CHAPTER I
GENEALOGY AND CHRONOLOGY OF THE KUSHĀNAS

The Kushānas, who played a dominant role in Indian politics, were a branch of the famous Yueh-chi tribe whose early history is recorded in several Chinese historical works.¹ These Yueh-chi originally dwelt in between the Tsenn-hoang (or Tun-huang) country and the Ki-lien (or Tienshan) range in Chinese Turkestan, in the province of Kansu.² There they were defeated and expelled from their land, about 165 B.C. according to most authorities, by a neighbouring tribe called the Hiung-nu, who killed the leader of the Yueh-chi horde³ and made a drinking vessel out of his skull. The widow of the slain ruler took over the leadership and guided the tribe in the course of its westward migration.⁴

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1. Indian Antiquary (IA hereafter) 1908, pp. 26, ff.
Journal of the Department of Letter's, Calcutta University (JDL hereafter) 1920, pp 71 ff. Numismatic Supplement, XLVII.


While the Yueh-chi\textsuperscript{5} were passing through the land of the north of the Taklamakan desert, they came into conflict with the Wu-sun who occupied the valleys of the Ili River and its southern tributaries. After having defeated the Wu-sun and slain their chieftain, the Yueh-chi marched on westwards, beyond lake Issiq Kol,\textsuperscript{6} in search of a suitable home. A small section of the people however went to the south to settle on the Tibetan frontier and became known as the little Yueh-chi.\textsuperscript{7} The Yue-chi next came into conflict with Se or Sok in around 160 B.C. In the meantime the son of the Slain Wu-Sun Chieftain grew into manhood and in 140 B.C. he defeated these Yue-Chis. Then they arrived in Ta-hia. After sometime they lost their nomadic habits and divided themselves into 5 principalities of which Kou-chowang (Kushāṇas) were prominent the king of these Kushāṇas Ku-tsiu-kio attacked and subjugated other four principalities.

The Kushāṇas made their way first of all into the Oxus Valley and later, crossing over the Hindu Kush, occupied the upper and lower reaches of the Kabul river. They bundled up

the remnants of the Parthians in Gandhara in the 1st Century A.D. and pushed eastward into the Ganges Valley. The Kushānas pushed further east, and were known to have appointed an administrative officer of Benaras. Southward inscriptions of Vāsiskha at Sāñchi near Bhopal in Central India were discovered, while in the Indus region their inscriptions have been found from the deltic region of Sind. Thus, in the first round of conquest, the Kushānas swept over the Oxus, the Indus and the Ganges Valleys. This conquest was complete in the third generation of the rulers, i.e. in the time of Kanishka from whose reign a regnal year counting was maintained until the end of the rule of Vāsudeva, i.e. 98 years in all. But there is no evidence to show that all these territories remained under the Kushānas throughout this period. Infact, after the death of Kanishka the Gangetic Valley except the Mathura region,

8. Ibid.
9. Dani, A.H., A Short History of Pakistan, Book I, Karachi, Chapter VIII.
11. Ibid, pp. XCIII- XCIV.
slipped out of their hands. On the other hand, the Sakas (well known as Western Kshatrapas) now centered in Gujarat, advanced northward into Malwa and made westward incursions even in Sind. However, the Kushāṇas remained strong in the Indus-region and also in parts of Afghanistan. This territory could be regarded as the Kushāṇa imperial realm, and it is the basic geography of this territory that lay at the root of the Kushāṇa civilization. After the defeat of the Imperial Kushāṇas by the Sassanians, the eastern parts gained independence. The Mathura region was cut away and many tribal states rose in the East Punjab. But the later Kushāṇas and their successors held their firm ways in the Indus region. The economy of the Indus zone continued to support the Kushāṇa civilization.

