - - - - - on the - - - - - day of the month - - - - - at this moment this well was dug by the Brahman Vasudeva, the son of Idradeva (Indradeva), a resident of Obhara. May there be obtainment of (the meritorious results of) the gift.

1. From the facsimila in C ll Vol II Pt I
2. Sten Konow says the above 30 lines but he himself is not sure about the reading.
3. Majumdar says it.
4. C ll Vol II Pt.1 p.155
IV. Sanchi Buddhist image inscription of the year 28

Provenance: Sanchi

Date: 5th day of the first month of winter

Script: Brāhmī

Language: Prākrit influenced by Sanskrit

References:
Bühler, EI Vol II pp.369-70; Vol IX p.244

Text:

1. From the facsimile in EI Vol II pp 369-70

2. Cunningham: 70; Smith and Lüders: 60
On the 5th day of the first winter month in the (regnal) year 28 of Maharaja Malatiśrī Devanātra Śāhī Vasīṣṭha, on this date [specified above (statue)] of the Lord residing on the peak of Jambū-shaila (mountain) was set up in Dhamadeva Vihāra by Madhurīkā daughter of Khara with the donation of this religious gift.

Translation

1. Bühler: ते
2. Bühler: तिर्थे पुरुषक
3. SI Vol I pp.151
V. Hidda inscription of the year 28

Provenances: Hidda, five miles to the south of Jalalabad.

Date: In the month of Apallass when 11 days had appeared.

Script: Kharoṣṭhī

Language: Mixed Sanskrit and Prakrit.

References:

Cunningham, Ariana Antiqua for 1841 pp 60, 105 ff;
258 f and plate; Thomas, JRAS Vol XX for 1863 pp 250 ff;

Text

1. संवल्लास अखार्विशिष्टिनि १० ( + * ) ८ ( + * )
2 ध चरे जबए फरेिह दशि १० इसे दूरणमें पुतिदरिति
3 श्रीराज्यमें ५ पुल [५] पि संकलित करिंचि

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1. From the facsimile in C II Vol II Pt. I

2. Thomas: माली

3. Thomas: कै ( or रि )स्वस स्नेहि

4. Cunningham: हस्य

5. Thomas: रखाँवि
2. एतदे क [(११) क्लमधु तैस य च चर्मिद्य य [२] श्रोते सत्त्वशासी सवैडा समस्थ वत राज गुप्तेश्वर ।

Text Sanskritized

सत्त्वार्थ ज्ञापने पाशे अहेते सत्तबु दल्लु अनिमित्त वाणे प्रतिस्थापित जारौं राजाराजे स्तुपेस संप्रभृत्य ज्ञानिकिण जनेन कुस्त पूणम तस्य धर्माणि अधिमृत्यु धनिष्ठे से तल्लारौं सवैडा सन्धारण वतु राजः अणु पंवते

Translation

In the twenty-eighth - 28 - year, in the month Apallaios, when ten - 10 - had appeared, at this moment a relic was deposited in the kings grove, in a stūpa, by the architect Sanighamitra. Through this root of bliss may the Bodhisattva relic, with suppression of those dhammas where there is a decay of dhamma, be for the equipment for Nirvāṇa for all beings, and for a principal share for the king.

1. Thomas : तोतिक विच
2. Thomas : वशी
3. Thomas : गुप्तकृं
4. C II Vol II Pt I p.158
KANISKA - II

II. Career

Only one record from Aja mentions Kaniska by name. Smith and R.D. Banerji suggest that the Ara inscription of the year 41 belongs to Kaniska I. R.D. Banerji further concludes that after the death of Pan-chao, Kaniska conquered the north including Yarkand, Kashgar and Khotan. Vasiska and Huviska were his viceroys.

According to Allan Vasiska died before Kaniska and Huviska succeeded his father in power; and Kaniska II was the viceroy of Huviska. He states,

"The absence of the coins indicates that a second Kanishka whose name has survived in inscriptions, was not a paramount sovereign, but a viceroy of Huviska."

Since Kaniska I ruled up to the year 23 and the inscription from Aja is dated in the year 41, therefore, the king of this inscription is Kaniska II. He was the son

1. C I Vol II Pt. pp 165 ff
2. Oxford History of India pp 130-131; EII p.270
3. IA for 1908 p. 66
4. C H I Vol I p.79
5. See supra p. 225.
of Vajheska. In the Ara inscription, he assumed the titles, Mahārāja Rājātirāja Devaputra Kaśikāra, which indicate that he was a sovereign ruler. Luders is also of the similar view. He identifies Vajheska with Vāsiśka. He considers that Kaniska II bore those titles which are not applied to him anywhere else and that his characterisation as the son of Vajheska which too does not appear anywhere else gives an impression that they were added in order to differentiate this Kaniska from the other king, his name—Sake. It is obvious that he was the sovereign of the north-western parts of India (Now Pakistan) as Ara is two miles from Bagnilab which is ten miles from Attock.

