CHAPTER IV.

Ascendancy of the Lunar Dynasty.

The first 26 kings of the Lunar Dynasty had ruled from their capital at Pratisthāna near Allahabad. The 27th king Hasti removed the capital to Hastimāpur on the Upper Ganges, some 40 miles down Haridwar. (Perh. 2060 or 50 B.C.) The Solar Kings reigned supreme in Kosala from 2800 to 1400 B.C. Their only notable colony was Videha or Mithila (North Behar). The Lunar Kings, though not bright and beaming like the Solar, were yet powerful and important. Their eight dynasties ruled in different parts of India. Some of their Chiefs bore imperial sway. The main
line, that of the Kurus was supreme in the Doab (Land between the Ganges and the Jumna). Matsyas ruled about Jaipur. Panchalas were dominant about Canauj. Yadavas were powerful about Mutta and Catthewear; the Haihayas were supreme on the Narmadá, near its mouth. The Váhrad-ratha dynasty of Magadh lasted from 1400 to 780 B.C. The Kasis were powerful about Benares. Prince Vihradratha of Chedi (Central Province) had defeated and killed the Daitya king Rishabha of Magadh and built his capital at Giridraja guarded by 5 hills. (about 1450 B.C.) His son Jara-sandha was the greatest monarch in India towards the close of the 15th century B.C. After the Parasu-ráma War, great anarchy prevailed in India for at least half a century. Then, by the efforts of the sages, peace was restored. But the 14th century again witnessed India in great turmoil, the like of which is never known in any history of the world. In Eastern India, in Magadh, Jara-sandha was the Prince of the Tyrans. He intended to offer 100 kings as sacrifice for which he had already seized 86 kings. In North India, at Hastinápur, Durjodhana was trying his best, by various plots, to exterminate his rivals, the 5 Pándava brothers. In Western India, at Mutta the tyrant Kansa having imprisoned his father Ugrásena, usurped the throne and oppressed his own tribesmen—the Yadavas. In South India, in Chedi, Sisupála, another wicked tyrant, was a General of Jara-sandha. The kings of Bengal, king Naraka and his son Bhaga-datta of Kámrup, king Vána of Upper Assam were vassals of Jara-sandha. India thus
groaned under the tyrants. But for the timely interference of the Yadava prince Krishna, we cannot say what would be the condition of India. This greatest spirit of the age clearly saw the terribly barbarous state of things and immediately thought of a radical cure. With the aid of his heroic brother Balarama, Krishna slew Kansa, his own maternal uncle and son-in-law to Jarasandha.

At this, Jarasandha invaded Mutttra 18 times. But the powerful Yadavas bravely held their own. The grand confederacy of powerful kings who had followed Jarasandha in his invasion of Mathura, is given in the Hari-Vansa. The king of Karusha (in N. W. India), Danta-vakra (?), the king of Chedi (C. P.), king of Kalinga (Upper Madras), king of Pundra (Deccan), king of Kshibha (Deccan), Sankriti, Bhishmaka, Rukmi, Venudara, Srutastha, Kratha, and Ansuman were kings of Central India. Kings of Anga, Banga, Kosala, Kasi, Dasaarna (in the Punjab), Samba (Burdwan) Videha, Madra (between Ravi and Jhelum), Trigarta (Jalandhar), Salka, Darada, Yavana, Bhagadatta king of Assam, Saivya king of Saubira, powerful Pandya, Suvala king of Gandhar (Candahar) mighty Nagnajit, Gonarda king of Kashmir, Duryodhana of Hastinapur, Chekitana, king of Bulkʰ &c. &c.

Hari-Vansa, Chap. 90-91.

