CHAPTER III

EARLY KINGS

SHASHTHA I

The first king in the dynasty is Shashtha I as learnt from the Marcella plates and the Gandevi inscription. From the Gandevi inscription, we learn that he was well-versed in the sciences of dharma and artha and that he was a brave warrior fit to protect the three worlds. The Marcella plates further state that he established several kings who had lost their kingdoms and therefore the epithet Jhampadacharya given to him became true to its meaning. This epithet which appears with Shashtha I for the first time with its significance recurs with the subsequent kings of the dynasty.

(3) The name of his queen is Nayavyadēvi.

The period for which Shashtha I ruled was c. A.D. 925 to 950.
Nāgavarmā, the next king in the dynasty was the son of Shashthi I and Nāyavadevi. He was a performer of meritorious deeds (nitya-karmā) and an abode of valour, greatness and discrimination (pratāpa-mahātmya-viveka-bhūmiḥ). He had distinguished himself in education and literature (sahitya-vidyā-nilayaḥ). He had studied several sciences, scriptures and ethics (aṣeṣa-sastrāgama-niti-dīrghaḥ). He was a fine artist like the Creator (Viśv-karma-eṣa śilāḥ). He had a handsome personality like the God of Love (Pusḥa-ḍhanvāva kāntaḥ). In addition to these accomplishments he was of a cool and calm temperament possessing the purity of character of a sage (muniriva suchi-santah).

His wife was Nālavyadevi, a woman of exceptional beauty and character.

The period during which Nāgavarmā ruled was between c. A.D.950 and c. A.D.975.
Notes and references:

(1) Trailokya-rakshana-parayana-vira-vrittth I dhama-
   ērtha-sastr-viśa-bhūda-atha Shashtha-raja —

(2) pratishthā aneka-vipanna-bhūpaḥ sa Jhampadacharya
   yathā-rāthu-nāma. For a discussion on Jhampadā-
   chārya vide Dr. M. C. Dikshit in S.I.V. pp 50-53
   Also see R.I., XII, p. 251. The original word
   would be Jhāmāna. With the addition of 'anna'
   meaning brother in Kannada, the word becomes
   Jhāmāna. Further changes are due to phonetic
   reasons: Jhāmāna → Jhāmāna → Jhāmāna →
   Jhampada. All the forms are found in the
   inscription.

(3) The name Nāyavyādevī is the sanskritised form of
   the Kannada proper name Nāyavvedēvi or
   Nāyav-bedēvi, 'v' and 'b' having not been
   distinguished in some of the words in
   the record.

(4) Like Nāyavyādevī, the name Mālavyādevī is the
   sanskritised form of the Kannada proper name,
   Mālavedēvi or Mālbedēvi.