It has to be accepted that Kaniska II, son of Vāsiśka, came to the power in the year 28-29 in the north-western parts of India and at that time Kuviśka was ruling in the interior parts of the empire. Kaniska II was a great king and he compelled the king of Soule to send his uncle as a hostage to his court in about 120 A.D. Neou Han Chou relates the story as follows—

"During the rule of the emperor Ngan during the

2. IA for 1913 p.135
3. Modern Kashgar in China
4. IHQ Vol II p.177
period Yuan-tchou (114-16 A.D.), Ngan Kouo, king of Soule (Kashgar) got offended with his uncle and Prime Minister Tchen-Pan and exiled him as a hostage to the king of the Yue-Chi. The Yue-Chi king loved him very much. When Ngan Kouo died without leaving an issue, his mother directed the government of the kingdom; she arranged with the people of the country to place on the throne, as king of Soule, Yi-fou who was the son of the younger brother of Tchen-Pan. Tchen-Pan claimed his right to be the king. The Yue-Chi sent soldiers to escort and carry him to Soule. The people of the latter kingdom had for a long time respect and affection for Tchen-Pan, besides they feared the Yue-Chi; they arranged, therefore, to despoil Yi-fou of his seal and ribbon and to go before Tchen-Pan whom they nominated king."

1. Hieun Tsang has given the following account,

"When Kaniska was reigning, the fear of his name spread to many regions so far even as the outlying vassals of China to the West of the Yellow river. One of the vassal states being in fear sent a hostage to the court of king Kaniska, the hostage being apparently a son of the ruler of the State. The king treated the hostage with great kindness and consideration."

1. OYCT Vol I p.292
Kaniska II of the Am inscription was ruling in A.D.
119 according to the system of chronology adopted in this
thesis. It is, therefore, clear that Hiuen Tsang's account
refers to Kaniska II though he does not make any distinction
between Kaniska I and Kaniska II.

No coins so far discovered can be attributed with
certainty to Kaniska II.

After his death which seems to have occurred
before 129 A.D. kaniska extended his empire to the north­
western portion of his territory, for in the Wardak
inscription of the year 51 he is mentioned as Maharaja
Kajatiraj.

Inscription

5. Am inscription of the year 41.

Provenance: Am, near Attock

Date: First Day of the month Jvaistha year 41

Script: Kharosthi

Language: Prakrit.

1. C II Vol II Pt. I pp. 165-70
References:

R.B. Pande, LIII p.71; S.S. Rana, Bhartiya Abhilekha pp 88-9

Text

1. From the facsimile in C II Vol II Pt. I

2. Banerji: पथवार

3. Banerji: बृहस्पति; Konow: बृहस्पति

4. Konow: ज्योतिष

5. Konow: कः

6. Banerji: पौराणिक

7. Konow: 20 ( + * ) 8 ( + * ) 1
4. कृपे दशकहरैन पौष - पुरिक - पुजारा फ्यार पिवरण पुर [०]
5. अल्पनास सामू [०] [०] पुआक अनुग्रहते सदै [०] न दा
6. नक्ति [चौ] लिए हसौ १० व दिनित ११ । [०] [०]

12 Text Sanskritized

महाराज्य सालितिकित सूचक पुजास्य कैरस्य वातिल्लित्त-पुजास्य
कृतिकर्मसंवत के संस्कार-संवत्तारिषते सो ५२ ज्यस्तित्त पास्य दिवसे १ अभिनव
दिवस - डाणो सात: कृपे दशकहरैन पौष-पुरिक - पुजारा पासा-पिता:।
पुआकै जीतन: सभायस्य सुप्रस्य अनुग्रहिवं सबसेितान्त: धारिष्टु किलाय।
दव ५ विनितिपुपु - - - - -

13 Translation

(During the reign) of the Maharaja Pālātrāja

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7. Lüders, उत्तरास स; Konow: उत्तरास Sircar: उत्तरास
8. Lüders: विनिता
9. Sircar: हस / Konow हस
e. Lüders: हस
e. Konow: विनिता
Devanuṭra Kaisāka, the son of Vājheshka, in the forty-first year—year 41, on the 25th day of the month Jyṛṣṭha. On this day this well was dug by Dashavhara, of the Peshāwarīān scions, in honour of his mother and father, for the benefit of himself and his wife and son, for the welfare of all beings in the (various) births. And, having written this (might there) for me...