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The Chauhāns.

By R. R. HALDER, Rajputana Museum, Ajmer.

The Chauhāns, like the Parmāras, Chaulukyās, Guhilas, etc., seem to have derived their family name from the name of their primeval man viz., Chāhamāna. At the present day, they claim their descent from the fire-fountain of Vasishṭha on Mount Ābū, just as the Parmāras do, and so call themselves *Agnivāmsī*. Their old records, however, speak them to be *Sūryavāmsī*, i.e., belonging to the solar race. The latter view is supported by the following versions:—

- (1) The *Prithvirājrajanamahākāvya* says that Chāhamāna descended from the *Sūryamandala* (solar orb).¹
- (2) The *Hammīrāmahākāvya* of Nayachandrasūri corroborates the above statement by saying that a celestial man named Chāhamāna came down from *Sūryamandala*, and having obtained paramount power, ruled over other kings.²
- (3) The inscription³ preserved in the Rajputana Museum, Ajmer, also speaks of Chāhamāna as having born in the solar family.

1 अथांशुभिस्सूर्यमयस्य चक्षुषस्स सूर्यकान्तादिव सूर्यमण्डलात् ।
जवादवारोद्दखण्डचण्डिमा वसुन्धरासंमुखमर्चिषां चयः ॥ [१]
इति प्रतापायतनेन तेजसा नभस्वराणां निचयेन चर्चितः ।
जगत्त्रयीपुण्यसन्द्विसंगमः पतङ्गमध्यात्पुरुषो विनिर्यथौ ॥ [१४]
करेण चापस्य हरेर्मनीषया बलेन मानस्य नयस्य मन्त्रिभिः ।
धृतस्य नामाग्रिमवर्णनिर्मितां स चाहमानोयमिति प्रथां यथौ ॥ [४४]

Canto II.

2 ततः शूभं स्थानमिदं विभाय प्रारब्धयज्ञो यमपासादेन्यः ।
विशङ्क्य भीतिं दनुजत्रजेभ्यः स्मेरस्य सस्मर सङ्खरश्मेः ॥ [१५]
श्वान्तरन्मण्डलतोऽथभासां पत्युः पुमानुद्यतमण्डलाग्रः ।
तं चाभिविद्यात्सदसीथरत्नाविधौ व्यधादेष मखं सुखेन ॥ [१६]
पपात यत्युष्करमत्रपाणेः ख्यातं ततः पुष्करतीर्थमेतत् ।
यथायमागादथ चाहमानः पुमानतोऽख्याधि स चाहमानः ॥ [१७]

Canto I.

3 समुत्थितोऽकादनरण्योनिरत्यन्नपुन्नागकदंबशाखः ।
आश्रयमंतः प्रसरत्कुशोऽयं वंशीर्थिनां त्रीफलतां प्रयाति ॥ [२५]

The above three versions speak of the Chauhāns as belonging to the solar race. A somewhat different statement, however, is made by Col. Tod, who at one place¹ connects them with the fire-pit of Vāsishṭha on Mount Ābū, but at another place² says that the *gōtrāchārya* of the Chauhāns is “Somvansa, Vacha gotra” etc., *i.e.*, they belong to the lunar race and are connected with Vatsa *Rishi*. This latter version of Tod is supported by the following inscriptions:—

- (a) The inscription³ dated, Samvat 1224 (A.D. 1167), of the time of Prithvirāja II, speaks of him as having born in the race of the descendants of the moon.
- (b) The Bijōlyān inscription,⁴ dated S. 1226 (A.D. 1170), of the time of Sōmēśvara represents Sāmanta, an early Chauhāna chief, to have been born in the Vatsa *gōtra*.
- (c) The inscription⁵ dated S. 1319 (A.D. 1263) of the time of Chāchigadēva connects Chāhamāna with Vatsa *Rishi*.
- (d) The Mount Ābū inscription⁶ of S. 1377 (A.D. 1320) says that the Chāhamāna race was created by the sage Vatsa.

From the above, we conclude, whether the Chauhāns belong to the solar or lunar race, or have any connection with Vatsa *Rishi*, they assuredly do not belong to the *Agnikula* or have any connection with Vāsishṭha *Rishi*, as they declare themselves to be. They have, in all probability, derived this view about themselves from the poem called *Prithvirājarāsā*,⁷ which is a “later forgery.”

Now let us briefly describe the accounts of the rulers of the main line of the Chauhān family, which began its rule in Mārwar. At first, Sākāmbharī (Sāmbhar in Mārwar) was their capital, then Ajmer and then Ranthāmbhōr in the Jaipur

आधिव्याधिकुलदुर्मतिपरित्यक्तप्रजास्तत्र ते ।

सप्तद्वीपभुजो नृपाः समभवन्निस्त्राकुरामाद्यः ।

..

तस्मिन्प्रथाविजयेन विराजमानो राजानुरजितजनोज्ज्वलि चाहमानः ।

..

¹ Tod's *Rājasthān*, Vol. I, p. 113.

² *Ibid.*, Vol. III, p. 1444.

³ *The Chronicles of the Pathan kings of Delhi* by Edward Thomas, pp. 60-61.

⁴ *J. A. S. B.*, Vol. LV, pt. I, p. 41, verse 12.

⁵ *Ep. Ind.*, Vol. IX, p. 71.

⁶ *Ibid.*, Vol. IX, p. 79.