Ugrasena was again placed on the throne. The Magadh king now allied with another mighty tyrant Kāla-Yavana by name. The Yadavas now left Mutttra,
withdrew to the Kathiwar Peninsula and made Dwarka their capital. Krishna next slew Naraka, king of Kamarup and defeated his ally, king Vana of Upper Assam. The state of North India was not better. After the good king Sántanu, honored in the Rig-Veda, troubles arose in the royal family of Hastinápur as to succession, Prince Dhrita-ráshtra, being born-blind, could not inherit the family dominions. His brother Pádu succeeded. After a splendid reign, Pádu withdrew to the north, with his 2 queens, as he had no issue. There, by permission of Pádu, the queens bore five sons by Rishis. Dhrita-ráshtra had 100 sons and one daughter by his queen Gandhári, princess of Gandhára. After several years, the Rishis sent the 5 Pádu Princes to Hastinápur where Bhishma the Regent received them. But the Kuru brothers (sons to the blind king) strongly opposed them as the Pandavas were deemed illegitimate scions. From that time, the Kurus hated the Pádu, may plotted many times to kill them. To assure peace, Dhrita-ráshtra wisely gave half the kingdom to the Pádavas. Yudhisthíra, the eldest Pádava Prince then built his new capital at Indraprastha, near modern Delhi on the Yamuna. The large Khandava forest reclaimed by the Pandus, was formerly owned by a Turkish Chief who, losing his State, turned an enemy of the Pandavas. Krishna, related to the Pandavas, became their counsellor. Yudhisthíra was a timid prince, but his four other brothers were very great heroes. Krishna egged on Yudhisthíra to aim at overlordship. After hesitation, Yudhisthíra agreed. The first step was to overthrow
Jarasandha, the mightiest tyrant of Magadh. As the Pandavas dared not fight the Magadha king openly, wily Krishna took heroic Bhima and Arjuna with him, went to Giri Braja in guise of Brahmanas, interviewed Jarasandha in his palace and challenged him to a duel with Bhima, in which Jarasandha was killed. His son Sahadeva submitted and Krishna placed him on the throne as an ally of the Pandavas. Krishna at once liberated the 86 kings imprisoned in the jail for the purpose of sacrifice. They all vowed allegiance to the Pandavas and then went to their several kingdoms. The Pandavas then made preparations for conquest.

The Conquests of the Pandava Princes.

