

CHAPTER THREE
THE DATE OF DHANAPĀLA

Like most of the Jain Sanskrit and Prakrit authors, Dhanapāla was expected not to have kept mum as to the exact date on which he finished the composition of his TM, though it is clearly mentioned that the work was composed during the life-time of the Paramāra King Bhoja of Dhārā.¹ He has also referred to the fact that the Paramāra King Vākpatirāja Muñja honoured him with the title "Sarasvatī" in the midst of his royal court.² In his PLN, however, he has clearly mentioned that he composed it in the city of Dhārā in the year on thousand twenty-nine (1029) of the vikrama Era.³ The year synchronized with the sack of the city of Mannakheda by the forces of a Mālava king.⁴ In his SMU he has referred to the sack of Sirimāladesa, Anahilavāḍa, Caḍḍāvalli, Soratṭha,

1. TM(N).Intro.vs.50 ab: तस्यावदातचरितस्य विनोदहेतोः, यतः स्फुरन्मूलरसा रचिता कथयाम् ॥५०॥

2. ibid. vs.53 d: श्रीमुञ्जेन सरस्वतीति सदसि क्षोणीभृता व्याहृतः ॥५३॥

3. PLN(D).p.38.vss.276ff.: विक्कमकालस्स गए अउणुत्तिसुत्तरे सहस्सन्ति (१०२९) --- ॥२७६॥ धारानयरीए --- ॥२७७॥ --- तेणेसा विरइया देसी ॥२७८॥.

4. ibid.276 cd: मालवनरिदै धाडीए लूडिह मन्नखेडम्मि ॥२७६॥

Delavāḍa, and Somesara by one who also tried, unsuccessfully of course, to pull down and break the idol of mahāvīra at Saccaura (i.e. Sācora).⁵ According to Muni Shri Jinavijayaji,⁶ this refers to the iconoclastic expeditions of Mahmud of Gazni who reached Sācora in the year V.Sam. 1081 (i.e. 1025 A.D.). We get this much exact data from Dhanapāla himself.

I. IDENTIFICATION OF THE MĀLAVA KING :- Now, the event of the sack of Mannakheḍa is identified by Shri K.M.Munshi⁷ with such an exploit by the Paramāra King Siyaka II, alias Harṣa, who led an attack against the Rāṣṭrakūṭa King Khoṭṭiga of mānyakheṭa. This place has been identified by Pandit Bechardas Doshi with the present Mankhed in the Penṭh Tāluka of Nāsik District in Maharashtra.⁸ Puṣpadanta also has recorded this event in his Nāgakumāracarita.⁹ As to the identification of this

5. See infra Chap. II. ft.nt. No. 39.

6. JSS.Vol.3.No.3.pp.249-249; Pandit K.K.Shastri also agrees with Muni Shri Jinavijayaji. cf. Ap.Kv.Pt.I.pp. 46-48.

7. GGD.pp.111-112.

8. PLN(D).Intro.p.14.

9. cf. NKC: दीवानाथधनं सदाबहुजनं प्रोत्फुल्लवल्लीवनं मान्याखेटपुरं
पुरंदरपुरीलीलाहरं सुन्दरम् । धारानाथनरैर्द्रुकोपशिखिना कथं
विदधप्रियं, कवेदानीं कस्यति करिष्यति पुनः श्रीपुष्प-

दन्तः कविः ॥ as quoted in JSAI.pp.327-328.

Paramāra king we have a clue in the Uḍḍayapura Prasasti¹⁰ which informs us that it was Sri Harshadeva, i.e. Paramāra Śīyaka II alias Siṃhadatta, who was first attacked by the Rāṣṭrakūṭa King Kṛṣṇarāja III of Mānyakheta, and the former retaliated by leading a counter-attack against Khoṭṭiga, the younger brother and the successor of ~~KK~~ Kṛṣṇarāja III, whom his contemporary Halāyudha has mentioned in his Kavirahasya.¹¹ The first epigraphic record of Paramāra Śīyaka II is the Harsola Grant dated 949 A.D.¹² When the empire of the Gurjaradeśa broke up in 940 A.D., Paramāra Vairisimha II or his son Śīyaka II was left as the viceroy of this newly conquered territories by the Rāṣṭrakūṭa Emperor Kṛṣṇarāja III.¹³ Shri D.K. Shastri ~~opines~~ opines that Śīyaka II must have seized the Mālava territory from Mādhava the vassal of King Mahendrapāla of Kanoja and established his own independent kingdom with his capital at Ujjayinī,¹⁴ between V, Sam. 1005 to 1029