⁷ See my article in *J. B. B. R. A. S.*, Vol. III (New Series), p. 203.

territory became their capitals; so that the Chauhāns can distinctly be called after the names of these capitals, as the Chauhāns of Sāmbhar, Ajmer and Ranthambhor, though they belonged to the same line.

A. THE CHAUHĀNS OF SĀMBHAR.

1. **Chāhamāna.** He was the originator of the Chauhān family, and is said to have descended from *Sūryamandala*. He was very powerful and possessed immense wealth. He became the ruler of a very large part of the country. His younger brother Dhanañjaya, who was very clever in the art of war, was the Commander of his forces.¹ He died at Pushkar while on pilgrimage.

2. **Vāsudēva.** He was born in the family of Chāhamāna.² He was very brave, powerful, famous, extremely benevolent and popular. A mythical story about him is related in Canto IV of *Prīthvīrājaviṅaya*, regarding the foundation of the salt lake at Śākambharī (Sāmbhar), which was so called after the goddess Śākambharī (Pārvatī), whose shrine was there. The descendants of Vāsudēva ruled over the land presided over by the deity Śākambharī and were thus called "Śākambharīśvara."³

3. **Sāmantarāja.** He was like a moon in the family of Vāsudēva.⁴ He ruled at Ahichhatrapura⁵ which is most likely the place now called Nāgaur in Jodhpur territory.

4. **Jayarāja.** He was the son⁶ of Sāmantarāja and was very valiant. Also called Ajayarāja and Ajayapāla. The power of other kings dwindled before him.

1 अतीव यो दुर्बल एव सर्वथा तमप्यधिष्ठाय बलिष्ठतां नयन-
समाप्तशस्त्राविधौ धनंजयो बभूव सेनापतिरस्य शाश्वतः ॥ [६४]

Prīthvīrājaviṅaya, Canto II.

2 कैलासोत्सृङ्गसङ्गीतकसभिकशिवादिष्टगन्धर्वरामा-
गानव्योद्दामकर्मा समजनि वसुधावासवो वासुदेवः ॥ [८९]

Ibid., Canto II.

3 भुवं श्राकम्भरीदेव्या सनाथां यदुपासते ।
तद्गङ्गास्त्रेण भण्णन्ते सर्वे श्राकम्भरीश्वराः ॥ [५]

Ibid., Canto II.

4 अज्ञे तदन्वथोदन्वत्सुधांशुर्वसुधापतिः ।
सामन्तराजस्सामन्तराजिकैरविषीरविः ॥ [७]

Ibid., Canto V.

5 See note 4 on page 2.

6 सुषुवे जयराजं तं राजन्तं तं जयत्रिधा ।
यं वीक्ष्याजौ विव[स्त्रन्तं वस्त्रन्तं प्रा]प राजकम् ॥ [८]

Prīthvīrājaviṅaya, Canto V.

5. **Vigraharāja (I).** He was the son¹ of Jayarāja. His fame spread far and wide.

6. **Chandrarāja (I).** He was the son of Vigraharāja.²

7. **Gōpēndrarāja.** He was the younger brother of Chandrarāja.³

8. **Durlabharāja (I).** Was the son of Chandrarāja.⁴ He fought with the Gaudas.⁵

9. **Gōvīndarāja (I).** He was the son⁶ of Durlabharāja (I). Also called Gūvaka. He attained superiority as a hero in the court of Nāgāvalōka (Nāgabhaṭa II) of Kanauj.⁷ Now Nāgabhaṭa II flourished between the periods Samvats 872 and 890 (A.D. 815 and 833).⁸ The date of Govindarāja, therefore, would fall about this period, *i.e.*, S. 872 (A.D. 815).

10. **Chandrarāja (II).** He was the son of Gōvīndarāja.⁹ Also called Śaṣinṛipa.

11. **Gōvāka.** He was the son¹⁰ of Chandrarāja II and was very famous. He was dexterous in the art of war and peace, and brave and firm in battle. His sister, Kalāvati, possessed enchanting beauty; so her hand was sought by twelve kings, among whom she was married to the king of Kanauj (probably

1 इति स्तुतं कविवरैर्गुण्यं सर्वमहस्त्रिणां ।

प्राप विग्रहराजं स ग्रहराजमिवात्मजम् ॥ [११]

Ibid., Canto V.

2 तनयश्चन्द्रराजोऽस्य चन्द्रराज इवाभवत् ।

संग्रहं यस्सुदत्तानां सुदत्तानामिव व्यधात् ॥ [१५]

Ibid., Canto V.

3 तस्य गोपेन्द्रराजोऽभूदनुजो यो मनीषिणाम् ।

गोपेन्द्रराजस्मृतिद्वन्द्वोमण्डल [धृतेरभूत्] ॥ [१७]

Ibid., Canto V.

4 ततो दुर्लभराजेन चन्द्रराजस्य स्तनुना ।

विनोदकेन गमिता दृढिं कीर्त्तिलता भुवि ॥ [१८]

Ibid., Canto V.

5 अक्षिः स्यातोत्थितो यस्य गङ्गासागरसङ्गमे ।

चिरं गौडरसाखादशुद्धो ब्राह्मणतां यथौ ॥ [२०]

Ibid., Canto V.

6 प्रजापतिपदब्रह्मा षाड्गुण्यपुरुषोत्तमः ।

स्तुतो गोविन्दराजोऽस्य शक्तिचयमहेश्वरः ॥ [२१]

Ibid., Canto V.

7 *Ind. Ant.*, Vol. 57, p. 184.