Among the Kushāṇa emperors who ruled, from the seat of power in Bactria, over the whole or substantial portions of

15. Ibid. Ch I and II.
the territories indicated above were Kujula Kadphises, Wima Kadphises, Soter Megas, Kanishka I, Vāsishka I, Huvishka, Kanishka II, Vāsudeva I, were the imperial Kushāṇa. Vāsudeva II and Kanishka III who are considered to be the great king's of the later Kushāṇa series. However, Vasishka II and Kanishka IV and Vāsudeva III also are known to have ruled towards the end of the Kushāṇa rule.

Kujula Kadphises (B.C. 25 - A.D. 35):

The earliest known Kushāṇa king in India was Kujula Kadphises who was the subordinate of the last Greek king Hermaeus. The date of the Kujula can be fixed only with reference to the fixation of the initial year of the old Saka era in which the three Kharoshthī records are dated. It has been pointed by the scholars that these records are applicable only to him or, at the most, the last one to his son, but not to the rest of the family. Scholars have tried to grapple with this problem of the old Saka era, its imitation and initial year and are at present nearing a general agreement, though they are not unanimous in their conclusions.

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17. Mukherjee, R.K, Rise and Fall of the Kushāṇa Empire, (RFKE hereafter), p. 196.
The relations between Kujula Kadphises and Hermaeus are traced by scholars in different ways. A comprehensive study of the Hermaeus-Kujula coins was made by Tarn. He arrives at the conclusion that Kujula, a descendent of the Kushāna Yavuga Miaos who had married a relative of Hermaeus, invaded the Paropamisadae, proclaiming to the Greeks the legality of his claim as their ruler on the basis of hereditary relationship.

It is suggested by several scholars that there has been a considerable gap between Hermaeus and Kujula Kadphises during which period the Pahlavis were in possession of Kabul. The relationship between Hermaeus and Kujula Kadphises does not appear to be that of blood, nor can it be presumed that Hermaeus was immediately succeeded by Kujula Kadphises. Bachofer rejects Hermaeus' identity with Yen-mo-fu of the Chien-Han-Shu, and presumes that Hermaeus continued to rule in the second decade of the first century

23. GBI, Appendix. 17, pp. 503 ff.
A.D. 24 Narain thinks it likely that earlier in his reign Hermaeus lost his possessions north of Hindu-Kush to the Yueh-chi, perhaps to an ancestor of Kujula Kadphises. When Kujula conquered the Kabul valley from the Pahlavi, he struck coins with the type of Heracles which had been adopted earlier by the Pahlava kings. 25 The earlier theory of Rapson 26 that Hermaeus and Kujula were related and the latter succeeded the former is endorsed by Van-Lohuizen-de-leeuw 27 who places Kujula in the first century B.C., i.e. 25 BC - to 35 A.D.

The earliest Indian Kushāna coins are those which were issued by Kujula Kadphises in copper. The earliest of them bear the bust of Hermaeus, the last Bactrian ruler on the obverse, and Heracles on the reverse. These are in continuation of the imitations which were minted by the Parthian successors after Hermaeus' death. Another type of his coins have a diademed-Roman-style male head on the obverse, which was apparently copied from the Roman coins.

The style and the form of the portrait are so general that there can be no precise identification of the Roman emperor whose coins were copied; but generally it is identified with Augustus. On the reverse of these coins is shown a male, dressed in Indo-Scythian costume and seated on curdle, who is probably Kujula Kadphises himself. A third type of coins bears a bull on one side and a double humped Bactrian camel on the other. It probably reflects the nomadic habits of the Kushānas. All these coins are bilingual, having Greek inscription on the obverse and Kharoshṭhī on the reverse.

