

KARNATAS OF MITHILA (PART-1)

M.A.(HISTORY) SEM-2 PAPER CC:7

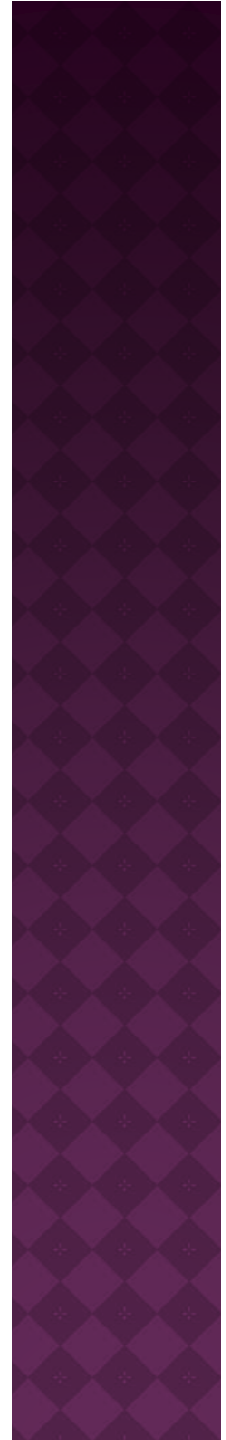
DR. MD. NEYAZ HUSSAIN
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR & HOD
PG DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
MAHARAJA COLLEGE, VKSU,
ARA (BIHAR)

INTRODUCTION

The 1097 A.D. marks an important landmark in the history of Mithila and also in contemporary Indian politics. Prior to 1097 A.D., Mithila had experienced numerous ups and downs. Chaos and confusion reigned supreme everywhere. It was apparent that Mithila had become politically dormant and culturally stagnant. After centuries of chaos and confusion, defeats and humiliations, shocks and surprises, there emerged on the scene a great hero named *Nanyadeva*, belonging to the Karnata dynasty, who succeeded in changing the face of Mithila to a great extent and subsequently brought it on the political and cultural map of eastern India.

INTRODUCTION

The exact origins of the Karnatas of Mithila are still up for debate, but as per available evidences, probably they seem to have been very powerful 'Samantas' in the valley of Nepal and also the Tarain area during the reign of Rampala. Subsequently they took advantage of the weakness of the Pala kings and established for themselves an independent dynasty in 1097 A.D. They ruled over Mithila from 1097 to 1324-25 A.D. for about 227 years. With the advent of the Karnatas in Mithila, we come to a surer and sober footing of history.



POLITICAL HISTORY

Nanyadeva

- He was the founder of the Karnatas dynasty of Mithila
- He was a contemporary of Ramapala and Madanpala, Vijayasena and Vallalasena of Bengai; Govindchandra Gahadwal of Kanauj and Raghava of Kalinga
- He distinguished himself in war and peace
- Succeeded in stabilizing his power in the Tirhut and in extending it to Nepal
- His two important trustworthy ministers were Sridhardas, and Ratnadeva of Biarasam family of the Karan Kayastha of Mithila

POLITICAL HISTORY

- His capital was at Simraongarh (Now in Nepal). He had temporary capitals in a number of places in the district of Darbhanga
- Through his skill and farsightedness, he maintained he maintained the individuality of his kingdom
- He died in 1147 A.D.

Gangadeva

- He was the son of Nanyadeva
- An efficient ruler, credited with having reorganized his administrative system on sound lines

POLITICAL HISTORY

- He introduced the system of fiscal division or parganas for the purpose of revenue administration
- A Chaudhary was appointed in each pargana to collect the revenue and a Panchayat was chosen to settle all disputes.
- He built a fort near Bairiya in Darbhanga
- After his death he was succeeded by his son Narsimhadeva

Narsimhadeva

- He had a quarrel with his kinsmen in Nepal which led to separation of Nepal and Mithila

POLITICAL HISTORY

- He was succeeded by his son Ramasimhadeva

Ramasimhadeva

- A pious devotee and a firm patron of sacred literature
- Under his rule several important commentaries on the Vedas were written or compiled
- New social rules were framed and an officer was appointed to adjudicate upon all questions arising from the working of these new rules
- Administrative Reforms:
 - (1) In every village a police officer was appointed to make daily report of all occurrences worthy of note to the Chaudhary or the head revenue collector . These officers were paid in land

POLITICAL HISTORY

(2) He instituted the system of Patwari

(3) Excavated a large tank and sponsored an attractive garden at Darbhanga called after his name

- His reign witnessed the visit of a Tibetan traveler, Dharmaswamin in 1234-36 A.D.
- According to Dharmaswamin, the Tirhut king was strengthening his fortification on all sides as he always apprehended the Muslim attack. He was a very liberal ruler.
- Ramasimha offered the office of Chief Priest to Dharmaswami who declined the offer as he had to return to Tibet.

POLITICAL HISTORY

- He was succeeded by Sakrasimha or Saktisimha

Sakrasimha

- He was a great warrior and a despot ruler
- His despotism offended the nobles of his court and one of his ministers established a **Council of Seven Elders** as a check upon the autocratic power of the rulers
- Credited with having founded the modern village of Sakri in the district of Darbhanga
- He was succeeded by his son Harisimhadeva

Harisimhadeva

- The greatest king of the dynasty after Nanyadeva

POLITICAL HISTORY

- He is founded the city of Harisimhapur in Darbhanga district.
- Famous in Mithila as organizer of the *Panji System*
- He was most powerful in his time
- His period witnessed invasion of Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq in 1324-25 A.D.
- He fled to Nepal where he and his descendants ruled for a considerable time

(To be continued)