

KASHMIRIS AND MONGOLS

—M. M. Munshi

This has a reference to the article "MONGOLS AND KASHMIR" in your esteemed magazine of May June 2007 about which I am constrained to point out that the learned author has tried to jumble up or if I am not wrong confused the issue by stating that Kashmiri Pandits are Brahmanised Mongolians. Nothing can be farther from the truth. It is nothing but wishful thinking that Kashmiri Pandits of Lucknow with surname of Nagu were Brahmanised Nagas from Kashmir. There is no historical record to prove that Kingdom of Nagas extended from Kashmir to Delhi/Hastinapur and Nagas settled around Nagpur and Chota Nagpur in Central India, the way another Kashmiri Pandit writer has tried to identify the Chaks of Kashmir with Chakmas of Chittakong Hills along Bangla Desh-Burma border.

According to Nilmat Purana sage Kyaspa wanted Nagas to live in harmony with Manavas (Aryans) in *Kasmira* (Kashmir) after the *Satisar* was desiccated of its water which the former at first refused. It was only when Kyaspa threatened the Nagas that they will have to live with Pishatsas, Nagas agreed to live with Manavas. It was decided that Manavas will reside in Kashmir during the summer along with Nagas and move down to outer hills and plains during the winter and Pisachas will dwell during the winter with Nagas. This arrangement continued for a number of years when the Naga king Nila permitted the Manavs to stay through out the year in Kashmir on being persuaded of a Brahman.

Again the author has confused the

Nagas who were a dark skinned people of Dravidian origin and inhabited the whole of the sub continent before the Aryans arrived. The Naga king Nila has been compared to a heap of antimony because of his dark complexion. At places Dr. Sharga looks for support in the mythology and at places he denounces Kalhana's Rajtarangini. Nilmat Purana does not give a historical record but legends about origin of Kashmir valley and a detailed account of the culture social and religious practices observed in ancient times. The same legends have been reproduced by Muslim as well as European Scholars. Nobody disagrees with Sharga that all ethnic groups who inhabited the Kashmir valley after it was the desiccation of the waters of the Pleistocene lake (*Satisar*) had migrated from the surrounding and distant lands. The oldest remains of human beings and their pit dwellings have been located at **Burzahoma Karewa** on the northern side of Dal lake which have been dated by carbon-14 method and found as old as 2375 BC i.e 4383 years from today

That trade between the Indian subcontinent and Central Asia was going on since ancient times via Central Asian trade and Silk routes passing through the Karakorum and Khunjerab Passes respectively and besides other evidences is also corroborated by the mention of China Silk in Nilmath Purana. Infact Buddhism spread to China, Mongolia Japan and other places in Central and East Asia through Kashmir. It is also believed by some Scholars that **Seol** capital of South Korea is named after a Kashmiri Brahman. Mongols invaded

India in 1221 AD. It was more for the pursuit of Jalaluddin son of Sultan Syed Khan of Khwarizm who was defeated by Gengis Khan on the west bank of Indus. Gengis Khan did not cross the Indus himself but sent an army across the River. Lahore fell to them in 1241 and they harried Multan and northern Sind. Balban routed and punished them. In 1290 Jallaudin Khilji repelled their intrusion, then he appeased them and made them settle at Mongolpuri near Delhi but that did not ensure peace and led fresh aggressions in 1297 under their leader Qutlugh. They again appeared in 1303 and devastated Punjab and laid siege to Delhi. Then they suddenly withdrew presumably they were recalled by Gengis Khan's grandsons, who were in Afghanistan-Turkemaestan region. The **earliest Mongol invasion of Kashmir in known historic times** took place during the rule of King Sahadeva in late summer by **Mongol chief Dalucha in 1320 AD.** via the Baramula route who after laying the country waste was returning via *Bansala*(Banihal)perished after getting caught in a blizzard with his army, slaves and booty. The **second Mongol Invasion of Kashmir in known historic times** led by **Alacha** took place in 1323 AD during the rule of Udyanadeva who fled to Ladakh. His queen Kota Rani with the help of Kotarajas, and Shahmir a muslim refugee of Iranian origin who was living as a refugee in Kashmir offered battle to the invaders saved their country. Dalucha as well as Achala both of whom entered Kashmir via Baramula route were part of Mongol army devastating Punjab and surrounding areas in early 14th century. This also proves wrong that Mongols proceeded to Delhi via Kashmir as surmised by Dr. Sharga in his earlier articles. The last Mongol led Turkish

invasion of Ladakh and only invasion of Kashmir across the Great Himalaya Range took place under the Prince Sikandar and Mirza Haide Dughlat of Kashgar in 1532 AD who after a bitter struggle against the Kashmiri Forces pulled out from the valley. The pullout had become unavoidable due to a local revolt against the Kashgar Army in Nubra.

Damars, Ekingas and Tantrays do not belong to any ethnic tribes, Damars were feudal lords of Kashmir while as Ekingas and Tantrays were the traditional unmounted and mounted components of the army. Nishads and Dards both with aquiline features are the same who lived and still live in the areas around Gilgit, Chitral. Malakand and Badakshan.