8 *Ep. Ind.*, Vol. IX, p. 199, *Prabhāvākācharita*, p. 177.

9 नयन्मन्मथमुल्लासमात्मभूतरिशवस्य च ।

द्वितीयश्चन्द्रराजोऽभूत्ततोऽरिध्वान्तचन्द्रमाः ॥ [२२]

Prithvirājvijaya, Canto V.

10 सर्वराजार्काजीश्वरस्तुतस्सर्वदिग्बलीमधुः ।

गोवाकस्तुतस्सर्वद्वीपमण्डलयामिकः ॥ [२३]

Ibid., Canto V.

Bhōja I, S. 900-38), and the wealth received after defeating other kings was given in her dowry.¹

12. **Chandanarāja.** He was the son² of Gōvāka. He was very popular and wealthy. He killed the Tomara King Rudrēṇa (probably Rudrapāla of Delhi) in battle.³ His wife Rudrānī also called Yoginī and Ātmaprabhā set up on the bank of Pushkar one thousand *lingās* of Śiva, which were, as it were, one thousand lamps to remove the darkness of the place.⁴

13. **Vākpatirāja (I).** He was the son⁵ of Chandanarāja. Also called Vappayarāja Vatsarāja and Vaprarāja. He won 188 victories through his own prowess and built a very high temple of Śiva at Pushkar.⁶ He was attacked by Tantrapāla (a neighbouring chief), who was forced to retreat.⁷ He had three sons, named Śimharāja, Lakshmaṇa and Vatsarāja, of whom Śimharāja succeeded his father; Lakshmaṇa founded the kingdom of Nāḍōl, and Vatsarāja received a separate territory for himself.

14. **Śimharāja.** He was the son⁸ of Vākpatirāja I. He was a very brave, charitable and illustrious ruler. He subdued a Tomar leader allied with a certain king Lavaṇa and kept many prisoners in his prison.⁹ He also defeated a Muhammadan general named Hātim.¹⁰ He built a beautiful temple of Śiva at Pushkar. He was subordinate to the Imperial Pratihāras (Devapāla or Vijayapāla) of Kanauj, and had three sons named Vighararāja, Dūrlabharāja, and Gōvindarāja.¹¹

15. **Vighararāja (II).** He was the son¹² of Śimharāja and was a very valiant ruler. He restored the fortune of his

1 *Ibid.*, Canto V, verses 31-32.

2 नन्दनखन्दनस्तस्य यस्य नामन्यदीरिते ।

जनस्तुफल इत्युक्तिशेषाद्ब्रह्मभं जहौ ॥ [३२]

Ibid., Canto V.

3 *Ep. Ind.*, Vol. II, p. 121, verse 14.

4 *Prithvirājaviṇaya*, Canto V, verse 37.

5 स्तनुर्वाकपतिराजोऽस्य प्रसाद इव सूर्तिमान् ।

द्विंताय सर्वलोकानामुदपद्यत शाश्वतः ॥ [४०]

Ibid., Canto V.

6 *Prithvirājaviṇaya*, Canto V, verse 43.

7 *Ep. Ind.*, Vol. II, p. 121, v. 16.

8 धर्मस्थेव नवः [सर्गः] स्थिति - - - -

सिंहराज[स्तुतस्त]स्य संहार इव मान्मथः ॥ [४४]

Prithvirājaviṇaya, Canto V.

9 *Ep. Ind.*, Vol. II, p. 127, v. 19.

10 *Hammīra Mahākāvya*, p. 14.

11 *Ibid.*, Vol. II, p. 118. Also *Ind. Ant.*, Vol. 57, p. 184.

12 स्तनुर्विघ्नराजोऽस्य सापराधानपि द्विषः ।

दुर्बला इत्यनुध्यायमन्त्रिय इवाभवत् ॥ [४७]

Prithvi., Canto V.

family and extended his sway as far as Narmadā.¹ He attacked the Chaulukya king Mūlarāja I (S 1017-52) of Gujarāt and forced him to retire to the fortress of Kanthā (Kanth Kōṭ) in Cutch.² He received the name *khurarajō ghōrāndhakāra*, i.e., producer of darkness by the dust of the heels of his horses. He was kind even towards his enemies. He built a temple of the goddess Āsāpurī at Bhrigukachchha (Broach).³ His inscription is dated Ś. 1030 (A.D. 973); consequently the date of Chāhamāna, the 14th predecessor of him, would fall in the last quarter of the 7th century A.D., taking an average of 20 years for each ruler.

16. Durlabharāja (II). He was the younger brother⁴ of Vighararāja II. The name of his minister was Mādhava. He was different from his namesake who harassed Mahendra, the Chauhān ruler of Nādōl.⁵ He was called *Durlabghyameru*.

17. Gōvindarāja (II). He was the youngest brother⁶ of Vighararāja II. Also called Ganḍu and Gaṅgadeva. He succeeded Durlabharāja and his fame was sung by many a poet. He is said to have defeated Sultān Maḥmūd.⁷

18. Vākpatirāja (II). He was the son and successor⁸ of Gōvindarāja II. Also called Vallabharāja. He was a great warrior and killed the Guhila ruler Ambāprasāda of Āghāṭa (Āhāḍa, the old capital of Mēwār).⁹ He made his reign ex-

1 सूर्यवंशप्रसूतस्य चन्द्रमण्डलनिर्गता ।

तस्य रेवामयौ वाहेः कीर्त्तिर्मलिनितामवत् ॥ [५२]

Ibid., Canto V.