1465 B.C.

(i) To the North went Arjuna with a strong army and first defeated the kings of Kulinda, then of Anarta and Kala-kuta; next defeated king Sumandala; with him he next invaded Scythia and fought very bravely with its kings who were defeated. King Prativindhya was next defeated. Accompanied by those kings, he next invaded Prag-Jyotisha dewa (Assam); fierce fight then ensued with Shaga-datta and his allies viz, the Kiratas (Hill-Tribes), the Chinese and the Chiefs on the Bay of Bengal, an arm of which then ran far into the interior. King Shaga-datta submitted after 8 days' fight. He next conquered Antargiri, Vahirgiri and Upagiri (the Hill Tracts). He next conquered the various Hill
Chiefs and collected from them much wealth and gold &c. He next fought King Vribanta of the hilly country Uluka, who submitted after fierce fighting and gave various things as presents. With Vribanta, he next attacked and defeated King Senavindhu; next Modhapur, Bhamadewa, Sudama, Sukula and North Uluka were conquered. He next encamped at Deva-prashtha, capital of Senavindhu, collected army and then marched against King Vivasagwa; defeated the Hill-Chiefs on the way; he next subdued the seven Non-Aryan tribes called Utsaya-Sanketuk. Next, the warriors of Kashmir were subdued. King Lohita with 10 minor kings were subdued. Next Trigarta (Jatandhar), Daru, Kokanada &c. were conquered. He next took the fair Ablīkāri Town. He next defeated Rochamana of Uraga. He next occupied Sinhapura. He next invaded and conquered the Sumhas and the Sumulas. He next reduced the Vallhikas, the Daradas, the Kambojas and other nomads of the North West. Loha, W Kamboja and N Rishika made a common cause but he defeated them all. In the North-West, he received many excellent horses. He next conquered the Nishkuta-giri and the Himalayas. He next reached the Sveta Parvat, crossed it and then invaded the Kimpurusha Varsha (Tibbet eastward); he next conquered Hātaka (perh a part of Tibbet), then he visited the Manasarowar and other lakes, received many good steeds. He finally reached South Siharia and conquered it. A part of Western China was also conquered. Then he returned to Indraprastha (Delhi).
(ii) To the East went Prince Bhima with a powerful army and conquered the Panchálas, the Gandakas and the Videhas. Sudharmá, king of Dasarna fought hard but was defeated. Pleased with his bravery, Bhima made Sudharmá his General. He next defeated Rochamána, king of Asvamedha. He next conquered the entire East India and then turned southward and subdued kings Sukumára and Sumitra of Pulinda nagar. He next marched against Sisupála (of Chedi) who received him cordially and tendered his submission. Bhima stayed there for 13 days. He next conquered Srenimán of the Kumára kingdom and king Vrthad-vala of South Kosal. He next subdued Dirgha-Yajna (alias Urukriya) of Ayodhya, Gopala kaksha, North Kosala and the Malla Chiefs. Next he conquered the Sub-Himalayan tracts (Terai). Next he conquered Bhalláta and the Suktirhat Hill. He next defeated Suvahu, king of Kási. King Kratha of Suparsva, the Matsyas, the Maladas, the Madadhara Hill and Somadhaya, Vatsabhumi, king Bharga, the king of the Nishadas, Maniman, the Bhagavan hill, South Malla, the Sarmakas, the Varmakas, king Janaka of Videha were successively conquered. The Sakas and the Barbaras he won by manoeuvre. He next conquered the 7 kings of the Kirátas near the Mahendra Hill (Eastern Ghats). Then he conquered Sumba (Burdwan) and Pra-Sumba (Midnapur). Then he marched against the Magadhás and defeated Danda, Dandadhara and other kings. He next went to Giribraja where king Sahadeva yielded easily. He next went to Anga (East Behar) where king Karna fought fiercely
but was subdued. Next he fought with other Hill-Chiefs. Next he killed the Chief of Modagiri (Mongyr or Rajmahal). Vasudeva king of Pundra (North Bengal) and Mahaujas king of Kausiki-kachchha (perh. Hugli District) were both defeated next, after fierce fights. He next came upon Banga (West Bengal) and successively defeated Samudra-sena, Chandra-sena, the kings of Tamralipta, Karvata and Sumha (Burdwan acc. to commentator Nilakantha) and other Hill-Chiefs and the Non-Aryans. Having collected immense wealth from the conquered tracts, he next marched against the Lashitya Desa i.e. Lower Assam, conquered it and other sea-board tracts peopled by the Non-Aryans. They all paid him various jewels, sandalwood, saffron, musk, rugs, gems, pearls, gold, silver and ruby. It is said that the Non-Aryans had almost covered Bhami with various presents. Thence Bhami returned to Indraprastha. The Hill States of Manipur and Tippera (then called Nágalaka i.e. land of the Tibbeta-Burmans) had already been brought under Aryan influence. Arjuna married two princesses of those two royal houses. It may be noted here that an arm of the Bay of Bengal then extended to the Cachar district and the Ganges fell into the Bay, east of Dacca. That large Ganga, over 10 miles in breadth near the mouth, has now shrunk into a very thin stream called the Buri Gangá (Old Ganges) on which the historic city of Dacca now stands.

