

## CHAPTER- XII

Village Mohammadpur, Phariha and the areas west of these villages existed in the Kingdom of Kannauj, hence it is necessary to write about Kannauj. Dr. R. S. Tripathi, M.A. Ph. D. LONDON, Professor and Head of Department of History, Benaras Hindu University, has written in his book titled, "History of Kannauj- (to the Moslem Conquest)", Published in 1937 in London , First. Edition. Subsequent edition by Motilal Banarsidas –Delhi in 1959 and 1964.

According to Dr. Traipathi, Kannauj's ancient name was "Kanyakubja". Different writers have given different names. It was founded long before the dawn of the Christian Era. Later it came in direct conflict with later generations of Guptas. With the result, the centre of political gravity shifted from Magadha to Kannauj. Subsequently in the beginning of 7<sup>th</sup> Century "HARSHA" assumed the control of the affairs of Kannauj. He further writes that according to his opinion "HARSHA" dominion comprised, part of Eastern Punjab, whole of United Provinces Magadha, Orisa and Bengal.

J.L.Mehta at page 29 of his book at the bottom notes:-"The HARSHA Empire extends from Sutlej to Delta of Brahmaputra in the East, Gujrat and Kutch in the West, while Narbada forms its boundary in the South. Kannauj was its Capital."

Dr. Tripathi further says that after the death of Harsha the next notable rulers were Pratiharas, particularly BHOJA-I, and MAHENDRA PALA-I. There was continuous conflict between Pratiharas the Palas and Rastrakulas. Later the prosperity of Kannauj received a rude shock from Mehmood. Thereafter with the exception, a short glory of Kannauj during the rule of Gahedvalas became an insignificant town. From the downfall of Guptas until the avalanche of the Moslem invasion, it was the centre of culture, crafts, religion and riches, power and politics and was the aspirant to supreme dignity in Northern India.

At page 22 Dr. Tripathi, mentioned that finding of a plate in Madhuban in the district of Azamgarh proves that the area of Azamgarh was in the kingdom of Kannauj. This fact he repeated at page 123. At page 268 he has given the account about the glory of Kannauj as was described by Al-Masudi in his book, "Meeraj-ul-Zahab". According to Al-Masudi who visited the valley of Indus in 915-16 A.D., "One of the neighboring kings of India, far from the Sea is Bauura who was lord of Kannauj. This Bauura was enemy of Balhara King of India. The boundary of Kannauj extended 120 sqr. Parasangas of Sind i.e. 960

sqr.miles. He had large army for aggression and defense, because he was surrounded from all sides by warlike kings. Kannauj was the leading state of Northern India.”

According to Dr. R.S. Tripathi, between pages 281 to 285 , when Mehmood attacked Kannauj the ruler was Rajyapala who without any resistance ran away to another town called ‘ Bari ‘ and accepted the subjugation of Mehmood. Due to this reason the other rulers around Kannauj were enraged and wanted to punish Rajyapala. For this reason the Ganda and Chandela rulers formed a confederation with other neighboring princes to punish Rajyapala and ultimately killed him and placed Trilochanpala as its ruler. Trilochanpala however retained Bari as his capital in place of Kannauj.

When Mehmood received the information that Rajyapala has been killed by a group of Hindu Rulers only because Rajyapala accepted Mehmood’s subjugation, he became very furious and determined to punish the miscreants for their audacity.

According to Dr. Tripathi, Mehmood marched in the autumn i.e. October, 1019 A.D. According to Ibn-e-Asir it was 1018 A.D. Cambridge History of India by Sir. W. Haig also says it was September 1018 A.D. Even Sir Elliot accepts it was 1018A.D. Dr. J.L.Mehta also at page 30 accepts it as 1018-19 A.D. It was in this expedition Mehmood went further East of Kannauj to punish all those who were responsible to kill Rajyapala. Mehmood first came to Kannauj then went straight to “Ratagarh” Qila at Anwak/ Awantikapuri followed by, to ASNI fort and then to Sarwa and not only punished them but destroyed their strength so that they are unable to trouble the Kannauj Ruler. As mentioned earlier Mehmood did not annex the kingdoms after defeating their rulers but used to handover to the existing rulers or to their successor in place of those killed in the war. Trilochanpal became the ruler of Kannauj in place of Rajayapala after he was killed by the confederation of the rulers of Gwalier, Kalinger and others around Kannauj. Dr. Tripathi has mentioned that an inscription discovered at Jhansi, records that on 26<sup>th</sup> June 1027 A.D. Trilochanpala made a grant of some villages to the Brahamans of Pratisthana from his residence at the bank of Ganga near Sangam. This shows that Trilochanpala was in control of some area near Allahabad and was staying there and not at Bari or Kannauj. It is also possible that he may have deserted Bari and shifted towards Sangam hearing the news of Mehmood’s arrival.