10. EI. Vol. I. pp. 233-238. vs. 12: श्रीहर्षदेव इति खोहदेवकक्षी

जग्राह यो युधि नगादसमप्रतापः ॥१२॥

11. Kv. Rhs. 5: अस्यगस्त्यमुनिज्योत्स्नापवित्रे दक्षिणापथे । कृष्णराज इति ख्यातो राजा साम्राज्यदीक्षितः ॥५॥

12. EI. Vol. XIX. pp. 236ff.

13. GGD. p. 110.

14. GMRI. pp. 146-147.

(i.e. 949 to 973 A.D.). Kṛṣṇarāja III died in 968 A.D. and was succeeded by his younger brother Khoṭṭiga. By 970 A.D. Sīyaka II consolidated his power and marched on Mānyakheta.¹⁵ In 972 A.D. he was at the gates of Mānyakheta which he captured and sacked. It is this event which is referred to in the PLN and the Udayapura Prasasti, as also by Puṣpadanta in his NKC. By this time he had shifted his capital to Dhārā further away from the reach of Mānyakheta.¹⁷ Khoṭṭiga died during this war.¹⁸

II. DATES OF THE PARAMĀRA KINGS :- It is clear from the above reference of the PLN that Dhanapāla was a junior contemporary of the Paramāra King Sīyaka II whom he mentions in the TM by name.¹⁹ Pandit Bechardas Doshi rightly concludes that Dhanapāla must have been at least twenty years of age when he composed his PLN.²⁰ Dhanapāla expressly mentions in his TM that the great ~~king~~ scholar-king Muñja publicly conferred on him the title "Sarasvatī" when he was very young and a poet but in making.²¹

15.GGD.p.1110-112.

16.BPRV.Vol.III.p.61.

17.GGD.p.111-112.

18.ibid.

19.TM(N).Intro. 41: तत्राभूदवस्थितिः श्रियामपरया श्रीहर्ष इत्या-
ख्यया ---- भूपः खर्वितवैरिगर्वजरिमा श्रीसीयकः ---- etc. ॥२१॥

20.PLN(D).Intro.p.31.

21.TM(N).Intro.vs.53 cd: अदुग्णोऽपि विविक्तशुक्तिरचने यः
सर्वविद्याब्धिना, श्रीमुञ्जेन सरस्वतीति सदसि क्षोणीभूता
व्याहृतः ॥ ५३॥

It is possible that this honour might have been consequent to his completion of the compilation of his, now no more extant, Sanskrit dictionary called 'Nāmamālā'. Even the PLN might have been instrumental for such an occasion. The earliest known date of the Paramāra King ^{kpati} Vākpatirāja II, alias Muñja, the successor of Sīyaka II, is V.Sam. 1031 i.e. 975 A.D.²² Tradition maintains that Muñja was captured alive during his expedition in South India against the Cālukya King Tailappa II of Kalyani, a feudatory of the Rāṣṭrakūṭas.²³ Muñja was later on executed by Tailappa II.²⁴ This is confirmed by the Gandhāwāni Plates dated A.D. 997.²⁵ This occurred between the two events, viz., after Āmitagati's completion of the Subhāṣita-ratna-sandoha during the life-time of Muñja in the year V.Sam. 1950 (i.e. 994 A.D.),²⁶ and the ~~death~~ death of Tailappa II, the killer of Muñja, in the year V.Sam. 1054 (i.e. 998 A.D.).²⁷ Shri K.M. Munshi locates the event in 995 A.D. Dr. D.S. Trivedi puts Muñja between A.D. 974 and 994.²⁸ ²⁹ Sindhurāja was the immediate successor of Vākpatirāja

22. IA. Vol. VI. pp. 48-53.

23. PC(T). p. 33; also NSC(BZ). pp. 43-44.

24. PHNI. p. 94.

25. IA. Vol. VI. pp. 51-53; DKD. p. 40; BPRV. Pt. I. p. 160; GMRI. p. 62.

26. SRS. vs. 922: समाख्ये पूतत्रिदिवसति विक्रमगुणे, सहस्रे वर्षाणो
ब्रह्मवति हि पञ्चाशदधिके। समाख्ये पञ्चम्यामवति धरणी मुञ्जगुप्तौ,
सिते पक्षे पौत्रे बुधहितमिदं शास्त्रमजयम् ॥ ३२२ ॥