(iii) To the South started Sahadeva the youngest Pandava Prince with a large army, and conquered the
Surasenas, the Mataya king, Dantavakra, Rajakumara and Sumitra, Western Mataya, Patach-chara, (lit. land of volcano, perh. refers to ancient Mewar,) the land of the Nishadas (Bhils and Meenas), Go-tinga Hill, and Raja Sreniman. Raja Kunti-bhoja yielded easily, for he was maternal uncle to the Pandavas. On the river Chambal, he had a terrible fight with Prince Jambhaka whom he defeated. Then he pushed on southward and conquered Seka and Apara-seka and received from them gems and wealth. Next he marched to the countries on the Narmada, followed by them. There he fought with the large army of kings Vinda and Anuvinda of Avanti, whom he defeated. At Bhoja-katapur, he had a fierce fight with king Bhishmaka, who was subdued. Next he defeated the kings of Kosala and Venwata, the Kántarakas and the kings of Eastern Kosala. Then were defeated the Natakeyas, the Heramvakas and Marudhas. Munjagrama was taken by him by force. Next, the Nachina and Arbuka Chiefs and other Chiefs of the wood, were subdued. The king of Vatápipura (Badami) was conquered. The Pulindas, being defeated submitted to him. Then he pushed on to the further South. After one day’s battle, the king of Pândya was defeated. In Kishkindhya (Bellary), Mainda and Dvivida fought him for 7 days and then submitted to him with the offer of many valued presents. Next he attacked Mahismati town whose king Niladhwaja fought very hard. In the actions, his army was much reduced and even his own life was at stake. Niladhwaja at length surrendered. Thence Sáhadeva proceeded further south: the king of Traipura (Tevari)
and Akriti, king of Surashtra were defeated. He then
encamped there and sent ambassadors to get submission.
Rukmi yielded and paid much wealth. Next he con-
quered Surparaka, Talakata and Dandaka (near Nasik
Acc. to St. Martin, Dhanakata). Next he defeated the
Non-Aryan islanders of the Arabian Sea, the Nishadas
(Hunter), the Purushadas, the dark-skinned mixed Dravi-
dians, the entire Kola Hill, Sinabhi-pattan, Tamra-
dwipa, Ramaka Hill, and the Timingala king; sent
Generals to receive the submission of Kerakas who
lived in the wood, of Sanjayanti city, of Pashanda and
Karabhataka (a country). Moreover, Pändya, Dvávida,
Udra-Keral, Andhra, Talavana, Kalinga, Atavipurí
(a town) and Yavanáhta (a town)—he subdued by
ambassadors. Next he went to the sea-coast and sent
an ambassador to Bibhisana (king of Lanka) who
acknowledged the Pändava supremacy easily and gave
various gems, sandalwood, ornaments, precious cloths
and jewels. Then he returned to Indraprastha.

(iv) To the West went Prince Nakula with a large
army:—Starting from Khándava-prastha, he first at-
tacked the Rohitaka Hill where he fought hard with the
Mayurakas. Next, he conquered the entire desert and the
fertile and rich countries called Sairishaka and Mahetha.
He next attacked king Ákrosa who submitted after a
stubborn resistance. He next conquered the countries
called Dasáma, Sibi, Trigarta, Ambastha, Malwa, Pan-
chakarpata and the people called the Madhyamikas
and the Batadhana Brahmanas. Returning thence, he
defeated the Usava-Sanketas of Pushka-varanya (Mukran
Coast). He then came to the Indus and conquered the numerous Chieftains there. The Sudras and the Abhiras on the Sarasvati, the Fish-eaters and the Hill-tribes, entire Pancha-mada, the Amar Hill (Mer Koh), North Jyotisha and the cities of Divyakata and Dwarpala were taken by him by force. Next, the Ramathas, the Harahoomans and other kings of the West were all reduced to submission. From there he sent an ambassador to Krishna who with the Yadavas, submitted. He next reached Sakala (Sealkot) capital of the Madras, where King Salya—his maternal uncle was won by affection. Next he conquered the fierce Micchakhas of the Sea and also the Palhavas, Barbaras, the Kiratas, the Yavanas and the Sakas. It is said that 10,000 camels, bire with difficulty the heavy load of presents which he placed before Yudhisthira.

