

ist faith,<sup>579</sup> but after the overthrow of the Sassanid kingdom by the Arabs, the ancient Bactria along with the adjoining territories passed under the control of Khorasan, the seat of the Muhammadan power.<sup>580</sup>

23. *Yaudheya* (No. 1, L. 22) :

The Yaudheyas are included among the tribes subjugated by Samudragupta. In his time, they seem to have occupied northern Rajputana and south-east Punjab, and their territory extended up to the confines of the Bahawalpur State where their name survives in the name of the tract called Johiyawar.<sup>581</sup> Their earliest reference in the inscriptions is found in the Junāgaṛh Rock Inscription of Rudradāman I (A.D. 150)<sup>582</sup> which mentions the victory of Mahākṣatrapa Rudradāman over the Yaudheyas who were 'proud of their heroism'. The Bijayagadh Inscription<sup>583</sup> which is a record of the Yaudheyas (in Brāhmī characters of the second-third century A.D.)<sup>584</sup> connects them with Bharatpur State in Rajputana. It refers to one Mahārāja Mahāsenāpati, the ruler of the Yaudheya-gaṇa.<sup>585</sup>

Literally the word *Yaudheya* means 'a warrior' which corresponds with the *Ossadū* of Arrian, the *Sambastae* of Diodorus and the *Sambracae* of Curtius, who made their submission to Alexander.<sup>586</sup> They were a powerful nation and their forces consisted of 60,000 foot, 6000 horse, and 500 chariots.<sup>587</sup>

We get three different versions about the origin of the Yaudheyas :

- (i) In the Mahābhārata<sup>588</sup> it is stated that Yudhiṣṭhira married the daughter of the Śaivya King Govāsana named Devikā and begot a son from her named Yaudheya.

Buddha Prakash<sup>589</sup> and M.K. Sharan,<sup>590</sup> on this basis, have been tempted to connect the Yaudheyas with Yudhiṣṭhira, the eldest of the Pāṇḍava brothers. D.K. Gupta questions the foundations of this theory on this solitary basis in the absence of a more solid or a positive evidence;<sup>591</sup> but on the other hand he himself has indulged in connecting the Ārjunāyanas with the epic hero Arjuna.<sup>592</sup>

- (ii) The Viṣṇu-Purāṇa gives a contrary view of the same story. It states that *Yaudheyī* was the queen of Yudhiṣṭhira from whom he had a son named Devaka<sup>593</sup>