According to Sir Wolsely Haig at pages 10 to 20 Volume III the ruler of Kannauj was Jaichand. It is possible that on the desertion of Bari/Kannauj by Trilochanpala on the arrival of Mehmood, Mehmood may

have installed Jaichand as the ruler of Kannauj, under his protection, who remained loyal to Mehmood. Mehmood after capture of Sarwa and its ruler got enough wealth in cash and kind. From Sarwa Mehmood went back straight to Kannauj and after assurance of his support and protection to Jaichand went back to Ghazni. This appears to be more true because even till today the ruler of Kannauj with the name of 'Jaichand' is accused as traitor.

Dr. Bindeshwari Prasad Sinha, PhD. London in his book, "Political History of South Bihar", (750 A.D. to 1200 A.D.) Volume —I, and Part- II, mentions:-

**"Matsyanyanya's, anarchy was too much to be bourn. To end this state of affairs Gopala came in power, Dharampala, Gurjara Pratihara were strong in Central India Rashttra Kulas in Vindhya. All three were political rivals. All eyed to Gagantic Provinces. The struggle continued for Generations." (Page 247).**

**"Kings of Ceylon and Java built Temples in Bodh Gaya and Nalanda but it did not mean that they ruled over these territories. However it is quite likely that after the defeat of Pratihara King Rajyapala at the hands of Mehmood and killed by the confederacy led by Chandela prince Vidyudhra to punish Rajyapala, Mahindrapala-I might have taken advantage of the misfortune of the Pratiharas and extended authority over Benaras. So Mahindrapala-I ruled over a fairly extensive kingdom which included large parts of Bengal, whole of Bihar and possibly Eastern Utter Pradesh." (Page 464)**

If the rule of Mahindrapala-I extended up to Eastern part of Utter Pradesh and had extended their authority over Benaras, it is not unlikely that the fort at the Taal of Anwak/Awantikapuri was built by Mahindrapala-I, and that being at the Eastern border of Kannauj, the rulers of Kannauj must have felt threatened and may have sent message to Mehmood who in turn attacked and destroyed it for the benefit of Kannauj ruler but restored the control to Mahindrapala-I in accordance with his policy, not to annex the captured territories under his direct rule more so because Mahindrapala-I had not joined any of the confederations of Hindu rulers of Northern India to fight Mehmood. However after demolishing the Ratagarh fort Mehmood installed the founders of Mohammadpur village to keep watch on the activities beyond the border of Kannauj. Benaras was under the rule of Mahindrapala-I even in 1026 A.D. (417 H), (Aasar-e-Benaras page 47-48). Between 1043 to 1156 A.D. Benaras was under the rule of Kannauj king. (Certain historians have referred Mahindrapala-I as Mahipala-I). With the excavation conducted by the Nalanda Branch of National Archives at Anwak and finding that the materials excavated from the temple

appears to be of Harsha period it appears that Mahmood destroyed the Fort but spared the temple due to his settlement with Mahindrapala—I.

**Dr J.L. Mehta at Page 16 gives footnote as under:-**

**“As per practice Mahmood, before leaving Somnath appointed Dabshlim (Devasrum) an Ascetic (Sanyasi) and Uncle of Bheemdev, the Ruler of Gujrat to be the Governor of Anhilwara but he was over thrown soon after Mahmood’s return from Somnath.”**

Dr. Bindeshwari Prasad mentions that Mahindrapala-I or Mahipala-I, had not joined the forces against Mahmood as he considered that it would not be possible to retain his kingdom in confrontation with Mahmood. It appears that since Mahindrapala-I, had not joined other Hindu rulers of Northern India against Mahmood, Mahmood for satisfaction of Kannauj ruler destroyed the Ratagarh Qila, which must have been considered a threat by Kannauj ruler. May be because of Mahindrapala-I having not joined Hindu Rulers against Mahmood, Mahmood did not touch Benaras and other territories which were under Mahindrapala-I. However with the death of Mahindrapala-I, the rule of Pala Vansh began to decline and appears to have come to an end by about 1040 A.D. Mahmood also died in 1030 A.D.