The conquest over, the Pandavas began an Imperial Sacrifice with very great pomp. The following powerful kings and nobles, being invited, were present: Dhrita-rashtra, Bhishma, Durvyodhana and his brothers, king Suvala and his son Sakuni of Gandhara (Candahar), the great hero Karna of Anga (East Behar), heroic Salya. Valhika, Somadatta; Bhuri of the Kuru dynasty. Bhuri-sravá, Sala, Aswatthamá, Kripa, Drona (the Preceptor); Jaygd-ratha king of Sindh, Drupada with his sons, Salwa, the mighty king Bhagadatta of Assam with his powerful allies living on the Bay of Bengal, numerous hill-kings, Raja Vrihad-vals, Vasudeva of Pundra, Samudrasena, king of Bengal, the kings of Kalinga, Akharsha and Kuntala, the kings of Malwa;
the Andhrakas; the Draviras; the Simhalese; the kings of Kashmir; Kumāboja, Gauravahana, the kings of Balhika (Bulki); king Virata, with his 3 sons of Mattya (Jaipur); the mighty king Māvella; Sisupala with his son, of the Central Province; the Yādavas of Western India; the kings of the Central Provinces.

The List of Presents:—(1) The Kāmboja king sent many fine furs embroidered with gold laces, nice skins, 300 horses of different colours and 300 camels. (2) The Bṛhadmanas and the Sudras sent a legion of bullocks &c., besides numberless gold pitchers filled with ghee. (3) The Sudras of the coasts sent many fair maid-servants, deer-skins and Gāndhara horses. (4) The Bairamas, the Pāradas, the Abhiras and the Kītābas sent various kinds of gems, deer, goats, sheep, cattle, camels, honey and various rugs and blankets. (5) Bhagadatta from Assam sent good horses, ornaments, fine ivory-handled swords. (6) People from the shores of the Oxus gave 10,000 asses, gold and silver. (7) The Ekhīpedas sent fine wild horses and gold. (8) The Chinese, the Sakas, the Odras, the Barbaras, the Harahoonas &c. sent miscellaneous things. (9) Tāngana and the Parā Tangana kings sent ‘sam-dug ga-ḍ’.

The following kings, summoned, came to wait upon Yudhīshthira during his Imperial Sacrifice:—The kings of Anga, Banga, Paundra (North Bengal) Odra (Orissa), Chola (Coromandal Coast), Drāvira (a part of the Deccan) Andhraka (in the Deccan), Islands of the Sea, the Low Lands of East Bengal, Pātana, Simhala (a province in the Deccan), Barbarā (9) Indian Mlechchha
The sacrifice was duly performed. In pomp, gift
feasts &c, it equalled that of king Harischandra of old but surpassed those of Rama, Nábhága, Mándhata, Manu, Priti (son of Vena), Bhagiratha, Yayáti and Nahusha. (1405 or 4 B.C.).

The Kauravas, (sons of Dhritarashtra) could ill brook the glories and fortune of the Pandavas, their rivals. So they plotted anew to ruin the Pandavas. Gambling in those days was a prevalent vice. The Kauravas challenged Yudhishthira to gambling. The Pandava king agreed and played at dice, staking successively his raj, person, nay counting banishment. But he lost all. Now, Yudhishthira was to live in exile for 12 years and one year more in a concealed state. During the period of exile, the Pandavas visited the different parts of India and in the 13th year, they lived in the house of king Virata of Matsya (Jaipur) in disguise. On the expiry of their term of exile, the Pandavas came back and demanded their kingdom. But the Kauravas would not give them even an inch of ground without fight. The well-wishers of both parties tried their best for an amicable settlement, but in vain. So a war was inevitable. Preparations went on both sides. Almost all the Princes of India and outside joined one party or the other. This Mahabharata War came off in November and December, 1389 B.C. Both sides met on the vast plain of Kuru-kshetra (Carnal) near Delhi. Through the noble self-sacrifice of Bhishma, the counsel of Krishna, and the bravery of Arjuna, the Pandavas, after a destructive war lasting 18 days, won the day. Only 5 Pandavas and 3 Kauravas survived. Leaving a friendly Kaurava
as Viceroy at Indraprastha, the Pandavas went to Hastinapur where Yudhisthira the Just was hard-pressed by all to take up the reins of government. He agreed to rule only for the benefit of the people, till his grandson Parikshit was of age.