CHAPTER IX

THE PANCALAS

The descendants of Somaka, the son of Sahadeva (son of Srñjaya See Ch. VIII P. 121) were known as Pañcalas. Their names generally occur with the Kurus as Kuru-Pañcalas. According to the Brāhmanas they inhabited the 'middle country' (probably the land between the river Yamunā and the Ganges) with the Vaśas and Uśīnaras. Some of his descendants moved out of the Ilāyāspada and founded new principalities like Kāmpilya, Paricakra and Kosambi. Archaeological evidences proved that North Pañcāla (north of the Ganges and east of the upper Doab) with its capital at Ahicchatra and south Pañcāla with its capital at Kāmpilya have produced PGW sites.

SOMAKA

Somaka, was consecrated king of a state in the neighborhood of Kāśi by Parvata and Nārada. Somaka seer of Yajurveda may be the same. He learnt a substitute for the Soma juice from Parvata and Nārada. He told it to his father Sahadeva. He gave horses as gifts to Vamadeva.

SATRAJITA

1 Rg.,IV.15.9.
5 Identified as Kampila in Farrakhabad district U.P. (GDAMI.,P.88).
6 See P.125.
7 Identified as Kosam (GDAMI.,P.96).
8 'Ancient Indian Social History : Some interpretations'.
10 Ait.Br.,VII.34.9.
12 SB.,XII.8.2.3.
13 Rg.,IV.15.8-10.
We are not sure about the next successors of Somaka but most probably Sattrajit was the next descendant because of his connection with the Bharatas on the one hand and Pañcālas on the other. Sattrajit himself was stated to be a Bharata. His grandsons were known as Pañcālas. The idea is further confirmed by the contemporaneity of his grandson Darbha with Ahīnasa son of Divodasa (See below). Sattrajit’s son was Satānika. (See table at P.138).

SATĀNIKA

Satānika was coronated by Vânjaratna’s son Somaśuśman. Dāksāyanas paid in gold to Satānika. He captured the horse of sacrifice performed by Dhṛtarāṣṭra, son of Vicitravīrya and a king of Kāśi. Satānika’s son was Darbha.

DARBHA

Darbha was also known as Cakītāna. He was married to Uccaiśravas’s (a kuru prince) sister. It is said that his people did not respect him. Then Ahīnasa, the son of Aśvattha, (Divodāsa) and Keśin, son of Satyakāma performed a Yajña for him after which he began to command a respect among his people. Many sons of Darbha are known.

1 RATHAVITI

Rathavīti Dārbhya was a rich person and was a resident of the

14 SB.,XIII.5.4.9-13; Ait.Br., VII.21.5.
16 Ibid.
18 Kath.B.,X.6; SB.,XIII.5.4.22 Dhṛtrāṣṭra was not a kuru king. Authors of Vedic Index (VINS.,I.349) also holds the same view. It appears that the incident was somehow related with war of Kuruvāraṇa against Duḥśāsu. See Ch.X.App.1.
19 JB.,II.102.
20 Chh.Up.,I.6.1 calls Dālbhyas as Caikitāyanas also.
22 JB.,II.100.
mountainous region near the origin of river Gomati. *Rgveda* refers to a legend that once Rathavīti performed a Yajña with Arcanānas as his priest. Arcanānas desired to have king's daughter as a wife for his son Syāvāśva. But Rathavīti's wife did not agree, insisting that his son-in-law should be a ṛṣi. The father and the son felt insulted. They were returning home. In the way they met Taranta and Purumilha, their former patrons. Taranta's wife Sāsiyasi, gave Syāvāśva much wealth as a gift. Syāvāśva then met Maruts in a forest and lauded them. They enabled him to become a seer. As a result king Rathavīti himself offered the hand of his daughter to Syāvāśva in marriage.

2. Rathaprotā

He was either a king or a priest. Authors of Vedic Index accepted both the possibilities. Two priests collectively named 'Kaulkāvati' gave him advice.

