

Buddha Prakash⁹ gives new suggestion that the whole expression 'daivaputraṣāhiṣāhānuṣāhi' denotes a Persian king. His assertion is that the Kuṣāṇas had lost their importance and independence by that time by allying themselves with the Persians; this is clear from Kālidāsa, who in referring to the North-Western conquests of Raghu, does not mention the Śakas but refers only to the Persians.¹⁰ Moreover, in the Kuṣāṇa records Ṣāhānuṣāhi has never been used as the imperial title of the Kuṣāṇas and has been a title exclusively employed by the Sassanian sovereigns. He thus takes 'devaputra' to stand for the Kuṣāṇa king of the Indus valley and Kasmeremaṇḍala and Ṣāhānuṣāhi for the Sassanian emperor Shāhpur II (A.D. 309-379) and concludes that, the mention of 'devaputraṣāhānuṣāhi' together suggests an alliance of the Kuṣāṇas with the Sassanians, cemented by the marriage between the Kuṣāṇa princes and Hormizd II (A.D. 302-309).¹¹

The contention of Dr. Buddha Prakash is unacceptable. He neglects the word 'Ṣāhi' occurring between Daivaputra and Ṣāhānuṣāhi. Moreover, he takes into his account the word 'Devaputra' but does not consider the form of Daivaputra.¹² It may be noted that the word 'Shāhi' has been indiscriminately used by the Kuṣāṇas, the Hūṇas and by the kings of Kabul, Turks as well as Hindu kings of the brāhmaṇa clan.¹³

The suggestion of Goyal may likewise be dismissed. In interpreting the expression we have to keep in our view the following considerations :

- (i) It is to be noted that 'Daivaputra' in itself is an independent word and its taddhita form denotes those 'who belong to Devaputra', i.e. Kaniṣka¹⁴ (The Kuṣāṇas used Devaputra as their title).
- (ii) Ṣāhi stands for the Persians or a sub-branch of the Kuṣāṇas;¹⁵ and
- (iii) Ṣāhānuṣāhi for the Sassanians.

Moreover, the context does not suggest any particular reference to any king by name. Here we have an enumeration of tribes, viz., the Daivaputras, the Ṣāhis, the Ṣāhānuṣāhis, the Śakas and the Muruṇḍas.¹⁶

From the Jain legend *Kālakācāryakathānaka* we know : "The Śaka king who lived on the other side of the Indus used