Dr. Sharga correct me if I am wrong

(1) the concept that during the eight century during which according to your claim your ancestors of Mongolian origin entered Kashmir married local girls to raise families and settled at Rainawari and came to be known as Koul Shargas is **not feasible.** Because between middle of 3rd century till the rise of Ghengis Khan in middle of 12th Century Mongolia was divided into small principalities fighting among themselves and were not in a possession of the territories between Mongolia and Kashmir. The power rivalry in Central Asia during the 8th century was going on between Tibet and Arabs on one side China and Kashmir on the other side. Infact Laltaditya Mukhpida fighting as an ally of Chinese subdued Ladakh, Baltistan and part of Western Tibet during the 8th century, how come Mongolians could have entered Kashmir married local girls and settled at Rainawari or other places in the valley.

2. Do you agree that the Native Americans (Red Indians) migrated to the New World from Mongolia and Siberia along the Bering Striats land bridge during the part of the Quaternary known As the Ice Age say about 25,000 to 30,000 years ago and to this day have preserved Mongolian characteristics of light brown skin, brown eyes, epithecal fold in their eyes flatter nose and dark straight hair in spite of the fact that they have intermixed, intermarried with African Americans and white Americans. Do not both Kashmiri Pandits and Muslims have pure aquiline features in spite of the fact that

Mongolian ancestors of Kashmiris according to you migrated to Kashmir only in the 8th Century.

3. Rinchan was a fugutive Prince from Ladakh who entered Kashmir via Zogilla with a few followers and on compassion was given shelter in Kashmir by the King Sahadeva and his Chief Minister cum Army Chief Ramdeva in the Sind valley. He murdered Ramdeva and ceased power by deceit. Since Rinchan was neither accompanied by any army nor by generals the question of his generals and soldiers marrying Kashmir is girls and raising of families in Kashmir is ruled out.

GLOSSARY

1. Jonaraja's Rajtarangini (Bombay Edition)
2. Himalayan Battle ground by Margaret W. Fisher Leo E. Rose and Robert A Huttenback
3. Tabakat Nasiri (Ravetrays Translation.)
4. "Ma-tawan-lin", "Thien Chu India" Trans. James Burges
5. Indian Antiquity IX
6. Chronology of Karkota Dynasty U.N. Mukerjee
7. Turkistan to Abid Khalifi Pandit Daya Ram Sahni
8. Notes from Tibetan sources by A.S. Franke Indian Antiquity XXXVII
9. History of Muslim Rule in Kashmir by R.K. Parimu
10. Mongols, Central Asia Rivalry and Kashmir I M.M. Munshi Kashmir Sentinal. March 2007
11. Mongols, Central Asian Rivalry and Kashmir II M.M. Munshi Kashmir Sentinel May 2007
12. Central Asian Rivalry Panjtarni Annual Number 2003
13. Native Americans 1993-2001 Microsoft Company

Mongols & Kashmir

Thanks to Shri M.M. Munshi, for his valid comments in the context of views of learned Dr. Shrgaa in his article "Mongols & Kashmir" (K. B. Times June 2007). I venture to say that Dr. Sharga has twisted the early history of Kashmiri Pandits and has, thus, put a cart before a horse. I feel that our history is incomplete without references in Epics, Dharmic Granths, literature besides ages old rites, rituals, customs and language, the nearest off-shoot of Sanskrit & mother of all languages spoken and written.

However, in the context of the subject under review, I have to say that Rinchan; a Buddhist from Ladakh, who had captured the throne of Kashmir in 1320 by his cunning deeds had wished conversion to Hinduism, but was refused by orthodox Brahmins. Later on under the influence of Bulbul Shah, he embraced Islam.

About 7 years ago, Dr. Sharga in his article in Panchtarni, had written that "DHARS" of Kashmir had borrowed their Surname from "DARS" of Kashmiri Muslims. It was just like a problem asking as to which came first i.e. egg or hen.

Concluding with the request to Dr. Sharga to read and think over the verse of IQBAL, the national poet of the sub continent, who regarded "Ram" as Imami-Hind viz Leader of Hindustan.

Verse in Urdu.

मैं असल का समनाथी,
अबा मेरे लाती और मनाती,
तू स्यद-हाशमी के औलाद
मेरी तफि खाक ब्राहमणा-जाद,
है फलसफा मेरे आबि-गुल में
पूरीदा वेग है दिल में ॥

Explanation

"I belong to the family of real worshippers of Somnath; my ancestors were followers of LATI and MAWATI (gods worshipped by pre-islamic Arabs). You are the Syed of Super Hashmi Caste (Clan of Prophet), but I am the off-spring of superior Brahmin clan, having inherited understanding of philosophy from my Brahmin ancestry, which is suffused in every particle of my body and flows in my heart's blood."

Thanks.

(N.N. Mujoo)

TEST YOUR ECO-KNOWLEDGE

HOW GREEN IS YOUR GREY MATTER?

1. What type of creature is an ibis?
2. What type of creature is an ibex?
3. What planet in our solar system takes the longest time to orbit the sun?
4. Which planet in our solar system orbits the sun in the shortest time?
5. A lack of which vitamin can cause the disease rickets?
6. A lack of which vitamin can cause the disease beriberi?
7. Which chemical element has the symbol Ca?
8. Which chemical element has the symbol Co?
9. Which in the world's smallest breed of hours?
10. Which in the world's smallest species of bird?