27. HPD. p. 62.

28. GGD. p. 146.

29. IC. pp. 37-42.

Muñja as has been expressly mentioned by Padmagupta.³⁰

At least five dynastic inscriptions stand to prove this.³¹ But Sindhurāja did not rule for long and he was soon succeeded by his son Bhoja. Padmagupta must have composed his NSC before 1001 A.D. as the earliest recorded date of Bhoja is Śaka 923 (i.e. 1001 A.D.) on the evidence of the Syāmalādaṇḍaka of Purāntaka which refers to the grant of a hundred "agrahāras".³² The assumption of Dr. Bühler who puts the date of the composition of the NSC by Padmagupta alias Parimala in 1005 A.D. is based on his wrong assumption of the earliest date of Bhoja as 1010 A.D.³³ Merutunga has given the duration of Bhoja's rule as fifty-five years, seven months and three days.³⁴ On the strength of the Māndhātā Grant³⁵ dated 1055-56 A.D. Dr. G.C. Choudhary puts the earliest date of Jayasīma, the successor of Bhoja, in A.D. 1055.³⁶

Following this line of evidence, Bhoja's accession may

30. NSC. XI. 98: पुरा कालकृमात्तेन प्रस्थितेनाम्बिकापतेः । मौर्वीकिणाश्व-
वत्यस्य पुथ्वीदीप्ति निवेशिता ॥ ५८ ॥

31. HPD. p. 65; EI. Vol. p. 233-238.

32. HCSL. p. 492 ft. nt.

33. IA. Vol. XXXVI. p. 154 ff.

34. PC (SJGM). p. 22: पञ्चाशत्पञ्चवर्षाणि मासाः सप्त दिनत्रयम् ।

भोक्तव्यं भोजयजेन सगौडं दक्षिणापदम् ॥

35. EI. Vol. III. pp. 46-50.

36. PHNI. p. 97.

be considered to have taken place in the year 999 A.D. This, according to Dr.D.C.Ganguli, settles the furthest limit of Sindhurāja's reign.³⁷ Dr. Ganguli differs from Lassen and Bühler on the authority of the Māndhātā Grant coupled with Merutuṅga's statement about the extent of Bhoja's rule.³⁸ Bhoja was no longer ruling in Dhārā, and hence had long expired, in 1062 A.D. when Vidyāpati Bihlana reached there on his journey from Kashmir to various places in North India.³⁹ It was at the instance of this Paramāra Bhojarāja, who wanted to be entertained by a story based on Jain scriptures, that Dhanapāla composed his prose-romance, viz, the TM.⁴⁰

III. THE SACK OF SĀCORA :- In his SMU Dhanapāla refers to the sack of Somanātha Temple in V.Sam/1081 (i.e. 1025 A.D.) by Mahmud of Gazni who started for Multan on the 10th Sha'ban (6th October) and reached Multan in the middle of Ramzān and marched towards

37.HPD.p.62.

38.ibid.ft.nt.

39.VDC.XVIII.96: भोजः क्षमाभूतस्तु स्वल्पेन स्वल्पैस्तस्य साम्यं नरेन्द्रैस्ततु प्रत्यक्षं किमिति भवता नागतं हा हतास्ति । यस्य द्वारोद्गमरशिखरक्रोड-पारावतानां, नादव्याजादिति शकुरुणा व्याजहारेति धारा ॥९६॥

40.TM(N).Intro.vs.50: विःशेषवाङ्मयविदोऽपि जिजागमोक्ताः श्रोतुं कथं - समुपजातकुलूलस्य । तस्यावदातचरितस्य विनोदहेतोः, राज्ञः स्मृयद्भुतरसा रचिता कथेयम् ॥५०॥

41.

Aṇahilavāḍa. Bhīmadeva I fled on his arrival and took refuge at Kaṇṭhkot in Kutch.⁴¹ By this time Dhanapāla must be about seventy-two years of age, when he might have been living at Sācora where he migrated and settled after his alienation with Bhoja at Dhārā. Pandit Becharadas Doshi is right in holding that the poet lived for about ten to fifteen years more after the event.⁴²

The life-span of Dhanapāla, thus, falls between 950 A.D., i.e. before the accession of Vākpatirāja II alias Muñja and 1050 A.D., i.e. before the death of Bhoja. The ~~xx~~ composition of the TM must have been between 1010 A.D. and 1025 A.D. during the heydays of Bhoja's regime.

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