**Wima Kadphises (A.D. 35 - A.D. 62 or after):**

The second Kushāna king was Wima who succeeded his father Kujula. The Chinese record, *Annals of the Later Han Dynasty* the *Hou-Han Shu*, suggest that he again conquered India and appointed a general there for the administration. Lohuizen-de-Leeuw presumes on the strength of the discovery of a hoard of coins at Sirkap, consisting of coins of Gondophernes and Kujula Kadphises, that the Indian conquests of Kujula east of the Indus were lost and


29. *N. Chro.* 1892, p. 37, Pl. 3-11.

later reconquered by Wima Kadphises. The conquest implied in the Chinese account and attributed to Wima Kadphises seems to be a further extension of his father's empire and not a reconquest of the lost territory in the north west of which there is no evidence. J.E. Van lohizen\textsuperscript{31} places the Wima in the first century i.e. A.D. 35 to A.D. 62 or after.

The coins of Wima Kadphises are so radically different from those of his father that had there not been other evidence, on the basis of coins, his direct succession would have been deemed improbable. He issued copper coins in continuation of the earlier tradition; that his most notable contribution is the introduction of the extensive gold coins for the first time in India. Most likely he issued these coins, inspired by the Roman coins that were pouring into India in plenty through trade. Gold coins of three denominations were issued by him - double dināra, dināra and quarter dināra though the last one was rare.

**Soter Megas (A.D. 62 - AD 78):**

Wima Kadphises seems to have ruled for a fairly long time.\textsuperscript{32} Those scholars who consider Kanishka to be the founder of the Śaka era, try to fit him between A.D. 64 and

\textsuperscript{31} *The Scythian-Period*, pp. 381-82.

\textsuperscript{32} Rapson, *Indian Coins*, p. 16-17.
A.D. 75. But actually he seems to have started in A.D. 78 and continued to rule till about A.D. 101 or 102 a period of little more than forty five years, with Nahapāna and Chashṭana as his deputies in south-western India though with a greater degree of autonomy, and Soter Megas as his deputy in the north. The extension of Wima Kadphises’ empire in Madhyadesā seems evident from the extensive finds of his coins, in larger number as far as Basarh, Bhita and Kasia.\(^{33}\) The seated image of the Kushāna emperor (Kushānaputra) called Vamatakshama at Mathura is supposed by Jayaswal\(^{34}\) to be that of Wima Kadphises, taking Kushāna as the personal name of the first king Kujula Kadphises. Though we may not agree with the view of the scholar, the extension of Wima Kadphises’ empire to as far as Mathura or even upto Sarnath may be agreed upon, although his coins have been found as far as Basarh in Muzaffarpur district. It is very likely he may have appointed a deputy for this part of his empire. His name is not mentioned anywhere. He could be Soter Megas whose coins were found extensively in the Punjab, in the Kandhar and Kabul regions and as far as Mathura in the


\(^{34}\) *Journal of the Bihar and Orissa Reseearch Society* (JBORS hereafter), VI, pp. 12 ff.
east. According to Rapson, these coins show a symbol of the king which is characteristic of Wima Kadphises, and it could hardly be doubted that they were related to him, in point of time. Whitehead also drew attention to the fact that these coins were found in extraordinary abundance, and over a wide stretch of territory extending from Peshawar to Mathura, pointing to a longer reign and greater strength. The style of the coins, in copper only, and the absence of the square form, according to Whitehead point to a period near about the Kushāṇa conquest, making Soter Megas the contemporary of one of the two Kadphises rulers. Whitehead also suggests that these coins were struck by more than one ruler, and the different types represent different localities though such rulers might have been subordinate to a single sovereign.

There are a good number of coins with simply the legend BA IA O€ BA€I ∧ AESON ΛΟTHEP ME V AE on the obverse and Maharajasa rajadirajasa tratasa on the reverse. These titles were adopted by Indo-Parthian and Kushāṇa rulers. Bivar

35. Indian Coins, pp. 16 ff.
37. Ibid.
38. CHI, p. 219.
holds these coins to have been issued by the nameless king whose reign is from A.D. 62 (or 64) to A.D. 78. Gobl is also of the opinion that the Soter Megas was different from Kujula and Wima Kadphises and he was the head of a separate tribe.