2 *Bombay Gazetteer*, Vol. I, pt. I., p. 158.

3 अधादाशापुरीदेव्या भृगुकच्छे स धाम तत् ।

वद्रेवास्युष्टसोपानं चन्द्रसुम्नति सूर्धनि ॥ [५२]

Prithvi°, Canto V.

4 तस्य दुर्लभराजोऽभूदनुजो माधवानुगः ।

नारीणां घनतं येन हृदये मदनायितम् ॥ [५४]

Prithvi°, Canto V.

5 *Ep. Ind.*, Vol. XI, p. 68.

6 यशांसि शीतक्रीकर्त्तमिच्छयेव दिग्गनाः ।

यस्य गोविन्दराजाख्यस्य तस्मादुदपद्यत ॥ [५६]

Prithvi°, Canto V.

7 *Gauḍavaho*, Introduction, p. cxxxvii. If the Sultān be Maḥmūd Ghaznī, then the event probably took place in A.D. 1025 on the Sultān's way to Somanātha (*Duff.*, p. 113).

8 तस्माद्वाक्पतिराजेन सम्भूतमवनीभुजा ।

कलिः कृतीकृतो येन भू[मिश्च त्रिदि]वीक्षता ॥ [५८]

Ibid., Canto V.

9 अम्नाप्रसादमाघाटपतिं यस्सेनयान्वितम् ।

अस्मजद्यत्प्रसः पश्चात्पार्श्वं दक्षिणदिक्पतेः ॥ [५९]

tremely happy for the people. He was called *gōtrabhīda* (Indra) by his enemies; *dahana* (fire) by the women of his enemies; *mṛityu* (death) by the warriors of his enemies; *rākshasēśvara* (lord of the demons) by the people of his enemy's country; *prakṛishlachētā* (noble-minded) by the politicians, *sādāgati* (wind) by those who sought protection with him and *dhanada* (*Kubēra*) by the needy.¹ His memory was long cherished by the people after his death.

19. *Vīryarāma*. He was the son² of *Vākpatirāja* II. Also called *Vijayarāja*. He was skilful in fighting, but was accidentally killed by the king *Bhōja* I, (S. 1076-99) of *Avanti Mālwa*.³

20. *Chāmuṇḍarāja*. He was the younger brother of *Vīryarāma*. He is said to have ascended the throne according to *Hammīra Mahākāvya* and the *Bijolyān* Inscription but not according to *Prīthvirājaviḷaya*. He built a temple of *Vishnu* at *Narapura* (*Narwar*), in memory of his brother *Vīryarāma*.⁴

21. *Durlabharāja* (III). He succeeded *Chāmuṇḍarāja*.⁵ He was also called *Dūsala*. He was styled *Vīrasimha*, but was unfortunately killed in the fighting with the *Mātāngas* (*Muhammads*).⁶ So, his younger brother *Vigraharāja* had to assume the rein of government.⁷

22. *Vigraharāja* (III). He was the younger brother of

भिन्नमम्बाप्रसादस्य येन च्चुरिकया सुखम् ।
प्रतापजीविकाहृदिभस्सुममेव व्यसुच्यत ॥ [६०]

Ibid., Canto V.

Ambāprasāda was the successor of *Śaktikumāra*, whose inscription is dated S. 1034.

¹ *Prīthvirājaviḷaya*, Canto V, vv. 61-62.

2 वीर्यरामस्सुतस्य वीर्येण स्यात्सरोपमः ।
यदि प्रसन्नया दृष्ट्वा न दृश्येत पिनाकिना ॥ [६५]

Ibid., Canto V

3 अगम्यो यो नरेन्द्राणां सुधादीधितिसुन्दरः ।
जन्ने यशस्यो यस्य भोजनावनिभूभुजा ॥ [६७]

Ibid., Canto V.

4 तस्य चासुण्डराजेन कनिष्ठेन विनिर्भमे ।
विष्णोर्नैरपुरे धाम विष्णुल्लोके तथात्मनः ॥ [६८]

Ibid., Canto V.

5 अशुर्दुर्लभराजोस्त्रायदीयैः प्रतियोगिभिः ।
चराचराणां लुठितं पादान्ने भूभृतां भयात् ॥ [६९]

Ibid., Canto V.

6 मातङ्गसङ्करे यस्मिन्वीरसिंहेस्तमागते ।
अपरागोऽनुतापस्य विधिना प्रापि कर्कशः ॥ [७०]

7 तस्य विग्रहराजेन भोगीन्द्रेषानुजन्मना ।
शेषेण च महीभारं त्याजिताः शयिवीभृतः ॥ [७१]

Ibid., Canto V.

Durlabharāja. Also called Visala. He gave to the Mālava king, Udayāditya (S. 1116-1143), a horse named Sāraṅga, with whose help the latter conquered the Gurjara king Karṇa (S. 1120-50).¹ His wife was Rājadevī.

23. **Prithvirāja (I)**. He was the son² of Vighraharāja III. At Pushkar, he killed seven hundred Chaulukyās, who came there to rob the Brahmans.³ He built an alms-house on the way to Sōmanātha. His wife's name was Rāsalladēvī. His inscription is dated S. 1162.

