

We know that the definite limits of Skandagupta's reign are from A.D. 455 to 467. The period of the rule of Mahendravarman, however, cannot be so definitely fixed because we do not possess any dated records of his reign. As a matter of fact the entire chronology of the kings of Assam can be settled approximately only by means of synchronisms and rough calculations. The attack on the Gupta empire by the Varmans of Assam in the reign of Skandagupta is an impossibility.⁴⁰⁶

The Puṣyamitras cannot be a branch of the Hūṇas as held by R.D. Banerji. The Hūṇas have been mentioned separately in the Bhitari Inscription.⁴⁰⁷ "By whose (Skandagupta's) two arms the earth was shaken, when he, the creator (of a disturbance like that) of a terrible whirlpool, joined in close conflict with the Hūṇas". Hoernle's view that "the Puṣyamitras were the same as Maitrakas who some years later under the leadership of Bhaṭārka established themselves in Valabhī probably with the help of the Hūṇa ruler Toramāṇa";⁴⁰⁸ is also not acceptable as the Maitrakas remained subservient to the Imperial Guptas from the time of Bhaṭārka to that of Droṇasiṃha.⁴⁰⁹ Therefore, they cannot be the same as Puṣyamitras who rebelled against Skandagupta.

The Purāṇas mention a people called Puṣyamitras, whose rule commenced after the end of the dynasty of the *Vindhyakas*. In the Viṣṇupurāṇa MSS. consulted by Prof. Wilson we have the following statement: "and Puṣpamitras, and Paṭumitras and others to the number of thirteen will rule over Mekalā".⁴¹⁰ Prof. Wilson has added the following note, "It seems most correct to separate the thirteen sons or families of the Vindhya princes from these Bāhlikas and then from the Puṣyamitras and Paṭumitras who governed Mekalā, a country on the Narmadā".⁴¹¹

A similar statement is to be found in the Vāyupurāṇa, according to which 'the Puṣyamitras and Paṭumitras are grouped with the rulers of Mekalā, whose seven kings have not been named'.⁴¹²

The mention of *Vindhyakas*, evidently a people of the Vindhya region, and of Mekalā, points to the south rather than to North. So the view of V.A. Smith that the Puṣyamitras were a people of the North is not acceptable.