Attempt is made to equate this unknown king with Mahārāja Ghusham mentioned in Panjtar inscription of the year 122 of the Saka era (A.D. 65) as Mahārāja and Mahārāja rajatiraja devaputra Kushāna the Taxila inscription of the year 136 (A.D. 39).

According to Sircar Soter Megas was a semi independent governor of the Indian part of possession of Wima Kadphises. Whitehead suggests Soter Megas as the contemporary of the two Kadphises rulers. Sten Konow takes the letter "Vi" on some of his coins as initial letter of the suzerain's name Wima Kadphises, and Sircar assigns the

40. The Age of Imperial Unity, (AIU hereafter), p. 140.
42. AIU, pp. 140-2.
44. AIU, p. 140.
coins under the title of Soter Megas with Wima Kadphises. B.N. Mukherjee places Soter Megas between Kujula and Wima and the simultaneous occurrence of the three pronged symbol of Soter Megas and the nandipada symbol known to have been used by Wima Kadphises gives some direction of relationship between the two rulers.

Soter Megas was the first Kushāṇa king who established the standard currency. These coins have idealized royal head representing the diversity of Mithra on the reverse king mounted on horse.

They were particularly common in Afghanistan. Masson obtained his 695 coins from Begram in three years. This standard coinage was intended to replace the multiplicity of local coinage that Kushāṇas had inherited. Further Soter Megas did not strike gold pieces like Wima.

Kanishka I *(A.D. 78 – A.D. 101 or 102):

Kanishka was the greatest king of the Kushāṇa emperors...

45. Mukherjee, B.N., Rise and Fall of Kushāṇas, (Delhi, 1990), p. 52.


* See Appendix.
and his rule extended over the Madhyadesha, Uttarāpatha and Aparānta divisions of ancient India. His empire seems to have stretched from Bihar in the east to Khorasan in the west; and from Khotan in the north to the Konkan in the south. It is usually believed that Wima was succeeded by Kanishka, although the date of Wima's death and his relationship with Kanishka are unknown. However, for the reasons elucidated in the earlier section, the ruler Soter Megas seems to have intervened between Wima and Kanishka I. There is no evidence that Kanishka was the sole ruler of the Kushāṇa possession in Bactria, Afghanistan and India at his accession. The most interesting fact about Kanishka's rule seems to be that his earliest records have been discovered in Uttar Pradesh, the inclusion of which in the dominions of Wima Kadphises may only be conjectured but cannot be proved with the present state of our knowledge. Kanishka may have originally been one of the several Kushāṇa chieftains who tried to make their fortune in India and may have come out successful in the struggle for supremacy that seems to have followed the death of Wima. If these suggestions and those referred to above as regards Soter Megas and Kujula
Kadphises\textsuperscript{48} are to be accepted, we can possibly assign Wima's death to a date earlier than the extension of Kanishka's power over north-western India and the adjoining regions. Kanishka\textsuperscript{49} seems to have conquered those territories from Kujula-Kara Kadphises whose title Devaputra is known to have been appropriated.

The identification of the Kanishka era with the Saka-era of A.D. 78, supported by many scholars, is to be accepted. Kanishka ruled from A.D. 78 to A.D. 101 or 102. It must, however, be admitted that there is a good deal of controversy on this point. According to some writers notably Fleet,\textsuperscript{50} Kanishka was a predecessor of Kujula Kadphises and Wima Kadphises and was the founder of the era of 58 B.C. which ultimately came to be known as the Vikrama-Samvat.\textsuperscript{51} This view about the chronology of the Kushāṇas is not favoured by more recent authorities. There are two theories ascribing Kanishka to the third century A.D. One of them assigns Kanishka's accession to A.D. 278, while another

\begin{quote}
\begin{enumerate}
\item \textsuperscript{48} For details see, Chattopadhyaya, \textit{The Age of the Kushāṇas: - A Numismatic Study}. pp. 49-55.
\item \textsuperscript{49} Ibid., p. 56.
\item \textsuperscript{50} The \textit{New History of Indian People} (Vol. VI), (NHIP hereafter), p. 16.
\item \textsuperscript{51} IMC, I, p. 87.
\end{enumerate}
\end{quote}
suggests that Kanishka ascended the throne in A.D. 248 and was the founder of the era used by the rulers of the Traikūṭaka and other dynasties\textsuperscript{52}. Neither of these views has received any support from scholars.