24. **Ajayarāja**. He was the son⁴ of Prithvirāja I. Also called Ajayadēva, Alhanadeva and Salhana. He was very brave. He killed three kings, one of whom was named Yaśōrāja.⁵ He conquered the country up to Ujjain, and subdued the Mālava king (?) Sulhana.⁶ He was also very rich. He filled the country with silver coins.⁷ His queen Sōmalēkhā (Saumalladēvī) coined money every day.⁸ He built many reservoirs of water in the temples of gods and completely subdued the Muhammadans.⁹ He founded the town of Ajayameru (Ajmer), which was then superior to Laṅkā and Dvārikā.¹⁰ Having founded this town and seated his son

- 1 सारङ्गाख्यं तुरङ्गं स ददौ यस्मै मनोजवम् ।
नक्षत्रैश्चैवसं क्षीरसिन्धोरन्यः प्रयच्छति ॥ [७७]
जिगाय गुर्जरं कर्णे तमश्च प्राप्य मालवः ।
लब्धानूससूर्यरथं करोति व्योमलङ्घनम् ॥ [७८]

- 2 पृथ्वीराजस्सुतसस्मात्ततो - - - रभूत् ।
कुमारत्रह्णचारी हि कुमारो मद[नद्विषः] ॥ [७९]

Ibid., Canto V.

- 3 *Prithvirājavijaya*, Canto V, verse 81.
4 तस्मादजयराजोऽभूददान्यो यद्वदान्यतः ।
सर्वरत्नप्रदात्सिन्धोः कल्पदृक्षस्य जन्म तत् ॥ [८३]

Ibid., Canto V.

⁵ *J.B.A.S.*, Vol. LV, pt. I, p. 41, verse 15.
⁶ *Prithvirājavijaya*, Canto V, v. 85. Sulhana, according to the Bijolyān Ins. was the commander of the army, see n. 3, above.

- 7 स दुर्वर्णमयैर्भूमिं रूपकैः पर्यपुपूरत् ।
तां सुवर्णमयैस्तत्र कविर्वर्गस्त्वपूरयत् ॥ [८८]
8 सोमलेखा प्रियाप्यस्य प्रत्यङ्गं रूपकैर्नवैः ।
कृतैरपि न संस्पर्शं कलङ्केन समासदत् ॥ [९०]

Ibid., Canto V.

- 9 यस्सदन्तायुधकराङ्परिचर्तव्यपदतीन् ।
अत्यन्तगर्जनान्मत्तान्मातङ्गानजयद्रणे ॥ [११३]

Ibid., Canto V.

- 10 भवत्यजयमेखलं सार्धं यस्य सुरालयैः ।
न हि पुण्यप्रभावेण तदस्यैव न यद्वेत् ॥ [१२०]

Ibid., Canto V.

(Arṇōrāja) on the throne, he went to Heaven. Henceforth Ajmer became the capital.

B. THE CHAUHĀNS OF AJMER.

25. Arṇōrāja. He was son of Ajayarāja by his wife Sōmalēkhā.¹ Also called Ānāka, Ānaka and Ānalladēva. He made Ajmer his capital. The first invasion of the Muhammadans on Ajmer seems to have been made during his reign. He completely vanquished the Muhammadans and killed a large number of them.² Those Muhammadans who came to Ajmer through the desert were extremely thirsty, and died after drinking the blood of horses. The dead bodies of the Muhammadans that were piled up on the road were burnt by the villagers for fear of bad smell being spread up all around. In order to purify the place, where the Muhammadans were killed, he constructed a lake, which was filled up with the water of the river Indu (Chandra).³ He also fought twice with the Solaṅki ruler Kumārapāla (S. 1199-1230) of Gujārāt.⁴ He built a temple of *Vārūṇa Vāmalīṅga* in the name of his father Ajayarāja. He married the princess Sudhavā of *Avichi* (without waves *i.e.*, Mārwar) and with Kāñchanadēvi, the daughter of the king Siddharāja Jayasimha of Gujārāt. He had three sons from Sudhavā, two of whom were named Jagadēva and Vighraharāja, and one son named Sōmēśvara from Kāñchanadēvi.⁵ His inscription is dated S. 1196.

26. Jagadēva. He was the son of Arṇōrāja by his wife Sudhavā of Mārwar. He rendered to his father the same service as Bhṛigunandana (*i.e.*, Paraśurāma) had done to his mother, and went out like a *dīpa* (Indian lamp) leaving behind

1 भाग्येस्सुमं समुत्पन्नं प्रजाभिस्सुद्धं लालितम् ।

वर्धितं सुकृतैस्साकमर्षीराजमसूत सा ॥ [११]

Ibid., Canto V.

2 दोशशालिनामाजयमेरवाणां यज्ञोद्धघानैः करणीयमासीत् ।

भारायमापेर्निजवर्मलोहैस्सदन्वभूवन्वचवस्तुशुक्लाः ॥ [४]

Ibid., Canto VI.

3 विशुद्धिहेतोरथ तस्य राजा प्रापेन्द्रियाकस्मिकरीरवस्य ।

चकारयत्कीर्तिपटौपिनद्वक्षीरोदनग्रङ्गरणं तटाकम् ॥ [२१]

या पुष्करारण्यविहारशैला मन्दाकिनीवेन्दुनदी प्रसिद्धा ।

भगीरथस्मिन्भुमिव खवन्त्या तथा तटाकं तमपूरि देवः ॥ [२१]

This lake is now called Ānāsāgar and the river as the Bāndi River.

Ibid., Canto VI.

⁴ *Ind. Ant.*, Vol. 56, pp. 10-11.

