

About Bhartrhari, in Sunil SHEORAN, *The Science of Time*, p. 2019/2020

The date of 594 CE (-526+1120), is the true date of invasion of *Mālava/Ujjain* by the *Śakā*. According to Jain Pattavalis, *Gardabhilla* ascended 13 years before the *Śakā* invaded Ujjain in 594 CE, which rightly comes to 581 CE, about the ascension time of *Mahāsena Gupta*.

Now, *Mahāsena Gupta* had 4 children: *Bhartrhari*¹³¹, *Deva Gupta I*, *Kumāra Gupta* and *Mādhava Gupta*. About 592 CE, *Deva Gupta I* (*Śankha* of the *Purāṇā*) tried to take over the reins of kingdom and wanted to eliminate his step-brothers (*Kumāra Gupta* and *Mādhava Gupta*) who were rescued by *Prabhākara Vardhana*¹³², the father of *Harṣa Vardhana*, and assigned in the service of brothers *Rājya Vardhana* and *Harṣa Vardhana* respec. *Bhartrhari* may have ruled for a year or two before becoming a *Yogi* under *Gorakhanātha*.

¹³¹ *Bhartrhari* learnt grammar from *Vasurata*, who is said to be a pupil of *Vasubandhu*. This is stated by *Simhasūrigaṇi*, a Jain author.

¹³² *Mahāsena Gupta* ascended only in 581 CE, he was of the same age as that of *Prabhākara Vardhana* and his sons were the same age as *Harṣa Vardhana*. So, there is zero probability that his sister was married to *Āditya Vardhana*, the grandfather of *Harṣa Vardhana*. It must be the sister of his father *Dāmodara Gupta* who was married to *Āditya Vardhana*.

It is said he got disenchanted from the kingdom when he found out that his most beloved wife was cheating on him¹³³. Already angry at the escape of his step-brothers and coming to know of *Prabhākara Vardhana*'s death, *Deva Gupta I* invaded Kannauj (592 CE) and killed *Grahavarman*, the son-in-law of *Prabhākara Vardhana*. Coming to know of this, *Rājya Vardhana*, the elder brother of *Harṣa Vardhana*, marched to Kannauj and killed *Deva Gupta I* but, while returning, he himself was decoyed and killed treacherously by *Śāsāṅka*, the king of *Gauda* (Bengal) and an ally of *Deva Gupta I*. *Deva Gupta I* being killed, the throne of Ujjain reverted back to his father *Mahāsena Gupta* (*Gardabhilla*).

Two years later in 594 CE, *Gardabhilla* kidnapped the sister *Sarasvatī* of a Jain monk *Kālākācarya* (son of a king *Vairṣiṃha* of *Dhārā* near Ujjain) and refused to let her go. On the request of *Kālaka*, the *Śakā* (likely helped by *Śaṅkaraṅga*¹³⁴) invaded Ujjain, freed the sister of *Kālaka*, exiled *Gardabhilla* and ruled *Mālava* for 4 years before being ousted by *Harṣa Vardhana* in 598 CE, who came there on the last leg of his *Digvijaya* (conquest of the quarters). Here started the *Vikrama* era. It's only due to his rather young age (21 years) at this time and his close association with the two other sons of *Mahāsena Gupta* that *Vikramāditya* (*Harṣa Vardhana*) was mistaken as a son of *Gandharvasena* (*Mahāsena Gupta*) and as a brother of *Bhartrhari*. This story of *Harṣa Vardhana* is given in the *Bhaviṣya Purāṇa* as that of *Gandharvasena* (*Mahāsena Gupta* / *Gardabhilla*), *Śankha* (*Deva Gupta I*), *Bhartrhari* and *Vikramāditya* (*Harṣa Vardhana*), the Puranic pundit was probably not aware of the kidnapping story of *Sarasvatī*. Given next are the kings of major Indian kingdoms about the time of *Harṣa Vardhana*.

¹³³ A fruit, providing ever-youthfulness, was presented to *Bhartṛhari* by a sage that he gave to his beloved wife so she could always be youthful. She gave it to her paramour who gave it to a courtesan. The courtesan detested her lowly life and gave it to *Bhartṛhari* so that the righteous king could live long. This revealed to *Bhartṛhari*, the betrayal of his wife.

¹³⁴ His Abhona Copper Plate in Ujjain is dated 595 CE.

