

had anything to do with the Kharaparikas.<sup>160</sup> K.P. Jayaswal expresses the probability of the identification of the Kharaparikas with the five Karpaṣas of the Mahābhārata.<sup>161</sup>

8. *Kotas* (No. 1, L. 14) :

The Allahabad Pillar Inscription of Samudragupta mentions Samudragupta's capturing a king born in the family of the *Kotas*.<sup>162</sup> Mookerji equates the *Kota-kulaja* of the inscription with king Kalyāṇavarman of the play 'Kaumudī-Mahotsava'.<sup>163</sup> But it is now generally believed<sup>164</sup> that 'the episode of the *Kaumudī-Mahotsava* has no bearing whatsoever on the early Gupta History'.

The coins of the *Kotas* bearing their name have been found in East Punjab, and Delhi, and 'they probably ruled in the Upper Gangetic valley'.<sup>165</sup> Scholars differ in their views about placing the *Kotas*; some identify it with *Kanyakubja* while others with *Pāṭaliputra*.<sup>166</sup>

It is known that *Puṣpapura* or *Kusumapura* was the name of both the *Pāṭaliputra* and *Kānyakubja*.<sup>167</sup> It must, however, be noted that the city of *Puṣpa* here is connected mainly with Samudragupta and not with the *Kota-kulaja*,<sup>168</sup> so the location of the city of the *Kotas* is not to be traced in *Kusumapura* or *Puṣpapura*. It is well known that Candragupta I received Magadha through his Licchavi-alliance and it is possible that Samudragupta enjoyed his youth playfully at *Pāṭaliputra* (*Puṣpa-āhvaye krīdatā*). So Goyal's assumption that 'Hariṣeṇa has referred to *Kānyakubja* and not *Pāṭaliputra*'<sup>169</sup> is incorrect. It is only later that *Kānyakubja* gains the honour of being called *Kusumapura* when the glory of *Pāṭaliputra* had started declining.<sup>170</sup>

In view of the context of the victory over *Kota-kulaja* along with the *Nāga* kings *Acyuta* and *Nāgasena* and with the support of numismatic evidence it may be said that the *kotas* lived somewhere between East Punjab and Delhi.

9. *Kurus* (No.22, L.7) :

The *Kurus* were divided into two branches, the Northern and the Southern.<sup>171</sup> We have here a reference to the *Uttarakurus*.<sup>172</sup>

The *Kurus* were one of the most ancient and prominent of the Indo-Āryan *ksatriya* tribes.<sup>173</sup> In the earliest literature the *Kurus* do not appear under that name as a people. But