⁵ *Prithvirājaviṅaya*, Canto VI, vv. 29-34.

a bad smell.¹ For the reason of his being a parricide, it appears, his name is omitted in *Prithvirājavijaya* and in the Bijolyān Inscription.²

27. **Vigraharāja (IV).** He was the younger brother of Jagadēva. Also called Visaladēva. He was a very powerful monarch. He conquered the land between the Vindhya and the Himālayas, and by repeatedly driving out the Muhammadans, made Āryāvarta once more the abode of the Āryas.³ He conquered Delhi, made it the residence of the Chauhāns, and extended his sway as far as Āsikā (Hānsī) in the Punjab.⁴ He defeated Vastu Pāla (?), destroyed Nāḍol and set fire to Jāvālipura (Jālor in Mārwar).⁵ He was very learned and a patron of learning. He composed the Sanskrit drama called *Harakeli Nātaka* and got this as well as the drama called *Lalita Vighraharāja Nātaka*, composed by his court-poet Sōmēśvara, inscribed on slabs, some of which are now preserved in the Rajputana Museum, Ajmer. He built a Sanskrit College at Ajmer, which is now called *Adhāi-din-ka-jhōnprā* and which was converted into a mosque in S. 1256 (A.D. 1200) by Shihābu-d-dīn Ghūrī. He was also very charitable. He gave gold to the Brahmans and weighed against precious metals ten times. At the time of his death, he was pleased to learn the news of two sons being born to his brother (Sōmēśvara).⁶ He was called 'Kavibāndhava' (*i.e.*, friend of poets). With his death this name⁷ disappeared. His inscriptions are dated S. 1210-1211 and 1220.

28. **Aparagāṅgēya.** He was the son of Vighraharāja IV. Also called Amaragāṅgēya, Gaṅgapāla, Gāṅgadeva and Amara-gaṅgu. He seems to have died shortly after his father's death.⁸

1 प्रथमस्तुधवासुतलदानीं परिचर्यां जनकस्य तामकार्षीत् ।

प्रतिपाद्य जलाञ्जलिं दृष्टयै विदधे यां भृगुनन्दनो जनन्याः ॥ [११]

Canto VII.

² The same is the case with Udayasinha I of Mewār, who being a murderer of his father Kuṁbhā, is not enlisted by the bards among the rulers of Mewār.

³ *Ind. Ant.*, Vol. 19, p. 216.

⁴ *Ind. Ant.*, Vol. 19, p. 217. Also Vol. 57, p. 11.

⁵ *J.A.S.B.*, Vol. LV, pt. I, p. 42, V. 25.

⁶ अथ भ्रातुरपत्याभ्यां सनाथा जानता भुवम् ।

जग्मे विप्रहराजेन क्तार्थेन शिवान्तिकम् ॥ [५३]

⁷ कैलासं जग्मुषो यातं पश्चाद्विप्रहभूमजः ।

कविबान्धव इत्येकं भूमावशरणं पदम् ॥ [५५]

Prithvirājavijaya, Canto VIII.

⁸ सुतोषपरगाङ्गेयो निन्येऽस्य रविस्तनुना ।

उन्नतिं रविशशस्य शचीराजेन पश्यता ॥ [५४]

Ibid., Canto VIII.

29. **Prīthvībhāṭa.** He was the son of Jagadēva. Also called Prīthvirāja (II) and Pēthadadēva. He, too, seems to have died soon after the death of his uncle Vighararāja.¹ He is said to have gained victory over the king of Śākambhari (probably Aparagāṅgeya). Since his death the Royal Dignity left the line of Sudhavā and wished to visit Sōmēśvara. The ministers, therefore, brought Sōmēśvara along with his two sons² (Prīthvirāja and Harirāja) to the Sapādalaksha country (the country ruled over by the Chauhāns) and Karpūradēvi (Sōmēśvara's wife) entered the city of Ajayameru (Ajmer) with her two sons.³ His inscriptions are dated S. 1224, 1225, and 1226.

30. **Sōmēśvara.** He was the son of Arṇōrāja by his wife Kāñchanadēvi of Gujārāt. While an infant, his grandfather, Siddharāja Jayasimha (S. 1150-99) of Gujārāt, on hearing from the astrologers that he would be an incarnation of Rāma to perform certain duties, took him to his court,⁴ and it was Kumārapāla, the successor of Jayasimha, who brought up the child and thus made his name *kumārapāla* significant.⁵ He was very brave. Having snatched off the knife from the king of Koṅkaṇ (Mallikārjuna Ś, S. 1078 and 1082) while in the act of jumping from one elephant to another, he cut off his head with it.⁶ He received the name *Pratāpalañkēśvara*. He married Karpūradēvi, daughter of the (Kalachuri) king of Tripuri (Tēvara near Jubbulpura).⁷ He built as many palaces as his brother Vighararāja had destroyed hill-fortresses, and in the midst of them built the big temple of Vaidyanātha. In that temple, he set up an effigy of his father seated on horseback and in the front of it set up his own image made of metal.⁸ He also set up the images of Brahmā, Vishnu and Mahēśa at one place in a temple. He built five temples at Ajmer and several others at the village Gaṅgānaka (modern Gaṅgavānā, 9 miles N.E. of Ajmer). Where his father and brother had built only palaces, he founded a town and named it after his father.⁹ His wife Karpūradēvi also founded a town.¹⁰ He gave the village of Rēvaṇa to Pārśvanātha. Having placed his minor son Prīthvirāja under the protection of Karpūradēvi, he went to Heaven.¹¹ Inscriptions of his time are dated S. 1226, 1228, 1229, 1230, and 1234.