The discovered good number of inscriptions only mention Kanishka's name. For the commencement of his reign various dates are proposed: Sircar,\textsuperscript{53} Basham\textsuperscript{54} A.D. 78; Talstov A.D. 100, R. Göbl and Macdowell A.D. 144. Earlier Göbl placed the reign of Kanishka between A.D. 232 and A.D. 260.

He seems to be the leader of one of the Kushāṇa clans which belonged to the little Yueh-chi tribes. Tibetan works Li-Yui-Gui-Lo Rgyas-Pa\textsuperscript{55} refer to Kanishka as the king of Guzan who launched an expedition to India and destroyed the city of Saket (Saketa).\textsuperscript{56}

\textbf{Vasīṣhka I (A.D. 102 - A.D. 106)}:

Kanishka was succeeded by his son Vasīṣhka, who as crown-prince acted as Kanishka's viceroy in Malwa region.

\textsuperscript{52. AIU, p. 145.}
\textsuperscript{53. AIU, p. 142.}
\textsuperscript{54. Papers on the date of Kanishka, p. 434.}
\textsuperscript{55. Rochills, C.F., The Life of the Buddha, p. 240.}
\textsuperscript{56. Ibid.}
Vasishka ruled for a brief period of four years only.\textsuperscript{57} Possibly after his death there was some trouble in the dynasty.\textsuperscript{58} Naturally it might have shaken the foundation of the Kushana empire and provided the opportunity of the local forces subdued by the Kushanas although two parts of the Kushana dominion were again united later under the suzerainty of Huvishka.

\textbf{Huvishka (A.D. 106 - A.D. 138):}

After the death of Vasishka I, Huvishka ruled for a long period (i.e. A.D. 106 To A.D. 138). The epigraphic records show that there was a partition of the empire, and while Kanishka II, the son of Vasishka I, was ruling the west in the year 41 = 119 A.D. Huvishka, the son of Kanishka ruled from C 106 A.D. to C. 138 A.D. Marshall,\textsuperscript{59} however, thinks that as Huvishka bore the lesser title of \textit{rajatiraja} between A.D. 40 and A.D. 60, it may be inferred that, "after Vasishka's death, Huvishka, who was probably his brother or uncle, acted for some years as regent on behalf of his son, Kanishka II, and when the latter came of age in the year

\textsuperscript{57} Chattopadhyay, S. \textit{Early History of Northern India}, p. 114.
\textsuperscript{58} Ibid., p. 69.
\textsuperscript{59} Mukherjee, B.N., \textit{The Kushana Genealogy}, pp. 71-73.
A.D. 39 or A.D. 40, was associated with him as co-emperor for a short while, but on his premature death succeeded him as sole emperor. There are, however, some difficulties in accepting that theory. In the first place, there is absolutely no epigraphic or numismatic evidence to show that Kanishka II and Huvishka ever ruled as co-emperors, as we find in the case of the Śaka kings of Taxila. Secondly, if we critically study the evidence of the Geographic of Ptolemy, it would be clear that there was some confusion in the vast empire once ruled by Kanishka I.

Kanishka II (A.D. 119):

It is very likely that Huvishka ruled conjointly with Kanishka II (A.D. 119). The reign of Kanishka II may not have been so short because of the paucity of records, as this may have been due to the fact that he for the most part ruled jointly with his senior partner Huvishka whose reign was naturally referred to by the people. Kanishka II, assumed the title Kaisara, i.e. Caesar, in imitation of the contemporary Roman emperors.

