

the Madrakas and other tribes in quest of *Sitā*.²⁵⁴ The Madra tribe or kingdom²⁵⁵ is mentioned in the *Bhīṣmaparvan* of the *Mahābhārata* (chap. IX) and in Pāṇini's grammar (II, 3, 73; IV, 4, 67). The Madras held the Central portions of the Punjab;²⁵⁶ they appear in the Epic period to have occupied the district of Sialkot, between the rivers Chenab and Ravi,²⁵⁷ or according to some between the Jhelum and the Ravi.²⁵⁸ S. B. Chaudhuri²⁵⁹ says that the Madras held the portion in the Doab between the Chenab and the Ravi, possibly comprising even a portion of the country between the Jhelum and the Chenab, and thus abutted on Kaikeya on the West. We get a clue to the inhabitation of the Madras from a verse in the *Karṇaparvan* of the *Mahābhārata*²⁶⁰ which refers to a Madra, who had come to live among the Kurus, as yearning for his return to his native place beyond the Śītadru and the Irāvati to enjoy the company of charming women.

Śākala (Pali-Sagala, modern Sialkot) was the capital of the *Madras* identified²⁶¹ with Sanglawala-Tiba, to the West of the Ravi. From the *Milinda-pañho*, we learn that king Milinda (Menander) a Graeco-Bactrian king, who became a convert to Buddhism, was ruling over the Madda country with Sagala as his capital which according to a Buddhist lexicon, was one of the twenty ancient cities.²⁶² The brahminical name²⁶³ of the Madra Capital was Śākala mentioned by Pāṇini²⁶⁴ as Sānkala. In the *Mahābhārata*²⁶⁵ and the *Jātakas*²⁶⁶ Śākala is described as standing on the bank of the Āpagā in a tongue of land between two rivers, called the Śākaladvīpa, which corresponds to the Rechna Doab.

We know from the *Mahābhārata* about Śalya, king of the Madras (*Madrarāja*).²⁶⁷ After severe fighting, and many vicissitudes, the Madra soldiers were killed by Arjuna.²⁶⁸

The Madras are mentioned in the *Purāṇas* as well.²⁶⁹ The *Viṣṇu Purāṇa*²⁷⁰ refers to the Madras along with the Ārāmas, Pārasikas, and others and in the *Matsya Purāṇa*²⁷¹ with Gāndhāra, Yavana and others. The latter²⁷² mentions king Aśvapati of Śākala in the kingdom of the *Madras*.

The *Madras*, according to the *Arthaśāstra* of Kauṭilya²⁷³ were a corporation of warriors and people enjoyed the title of *rājan* (*rājaśabdopajīvinah*).²⁷⁴