

Hārahūṇa or *Hārahūra*, supposed to be associated with the Chinese name *Hiung-nu* and 'the White Hun' of the European writers, are mentioned in a few late passages of the Mahābhārata and in the geographical sections of the early Purāṇas, can be roughly assigned to the 4th century A.D. A sūtra-ṛtti in the Candra Vyākaraṇa has the sentence '*ajayad-gupta* (or *Japto* or *Jarto*) *Hūṇān*' as an illustration of the use of the imperfect to express an event which occurred within the life-time of the author.¹³⁵

In the Mandasor inscription of Yaśodharman¹³⁶ a reference is made to the chiefs of the Hūṇas, but they are not named. The inscription simply says that Yaśodharman possessed countries which not even the Guptas and the chiefs of the Hūṇas could subdue.¹³⁷

The inscription also refers to Mihirakula "who had earlier bowed only to the god Sthāṇu (Śiva) and whose forehead was pained through being bent low down by the strength of the arm of Yaśodharman in the act of compelling obeisance".¹³⁸

With the fall of Yaśodharman, which probably took place not long after, Mihirakula again came to the forefront. In the early part of the sixth century A.D. Śākala became his capital.¹³⁹ The Gupta king who then occupied the imperial throne was probably Narasiṃha-Gupta Bālāditya. He was temporarily overwhelmed by the victorious raids of Yaśodharman, and Mihirakula evidently took advantage of this imperial crisis to extend his power. Narasiṃhagupta, according to Hiuen Tsang, was forced to the humiliating position of paying tribute to Mihirakula but finally triumphed over his rival.¹⁴⁰

The defeat of Mihirakula appears to have finally crushed the political supremacy of the Hūṇas in India who ceased to be even a disturbing element in Indian History.¹⁴¹ The Purāṇas place the Hūṇas in the extreme west, with the Sauvīras, Saindhavas, Śākalas and Madras.¹⁴²

In the Raghuvamśa, Kālidāsa mentions Raghu defeating the Hūṇas on the banks of the Vaṅkṣu or the Oxus¹⁴³, the (pale) faces of whose wives spoke of the bravery of their husbands (who died in the battle).¹⁴⁴

Varāhamihira¹⁴⁵ mentions them under the jurisdiction of Ketu and places them in the North.¹⁴⁶ Dr. Upendra Thakur¹⁴⁷