Vāsudeva I (A.D. 145 - A.D. 176):

The next king Vāsudeva I has a purely Indian name that

60. Ibid.
61. Ibid.
offers additional evidence of the naturalization of the Kushāṇa family in India. His known dates range between the years 67 and 98 corresponding to A.D. 145 and A.D. 176. The religious eclecticism evidenced by the coinage of Kanishka and Huvishka is only partially noticed in Vāsudeva's coins. As most of his issues exhibit the figure of Śiva with his bull Nandi, it has been suggested that like Wima, Vāsudeva was a devotee of Śiva although his name points to the Vaishnava faith.

Mukharjee,62 giving the period A.D. 138 or 141 to A.D. 175-6 to Vāsudeva I, says "there is no evidence to suggest that such a trouble resulted in the succession of the Begram region from the Kushāṇa empire". But surprisingly enough, while concluding, he simply accepts that "at least parts of N.W.F.P., the Punjab (Pakistan), the Punjab (India), Haryana must be under his empire".

**LATER KUSHĀṆA KINGS:**

**Vāsudeva II (A.D. 176 - A.D. 183):**

The existence of Vāsudeva II is also known from numismatic evidence. His coins are to be differentiated from those of Vāsudeva-1, as they show greater deterioration in monetary standard and debasement of the Greek script. The

symbol is also different, coins of Vāsudeva II with "Śiva and Bull" type are found in Bactria and Afghanistan. Vāsudeva II also permitted the initials of his governors to be put on their coins. These indicate that the governors in the Punjab were becoming powerful.

From the execution of the coins, Smith has placed Kanishka III and Vāsudeva II in the third century A.D. while he places 'Vasu' or Vāsudeva about two hundred A.D.

**Huvishka II:**

Vāsudeva II was succeeded by Huvishka II. P.L. Gupta considered this Huvishka as father of Kanishka I where as K.D. Bajpai is of the opinion that the Huvishka referred here was the father of Kanishka III.

**Kanishka III (A.D. 183 - A.D. 195):**

Huvishka II was succeeded by Kanishka III and his coins known in the Brāhmī letters Ga, Hu, Ha, Tha, Aum and Ga,

63. IMC-I, p. 186
64. IMC I, p. 187.
Gho, Dhri appear. He was followed by Vasishka II. Kanishka III started his career around 100 A.D. and started second Kanishka era as in his inscriptions are dated from 5 to 17 i.e. 105-117 (omitting 100).

**Bazeshko (Vasishka II) (A.D. 195 - A.D. 200):**

The inscription found at Sāñchi of year 28 (of second Kanishka era) gives the name Vashishka who is identifiable with the Bazeshko whose existence was suggested by R. Gobl. B.N. Mukherjee has given the identification of this ruler with Vaśishka. In our work we also felt that Bazeshko is a distorted form of Vasishka and have identified it as such. Since Vaśishka had been an earlier confirmed ruler in the Kushāna lineage, after Kanishka III Bazeshko has been designated here in this study as Vaśishka II.

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68. *Ara Inscription, CII-I*, p. 165.

69. *Kushāna Coins in the land of five Rivers, Appendix II*.


Kanishka IV (A.D. 210 - A.D. 219):

Göbl, R\textsuperscript{72} and J.M. Rosenfield\textsuperscript{73} ascribe several gold coins bearing the name of Kanishka Koshāno, which carry "Standing king sacrificing at an altar" and "Śiva with Bull" devices and have the obverse legend from 1 O'clock, to one Kanishka different and later than Kanishka III (Gobl's Kanishka II). Göbl, seems to be of the opinion that this ruler, whom he calls Kanishka III (should be Kanishka IV, according to our scheme), ruled in the "southern" part of the Kushāṇa empire after Kanishka II (our Kanishka III) and also Vaśishka II (Bazeshko of Coins legends).\textsuperscript{74}

These coins can be typologically and, to some extent also stylistically associated with several coins of Kanishka III.\textsuperscript{75}

