



Insights on Vishnukundins

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VISHNUKUNDINS
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POST DECLINE OF IKSHVAKUS

- Between 4th to 7th C CE – Following dynasties ruled Andhradesa they are :
 - Brihatpalayanas,
 - Salankayanas,
 - Anandagotrajas.
 - Vishnukundins.

VISHNUKUNDINS

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INTRODUCTION

- The **Vishnukundina dynasty** (Viṣṇukundina) was an Indian imperial power controlling the Deccan, Odisha and parts of South India during the 5th and 6th centuries, carving land out from the Vakataka Empire.
- It played an important role in the history of the Deccan during the 5th and 6th centuries.
- The area north of the Godavari, Kalinga, became independent. The area south of the Krishna River fell to the Pallavas.
- The Vishnukundin reign came to an end with the conquest of the eastern Deccan by the Chalukya, Pulakeshin II. Pulakeshin appointed his brother Kubja Vishnuvardhana as Viceroy to rule over the conquered lands.
- Eventually Vishnuvardhana declared his independence and started the Eastern Chalukya dynasty.

ORIGIN THEORIES

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SRISAILAM

- Tummalagudern plates describe the members of the Vishnukundi family as Sriparvatiyas.
- That is of Srisailam. In fact all the grants except Madhavavarman-I call themselves as the devotees of Sriparvata.
- So their origin is mainly Sriparvata or Srisailam.

AYODHYA ORIGIN

- One theory states that they are of Koundinya gotra of Kshatriyas who migrated from Ayodhya (Oudh) during the early 5th century.
- But we have evidence to back up this theory.
- Theory deriving the name from 'Vishnukunda' fire-pit-the theories connecting it with the 'Vishnukundi' river.

WESTERN (KARNATAKA) ORIGIN

- Madhavavarman II has been described in this inscription as trikuta-malay-adhipati, " lord of Trikuta Malaya.
- In this Trikuta refers to Trikutas. Experts say that they may assisted the overlords Vatakatas against Trikutas.
- Vatakata Narendrasena and Harisena who defeated Trikutas ruled the same time as Madhavavarman and the claim may be due to this relation.
- On the basis of Indrapalanagara grants, B.N. Sastri assumes that the earlyrulers of the dynasty migrated to the west in search of employmentand under the Vakatakas they might have attained feudatory status with Indrapalanagara in the Nalgonda districtas their capital.

CENTRAL INDIAN ORIGIN

- Trikuta is identified as Tagara (Maharashtra), Mahendragiri(Ganjam Dist) and Amaravati(MP) and said they are from Central regions. But the evidences are lacking.

VATAKATA ORIGIN

- Madhavavarman I married a Vatakata princess and they occupy the Vakataka areas of Srisailam after the demise of vatakatas.
- So this leads to the speculation that they are related to Vatakatas and they are protege of Vatakatas.
- We come to the conclusion that the original home of Vishnukundin is Vinukonda in Andhra and they were a local dynasty.
- They were devotees of Srisailam. Malaya in the inscription can be taken to be the Srisailam hills.

TRIVIA

- Founder – Indravarma.
- Great King - Madhavavarma – II (titles are – Trikutamayadhipathi, He encouraged human sacrifice).
- Capital – Indrapuram (or) Pedhatummalagudem, Vinukonda(Guntur dt), Denduluru Near (Pedhavegi) .
- On their inscriptions we mentioned themselves are – Amarapurishwaras and Sriparvatha Swami worshippers.

CONT..

- And they explained their geographical boundaries stretched on either side of Sriparvatha.
- Religion - Vaishnavism and Sriparvatha Swamy(Kula daivam – family deity).
- Language – Sanskrit.
- On Coins we see – Nandi.
- Royal insignia – Claw – lifted-lion.
- Last king – Manchana Bhattarika.