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Ge	Yea	Ujjain / Magadha	Gen	Yea	Ujjain / Magadha
130	-432	<i>Nandīvardhana</i> /	138	-200	<i>Śatadhanvā</i> (b?) <i>Samyuta</i>
131	-403	<i>Mahānandī</i> / <i>Kākavarṇa</i>	139	-171	<i>Bṛhadratha</i> <i>Puṣyamitra</i> + 180
132	-374	<i>Mahāpadma Nanda</i> (c) <i>Pāṇini</i> : grammarian	140	-142	<i>Agnimitra</i>
133	-345	<i>Dhanā Nanda</i> (h) 08 Other Nanda	141	-113	<i>Vasumitra</i> (n) started the
134	-316	<i>Candra Gupta</i> <i>Maurua</i> +	142	-84	<i>Bhagabhadra</i>
135	-287	<i>Bindusāra</i> 297 BCE	143	-55	<i>Devabhūti</i>
136	-258	<i>Aśoka</i> 264 BCE	144	-26	<i>Vasudeva Kaṇva</i> +
137	-229	<i>Kuṇāla</i> (b) <i>Daśaratha</i> /	145	3	<i>Bhūmimitra</i>

Table 2.46

Kings of Ujjain and *Magadha* #Gen. 130-145

It could be *Patañjali* (Gen.139, 172 BCE), the great sage of immense intellect, who first noticed this error in connection with the time of horse sacrifice of *Puṣyamitra*. It's known that *Patañjali* was the chief officiator of *Puṣyamitra*'s horse sacrifice in his youth and that he composed the *Mahābhāṣya* and the *Yogasutra* later of this. This fact must have ultimately got conveyed to *Vasumitra*, the grandson of *Puṣyamitra*, who then started the *Kṛta/Mālava* Era in 94 BCE, the first year of 39th *Kṛta-Yuga*. It can be seen there is no place for any *Vikramāditya* in generations 142/143 wherein the year 57 BCE falls.

About Goraksha

2.11 Yogi Gorakhanātha

It's known that *Bharṭṛhari*, the son of *Mahāsenā Gupta*, and *Narendra Deva*, the king of Nepal, were associated with the great Yogi *Gorakhanātha*. *Bharṭṛhari*, who was king for a short time, got disenchanted from the world and, becoming a disciple of *Gorakhanātha*, turned into a famed philosopher. As explained previously, *Bharṭṛhari* was mistaken to be an elder brother of *Vikramāditya* (*Harṣa Vardhana*). As per the accounts of Chinese traveler I-tsing, *Bharṭṛhari* (Gen.166, 612 CE) died in 650 CE. Also, *Gorakhanātha* is also known to have visited Nepal during the reign of *Narendra Deva* (Gen.167, 641 CE) who ruled there in the generation next of *Harṣa Vardhana*. This becomes known to us from the Chinese history of T'ang dynasty which records the two visits of imperial ambassadors to Nepal, in 643/657 CE, during the reign of *Narendra Deva* (*Na-Ling-Ti-Po*), as also from the Ins. (*Aṃśuvarman* Era, AS.153: 729 CE) of *Jaya Deva II*. *Narendra Deva* was the son of *Udaya Deva*, the father of *Śiva Deva II* and the grandfather of *Jaya Deva II*.

Pūraṇ Bhagat (Gen.166, 612 CE), the son of king *Śālivāhana* / *Salbahan* of Punjab (565-515 CE) who ruled from *Śakala* (*Sialkot*), and his younger brother *Rājā Rasālu* are also stated to be disciples of *Gorakhanātha* 138.

Note

138 “Once there lived a great *Rājā*, whose name was *Sālbāhan*, and he had two Queens. Now the elder, by name *Queen Achhrā*, had a fair young son called *Prince Pūran*; but the younger, by name *Lonā*, though she wept and prayed at many a shrine, had never a child to gladden her eyes. So, being a bad, deceitful woman, envy and rage took possession of her heart, and she so poisoned *Rājā Sālbāhan*'s mind against his son, young *Pūran*, that just as the *Prince* was growing to manhood, his father became madly jealous of him, and in a fit of anger ordered his hands and feet to be cut off. Not content even with this cruelty, *Rājā Sālbāhan* had the poor young man thrown into a deep well. Nevertheless, *Pūran* did not die, as no doubt the enraged father hoped and expected; for God preserved the innocent *Prince*, so that he lived on, miraculously, at the bottom of the well, until, years after, the great and holy *Guru Goraknāth* came to the place, and finding *Prince Pūran* still alive, not only released him from his dreadful prison, but, by the power of magic, restored his hands and feet. Then *Pūran*, in gratitude for this great boon, became a *faqîr*, and placing the sacred earrings in his ears, followed *Goraknāth* as a disciple, and was called *Pūran Bhagat*.”
- *Tales of the Punjab* (1917), *Flora Annie Steel*, pp.234-235

So, while Bhartṛhari, Pūraṇ Bhagat and Rājā Rasālu belonged to Gen.166, Narendra Deva belonged to Gen.167. As all 4 of them existed in the same time and were associated with Gorakhanātha conclusively, the life period of great Yogi Gorakhanātha becomes known to us quite clearly as being about 570-650 CE and he may be allotted to Gen.166 (612 CE). It was yogi Gorakhanātha who introduced the yoga of body discipline known as the Haṭhayoga.