

referring to Lampāka as Limpaka.³⁸⁵

The Muruṇḍas seem to be a foreign tribe. Muruṇḍa is clearly a non-Āryan word and can have no Āryan derivation.³⁸⁶

Ptolemy (2nd century A.D.) mentions the Muruṇḍas for the first time under the name *Moroundai* and places them on the western border of the 'Gangaridai'. They seem to have occupied an extensive territory, probably the whole of North-Bihar on the east of the Gaṅgā, as far as the head of the delta. They had six important cities, all to the east of the Gaṅgā : Boraita, Koryagaza, Kondota, Kelydna, Aganegara and Talarga. These places are difficult to identify but to Saint-Martin Kelydna appeared to have some relation with Kālinadī or Kālindī river, and *Aganagara* with *Aghadip* (*Agradvīpa*) on the eastern bank of the Ganges, a little below Katwa.³⁸⁷

According to Cunningham, the name of the *Marundai* is still preserved in the country of the Muṇḍas, a hill tribe scattered over Chhota-Nagpur and Central India.³⁸⁸ But M.S. Pandey³⁸⁹ opposes the view on the ground that the Muruṇḍas dwelt in the north-west with other foreign tribes. The evidence is strong enough to show that the Muruṇḍas had not spread so far to the east as to occupy the Chhota-Nagpur region. However, barbarous and pastoral the Muruṇḍas might have been before their immigration into India, when they held the sceptre in their hands they must have been endowed with the quality and capacity to rule over a people who were highly civilized. Such a race could hardly have sunk to a position so low as that of the Muṇḍas of the modern times. Moreover, the Muṇḍas are a dominant division of the aboriginals of the Chhota-Nagpur region. Had they been the descendants of the Muruṇḍas, we should have found them in other parts of Central India also, and not confined to this small region so far from their place of origin.³⁹⁰

M.S. Pandey³⁹¹ disagrees with the Puranic account on the basis that many discrepancies have crept in owing to the mistakes of the copyists.

15. *Prārjūnas* (No. 1, L.22) :

A tribe subdued by Samudragupta who are said to have obeyed his imperial commands and paid all kinds of taxes. Vincent Smith³⁹² places the Prārjūnas in the Narasiṃhapur district of