1 प्रत्यानेतुनिवाकाण्डे पूर्वोऽपि सकलेर्गुणैः ।

पितृवैरितनूजोऽपि प्रतस्त्रे इथिवीभटः ॥ [५६]

Ibid., Canto VIII.

2 *Prīthvirājavijaya*, Canto VIII, vv. 57-58.

3 *Ibid.*, Canto VIII, v. 59.

4 *Ibid.*, Canto VI, vv. 34-35.

5 *Ibid.*, Canto VII, v. 11.

6 *Ibid.*, Canto VII, v. 16.

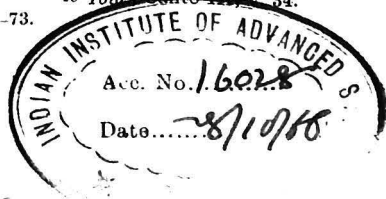
7 *Ibid.*, Canto VIII, v. 63.

8 *Ibid.*, Canto VIII, vv. 72-73.

6 *Ibid.*, Canto VII, 15.

8 *Ibid.*, Canto VIII, vv. 66-67.

10 *Ibid.*, Canto VIII, v. 34.



31. **Prithvirājā (III).** He was the son of Sōmēśvara. As already spoken, he was a minor when his father died. So, during his minority, his mother Karpūradēvi managed the affairs of the state with the help of the minister Kadambavāsa.¹ During her regency, perfect happiness reigned in the country. When Prithvirājā grew up, he attained all the qualifications befitting a prince. He became dexterous in archery and the use of sword and gained several victories. He received a great help in the person of Bhuvanaikamalla,² the brother of his mother's father, and in the minister Kadambavāsa. With their help he did many things for the welfare of the people.³ He laid siege to Gudapura, which was taken possession of by Nāgārjuna, son of his uncle Vigharājā IV, and put him to flight.⁴ He then brought Nāgārjuna's mother to Aḥmer along with other warriors in chains, and placed the heads of his enemies on the battlements of the fort of Aḥmer.⁵ He defeated in S. 1239 (A.D. 1182) the Chandēla king Paramardidēva of Jējākabhukti (Mahobā).⁶ He determined to destroy the Muhammadans, when the latter took possession of Naḍval (Nāḍol in Mārwar).⁷ On hearing that he resolved to destroy the Muhammadans, the *mlechchha* king Gori (Muhammad Ghurī) sent a messenger to his court.⁸ He then fought a battle against Muhammad Ghurī at Tarāin 1191 A.D. and utterly defeated him. Shihābu-d din Ghurī badly wounded returned to Ghazni but next year, he returned to India with a large force and encountered Prithvirājā near Thānēśar. Prithvirājā was captured in the battle that ensued, and put to death shortly afterwards in 1192 A.D.⁹ Ghurī then went to Aḥmer, took possession of it and, on the promise of a punctual payment of a tribute, delivered over the country to Gōvindarājā, son of Prithvirājā.¹⁰ His inscriptions are dated S. 1236, 1239, 1244, and 1245.

32. **Harirājā.** He was the brother of Prithvirājā (III). Also called Hēmraj and Hirāj. On hearing that Gōvindarājā had accepted to pay a tribute to the Sultān, he expelled his nephew from Aḥmer and forced him to take shelter at Ranthambhōr, where the latter founded a separate kingdom for himself.¹¹ There too, he attacked Gōvindarājā, who soon received help from Quṭubu-d-dīn Ibak, who marched in person towards Ranthambhōr. Harirājā, therefore, was obliged to retreat to Aḥmer. But, not long afterwards he was attacked

¹ *Ibid.*, Canto IX, v. 38.

² *Ibid.*, Canto IX, v. 68.

³ *Ibid.*, Canto IX, v. 89.

⁴ *Ibid.*, Canto X, vv. 7, 8, and 32.

⁵ *Ibid.*, Canto, X, vv. 36 and 38.

⁶ *Ep. Ind.*, Vol. V., Kielhorn's Northern List, No. 176.

⁷ *Prithvirājāvijaya*, Canto X, v. 50.

⁸ *Ibid.*, Canto X, vv. 40-42.

⁹ Briggs's *Ferishta*, Vol. I, pp. 172-77.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 177-78.

¹¹ *Ep. Ind.*, Vol. XIX, p. 47 n. 1.

by Qutubu-d-dīn and a battle was fought in 1194 A.D., in which he sustained defeat, after which he sacrificed himself in the flames of a pyre¹ Qutubu-d-dīn then appointed a Muhammadan Governor of Ajmer, which henceforth came under the direct rule of the Muhammadans and ceased to be the capital of the Chauhāns. Harirāja's wife was Pratāpadevī and his inscription is dated S. 1251.

C. THE CHAUHĀNS OF RANTHAMBHŌR.

33. **Gōvindarāja.** As has been said above, Gōvindarāja being driven out of Ajmer by his uncle Harirāja, established a kingdom at Ranthambhōr and thus became the founder of the Chauhāns of Ranthambhōr. Since his time Ranthambhōr became the capital of the Chauhāns.