Amongst the Later Kushāṇas who ruled in the last quarter of the second century A.D. and the first half of the third century A.D. Kanishka IV is probably identical with the Yueh-chi king Po -t'iao of the Chinese annals, who sent

\textsuperscript{72. Ibid., p. 216.}
\textsuperscript{73. Rosenfield, J.M., The Dynastic Arts of the Kushāṇas, Pl. IX, Nos. 217-221.}
\textsuperscript{74. Gobl, R., Dokumente our Geschichte der Iranischen Hunnen in Baktrien and Indien, Vol. III, Pl. I, No. 18.}
\textsuperscript{75. N. Chron., 1893, Pl. VIII, nos 17 and 18.}
an ambassador to the Chinese court in A.D. 230. It is, however, possible that more than one Kanishka and Vasudeva adorned the Kushāṇa throne in the third century A.D. Some of the later Kushāṇa coins of third century bear enigmatic symbols like Bha, Ga, Vi and Nu (either mint-marks or initials of viceroys) as well as names (probably of viceroys) like Pasana and Shilada.76 The influence of the issues of the earlier Sassanian kings is noticed on these coins.

There is a series of coins, which are close to the coins of Kanishka IV. They have Ardoksho on the reverse seated on high backed throne; and on the obverse they retain the costume system of Kanishka IV. But they are well distinguishable from the coins of Kanishka III. They have more exaggerated curve of hem of the tunic and a cruder and more conventionalized type of king effigy. The bun of the hair of Kanishka III is absent on these coins. The circular legend on most of these coins is found missing.


Numismatic evidence suggests that there was a Vasudeva III after Kanishka IV (A.D. 210 - 219). Perhaps he was one of the last rulers of the Kushāṇa dynasty. The Bactrian

76. N. Chron, 1893, p. 123.
obverse legend on some of his early gold coins of the Ardoksho reverse type had letters to the effect that a Bazodeo existed. This corresponds to Vāsudeva in Sanskrit. Since Vāsudeva I and Vāsudeva II have been earlier identified, this ruler is designated as Vāsudeva III.

He was the contemporary of Sassanid king Shahpur during whose time Begram city was overrun by the Sassanids. Coins of Vāsudeva III are the last Kushāna coins found at the site.

The history of the Kushānas after Vāsudeva III is rather obscure. The coins bearing the name Vāsu, Chhāra and Maśrā are quite new to the scholars of the Kushāna history and numismatics. They have come to light only recently with the discovery of the Jhunjhunu hoard of Later Kushāna gold coins. Besides the coins found in this hoard, Dr. P.L. Gupta located two other specimens. One is in the Bharat Kala Bhavan, the Art and Archaeology Museum of the Banaras Hindu University and the other in the state Museum, Lucknow.

78. Herzfeld, Paikuli I, pp. 35-51.
79. Numismatic Digest, (N.D. hereafter), Vol. V. p. 34.
80. Gupta, P.L. Kushānas in the Yamuna-Gangetic Region, Chronology and date, Estrato da ANNALI dell' Instituto Universitaria Orientole, Volume, 45, p. 216.
Both of them are still unpublished. These coins are exclusively distinct from all the Kushāṇa coins so far mentioned. Here a Chakra (wheel) topped standard is noticed in the left hand of the king in place of the usual trident standard. Chakra-topped standard in the hand of the Kushāṇa king reminds us of the well known Chakradhvaja type coins of Kāchagupta of the Gupta dynasty. There too the king holds a Chakra (Wheel) topped standard in his left hand in the same way as we notice these coins. This striking similarity between the coins of two rulers, belonging to two different dynasties, unmistakably indicates that the two rulers existed in the periods quite close to each other; and Kāchā Gupta borrowed this standard from the coins of Masrā. This would ultimately mean to history that Masrā was perhaps the last Kushāṇa ruler, who existed quite close in time to Kāchagupta, who was an early ruler of the Gupta dynasty. 81