3. Kesin

Keśin the son of Darbha was also a Pāṇcāla king. He had instructions from his father Darbha and also from Parna. Uccaiśravas, his maternal uncle, taught him all the rituals of Yajña and enabled him to win the lost competition against Khandika Audbhāri another Pāṇcāla. He also taught him a saman by means of which mortal frame could become invisible and asked him to find out an Udṛgṭr (saman - singer) who was proficient in it. He had a

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23 'te no vasūṇi kāmyā/.......esa kṣeti rathavītīr maghavā
gomatīranu/ parvateśvapaśritāh' *Rg.* V.61.16,19. Gomati was the river of UP though scholars have identified it with Gomal in the Afghanistan. According to Vedic Index (VINS.,2.206) 'gomatī' means a place abounding in kine far away among the hills, possibly in Himalayas.

24 *Rg.* ,V.61 illustrated by Brhaddevata V.47.

25 See Ch.XIII P.172.

26 VINS.,2.205.

27 Mait.S.,II.1.3.

28 Kath.S.,XXX.2; JB.,II.279.

29 JB.,II.53.

conversation with several persons on the topic like Gāṅgīnā Rhākṣita, Luśākapi Khārgali, Ula Vārṣṇīvṛdha, Itanta Kāvyā, and Śikhandīna Vājñāsenā. At last he found Pratṛda Bhalla to be the right person.

4. VAKA / BAKA

Baka, the son of Darbha became proficient in 'Udgatr' (Saman singing) and became a priest of Naimiśiyās. He was the person who was able to answer the questions of Bhagiratha Aikṣavākā and challenged Maudgalyās in a discourse. These incidents earned him a name in Vedic lore. Authors of Vedic Index identify Vaka Dārbhya with Glāva Maitreyā who was a participant of Snake Satra of Janamejaya son of Kūṭasta. Baka Dālbhya had a dispute with Dhṛtrāṣṭra Vaicitrāvīrya, the king of Kāśī, over the subject of ritualism. He also earned the displeasure of Indra for Ajakesins.

OTHER PĀNCĀLA KINGS

Some other Pāncāla kings also are enlisted. Though their positions in the hierarchy is not traceable but, from the contemporaneous statements, one thing is certain that they all were almost contemporary and happened to be in this very period. It appears that they established small principalities.

KRAIVYA PĀNCĀLA A king of Paricakrā performed Aśvamedha.

31 JB., II.122.
37 Go.Br., I.1.31.
39 PB., XXV.15.3.
40 Kath.S., XXX.2; SB.II.5.4.22.
42 SB., XIII.5.4.7 Old name of Pāncalas was Krīvi (SB., XII.5.4.7) supported by the name of king Kraivyā Pāncāla.
Paricakrā has been identifies as Ekacakrā near Kāmpilya by Weber43 and Zimmer44.

**DURMUKHA PANČĀLA** was coronated by Brhaduktha45 probably son of Vāmadeva46.

**SONA SĀTRASAHA** performed a horse sacrifice which was attended by Turvasa. His son was Koka47.

**PRAVĀHANA JAIVALA** was a learned Pančāla king from whom Uddālaka Āruni and his son Śvetaketu got instructions48.

A son of Yajñasena49 and one Drupad Vādhravyāna50 are also referred to. Whether they were related to each other is not certain. A woman named Subhadrika was known as Kāmpilya - Vāsini. Perhaps she was a queen51. The Pančālas were defeated by the Kuntīs52. Weber thinks that their defeat was somehow associated with Aśādha kāsin and Syaparnās53. Nothing more is known about the incident.

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43 VINS.,1.149 cf.,*Indische Studien*, I.184; *Indian Literature*,114,115.
44 VINS.,1.149 cf.,*Altindisches Leben*,36,37. Cunningham identifies it with Arrah (Archaeological Survey Reports,Vol.III.1871-72. Dr.Fuhrer identifies it with Cakranagara. cf.,GDAMI.
45 Ait.Br.,VIII.23.
46 SB.,XIII.2.2.14.
47 SB.,XIII.5.4.16-18.
48 Brd.Up.,II.1; Chh.Up. I.8.1; II.8; V.3.1
49 JB.,II.32 Yajñasena is the name of a teacher with the patronymic Caitra or Caiṭrayaṇa. Taitt.S.,V.3.8.1; Kath.S.,XXI.4.
50 PB.,XIV.11.19.
51 Taitt.S.,VII.4.19.1; Mait.S.,III.12.20; SB.,XIII.2.8.3.
53 VINS.,2.398 cf.,*Indische Studien*,3,471.