

Śakas and Muruṇḍas as two separate tribes. They were one of the foreign potentates who came of their own accord to offer allegiance to Samudragupta.

According to Sten Konow 'muruṇḍa' is the later form of a Śaka word meaning 'lord' or 'master'. The term 'Śaka-Muruṇḍa' therefore possibly stands for those Śaka lords or chieftains who were ruling in the regions of Surāṣṭra and Ujjain at the time of Samudragupta.³⁷²

But we find in the Khoh plates of Mahārāja Sarvanātha the names 'Muruṇḍadevi'³⁷³ and Muruṇḍasvāmini³⁷⁴ which shows that *Muruṇḍa* was the name of a tribe and not a title.

On the basis of Khoh plates, Smith³⁷⁵ suggested that "the Muruṇḍas may possibly have been settled in the hill country of Riwa along the Kaimur range or more probably further south in the Vindhya or north Dekkan or possibly in the Chhotanagpur".

According to R.K. Mookerji,³⁷⁶ the people called here as the Muruṇḍas are to be distinguished from the Śakas and may be identified with the Kuṣāṇas, as earlier suggested by Sten Konow.³⁷⁷

We know that the term *Daivaputra* in the inscription has been used to refer to the Kuṣāṇa kings, and Śakas are mentioned separately. So we cannot equate Muruṇḍas with the Kuṣāṇas as suggested by R. K. Mookerji.

Some scholars regard Muruṇḍa as the name of a powerful foreign tribe, ruling in the upper Ganges valley.³⁷⁸ According to the Chinese authority, the Capital of Meou-lun (a word equated with Muruṇḍa) was 7,000 li from the mouth of the Great River, which was undoubtedly the Ganges. Allan is, therefore, not right in suggesting that the Chinese description of the capital refers to Pāṭaliputra.³⁷⁹ Jayaswal took Śaka-Muruṇḍa to denote the smaller Śaka rulers like the 'Shalada, Shaka and the Gadahara chiefs as well as the Western Satraps'.³⁸⁰

In the Abhidhāna-Cintāmaṇi³⁸¹ and the Vaijayanti³⁸² the *Lampākas* are identified with Muruṇḍas. The *Lampākas* are the same as the *Lambatai* of Ptolemy.³⁸³ The Purāṇas,³⁸⁴ mention *Lampākas*, the people who were residing in *Lampāka*, the modern *Laghman* in Afghanistan. Rājaśekhara seems to be