

Madra women were noted for their beauty.<sup>275</sup> The Jātakas bear ample testimony to the fact that the Madra princesses were sought in marriage by the great kṣatriya house of North India.<sup>276</sup> The Mahābhārata tells us that it was a family custom of the *Madras* to receive a fee from the bridegroom when they gave their daughters in marriage.<sup>277</sup>

Some scholars identify the *Madras* with Vāhlika (or Vāhika).<sup>278</sup> Śākala as a Vāhikagrāma is also mentioned by Patañjali.<sup>279</sup> From the references in the Mahābhārata, Vāhika would appear to have stood for the whole of Punjab.<sup>280</sup> The Vāhika-grāmas of Śākala and Pātanaprastha, as referred to in the grammatical works,<sup>281</sup> imply the inclusion of *Madrajanapada* in the Vāhika country.

The *Madras* are known as low, barbarous<sup>282</sup> and sinful people.<sup>283</sup> They are mentioned as base, impure and contemptible.<sup>284</sup> "Amongst the Madrakas all acts of friendship are lost"<sup>285</sup> and so it is said: "Neither one should create enmity, nor friendship with a Madraka".<sup>286</sup> The Rājatarāṅgiṇī also records similar views.<sup>287</sup>

But the advent of the *Jarttikas* or *Jartas* (modern Jāṭs) who spread over the whole of Punjab was responsible for the degeneration of the *Madras*.<sup>288</sup> The legend of Sāvitrī and Satyavan is connected with the Madra country, for Sāvitrī was the daughter of Aśvapati, king of Madra.<sup>289</sup> In the Udyogaparvan the camp of Śalya is described as full of warriors, whose strange armours, bows and banners, unfamiliar trappings, vehicles and equipment and local costumes, ornaments and deportment presented a unique spectacle in the country of the Kurus.<sup>290</sup>

In the early part of the sixth century A.D. the Madra country passed under the rule of the Hūṇa conqueror Mihirakula (A.D. 515-535) who ruled from Sialkot. The *Madras* continued to flourish even up to the time of the Pāla king Dharmapāla in the 9th century A.D.<sup>291</sup>

12. *Mālava* (No. 1, L. 22 ; No. 17, L. 19 ; No. 32, L. 11) : We know *Mālava* as a tribe which was subjugated along with some other tribes by Samudragupta (No. 1). No. 17 refers to the *Mālava-gaṇa*<sup>292</sup> which has been translated by Fleet as 'the tribal constitution of the *Mālavas*' in the sense of the event of some formal establishment of the *Mālavas*' as a tribe.<sup>293</sup> Fleet fixes