

(iii) The *Harivamśa*⁵⁹⁴ and the *Vāyu Purāṇa*⁵⁹⁵ state that King Uśīnara of the Puru dynasty had five queens named Nṛgā or Mṛgā, Kṛmī, Navā, Darvā and Dṛṣadvatī who gave birth to five sons named Nṛga, (or Mṛga), Kṛmi, Nava, Suvrata and Śibi (or Śivi) respectively. Śibi was the lord of the Śibi people or of the city of Śivapura, while Nṛga (or Mṛga) was the ruler of the Yodheyas or of Yaudheyapura. The other three sons of Uśīnara, viz., Nava, Kṛmi and Suvrata, were the lords respectively of Navarāṣṭra, Kṛmilāpurī and Ambaṣṭhapurī.⁵⁹⁶ According to Pargiter, King Uśīnara established the Yaudheyas, Ambaṣṭhas, Navarāṣṭra, and the city of Kṛmilā, all on the eastern border of the Punjab; while his famous son Śivi Auśīnara originated the Śivis or Śibis in Sivapura.⁵⁹⁷

It is very difficult to reject or accept the Puranic tradition without any further evidence. However, as regards their connection with Uśīnara, we may say that scholars are somewhat confused by differing versions by varied text with regard to the territory ruled over by him.⁵⁹⁸ The *R̥gveda*, the *Jātakas* as well as the accounts of Fahien and Hiuen Tsang connect the Uśīnaras with a region farther to the north-west in Swat Valley, a part of the ancient Mahājanapada of Gandhāra; while the *Aitareya Brāhmaṇa*, the *Kauśītakī Upaniṣad* and the *Kathāsāritsāgara* associate them to the region north of Haridwar near the source of Ganges at Kanakhala.

It is possible that originally they were settled in the Swat Valley but by the passage of time, they migrated to other places as well. For example, we find that the Śibis were known to Alexander's followers, living between the Indus and the Akesines (Chenab).⁵⁹⁹

In the *Mahābhārata*,⁶⁰⁰ the Yaudheyas are described as having been defeated by Arjuna, along with the Mālavas and Trigarttas. In the *Sabhāparvan*,⁶⁰¹ the Yaudheyas together with the Śibis and the Trigarttas are represented as having paid homage to Yudhiṣṭhira. In the *Droṇaparvan*,⁶⁰² we find that an epithet '*Adrija*' meaning 'mountain-born', is used for the Yaudheyas.

The Yaudheyas were one of the republican tribes of the