34. **Bālhaṇadēva.** He succeeded Gōvindarāja and was a tributary to the Sultān Shamsu-d-dīn Altmash (A. D. 1210-35). He had two sons named Pralhādadēva and Vāgbhata.²

35. **Pralhādadēva.** He was the elder son of Bālhaṇadēva. He was a just king and ruled mildly. He was placed on the throne during his father's lifetime and his younger brother Vāgbhata was appointed to the post of prime minister. He died of wounds caused by a lion in a hunting expedition.³

36. **Vīranārāyaṇa.** He was the son of Pralhādadēva. He was haughty and imperious. He fought a battle with the Sultān Jalālu-d-dīn of Delhi A.D. 1290-95), in which neither party obtained the advantage. Jalālu-d-dīn, however, received the presence of Vīranārāyaṇa to Delhi through a stratagem, where after a few days he was poisoned and killed.⁴ Consequently, Ranthambhōr fell into the hands of Jalālu-d-dīn.

37. **Vāgbhata.** He was the younger brother of Pralhādadēva. Also called Vāhada. Being touched to the quick by some harsh words of his nephew Vīranārāyaṇa, he went to Mālwā. After gaining possession of Ranthambhōr, Jalālu-d-dīn sent a message to the Mālwā king that Vāgbhata should be put to death. The king of Mālwā lent a willing ear to this proposal, but Vāgbhata soon discovered the plot. He then murdered the king of Mālwā and possessing himself of the throne, gathered an army, and marched towards Ranthambhōr. The Muhammadan garrison was made to vacate the fort and he became master of Ranthambhōr. He then stationed large forces at different parts of the country along the frontier and thus kept off the enemies. He died after a happy reign of twelve years.⁵ He was twice attacked by Ulugh Khān (brother of 'Alān-d-dīn).⁶

¹ Elliot: *History of India*, Vol. II, pp. 225-26.

² *Ind. Ant.*, Vol. VIII, p. 62.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 62.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 63.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 63-64.

⁶ *Ep. Ind.*, Vol. XIX, p. 47.

38. **Jaitrasimha** was the son of Vāgbhaṭa. He defeated in a battle Jayasimha III of Mālwā and also a ruler of Āmbēr. He handed down the government to his son Hammira and went away as a religious recluse. He had two other sons named Suratrāna and Virama, who were great warriors.¹ He died in S. 1339 (A.D. 1283).

39. **Hammira**. He was the son of Jaitrasimha, as already spoken. He was the last Chauhān king of Ranthambhōr, and was endowed with all the qualities of a ruler. He carried a series of successful expeditions against Gadhamandala, Ujjain, Chitrakūṭa (Chitōr), Ābū, Vardhanapura (Badnor), etc., and defeated Arjunavarmā II, and Bhōjarāja II of Mālwā.² He was first attacked by Ulugh Khān, younger brother of 'Alāu'ddin in vain, and then by 'Alāu'ddin (A.D. 1296-1315) himself, who after treacherously winning over to his side Hammira's officers named Ratipāla, Raṇamalla and others, succeeded in reducing Hammira to a miserable plight. Hammira, however gave battle with his few remaining followers and fell in it pierced with shafts. With his own hand he severed his head from his body.³ Thus the rule of the Chauhāns at Ranthambhōr came to an end with Hammira's death in A.D. 1301. His inscription is dated S. 1345.

After the fall of Ranthambhōr, it is said, the descendants of Hammira migrated towards Gujārāt, as may also be concluded from the discovery of an inscription, dated Śaṃvat 1525 (A.D. 1469), of the time of the Chauhān king Jayasimhadēva in Gujārāt. It mentions the names of twelve predecessors of Jayasimhadēva, commencing with Rāmadēva, who, therefore, appears to be a near relative of Hammira. Rāmadēva established his capital at Chāmpāner, which remained so till the time of Jayasimha, in whose reign it was conquered by the Sultān Maḥmūd-Begdhā of Gujārāt. Jayasimha was defeated and put to death shortly afterwards on his refusal to embrace Islām. His grandsons, Prithvirāja and Dungarji, however, went away and founded the houses of *Chotā Udayapur* and *Bāriā* (Bombay) respectively. The Chauhāns of these places seem to be thus connected with the celebrated Prithvirāja of Aḥmer and the house of Sāmbhar.⁴

Thus we see that the Chauhāns were a mighty race of rulers who had established their rule in Mārwar before⁵ the imperial Pratihāras of Kanauj. They, at first, seem to have been independent rulers but later on, had to accept subordination to

¹ *Ind. Ant.*, Vol. VIII, p. 64.

² *Ibid.*, p. 64 and *Ep. Ind.*, XIX, pp. 47-48.

³ *Ind. Ant.*, Vol. VIII, pp. 65-73.

⁴ *Ind. Ant.*, Vol. VI, pp. 1-4.

⁵ The Chauhāns appear to have established their power in Mārwar about the time when the rule of the Chavḍās in Mārwar was on the wane in the first quarter of the 8th century A.D. (See *Ante*, Vol. LVII, p. 182.)

the Pratihāras, when the latter became the paramount sovereign in Northern India. After the decay of the Imperial Pratihāras, however, these Chauhāns of Sāmbhar became the sovereign rulers in India. Prithvirāja III of Ajmer, belonging to the main line of Sāmbhar was the last Hindu emperor of India. Even after the death of Prithvirāja, this line of the Chauhāns continued to rule with sufficient power up to a comparatively later period, while their contemporary rulers, viz., the Solāṅkis of Gujarāt, the Parmāras of Mālwā, etc., dwindled into insignificance. From the main line of Sāmbhar, however, other branches of the Chauhāns, such as the Chauhāns of Nāḍol, Sirohi, Bundi, etc., sprang up, which will be dealt with later on.

