
CHAPTER SIX: MILITARY ADMINISTRATION

The Yadavas had a well organised military administration. As the glory of the empire depended upon their capacity to conquer new provinces, great importance was given to the military administration. This was further necessitated by the regular wars of the contemporary dynasties.

The king was the supreme lord of the military forces. This was not just in theory, but was actually in practice. Bhillama-V personally led military campaigns against the Hoysalas, Jaitugi against the Kakatiyas, and the Singhana against the Malavas and the Gurjars.

A large number of military officers were appointed by the king and were placed in various centres of the empire. Even the civil officers like the Mahapradhanas, sarvadhikaris, were proficient in military duties, probably military experience was the most important qualification even for the civil officers. Thus Hemadri, Jalhana, Chaundisetti, Mallisetti and a large number of others distinguished themselves both in military and civil administration of the Yadava empire. Among the important military officers mention should be made of Senadhipati, Sakalasainyadhipati, Rauta and Dalavayi.* There was no caste restriction for the appointment in the army. Singhanas general Kholesvara and Rama were Brahmans, and

* Narasimha Murty^h : The Sevunas of Devagiri pp. 157-58.

Savanta Thakkura were Kshatriyas, Chaundisetti, Mallisetti and Aryakallisetti were Vaishyas. Probably Shudras also were appointed to high positions in the army.

The Yadava military power was built of two parts. While the imperial army stationed at the imperial capital of Devagiri was groomed and brought up by the imperial treasury, the feudatory armies were the concern of the Yadava feudatories and were required to stand by the imperial army at their back and call. When Singhana launched his last invasion on Gujarat the ruler of Lata gave all his support.¹ When Ramachandras attack on Hoysala country, a major battle took place at Belavadi only four and a half miles north of Dorasamudra. By order of Yadava a certain Tikkama of that Saluva family, which became famous in the Vijayanagara empire, had led a huge expedition into the heart of the Hoysala country, and encamped within an hour's ride of their capital. He was accompanied amongst others by Irungola Chola² and Mahamandalesvara Immadi Devarasa of Setuvina-rajya.³ Singhana had planned to annex the kingdom but when he realised the impossibility of the task, he released the Kakatiya prince Ganapati from prison and permitted him to rule as his feudatory. Ganapati enjoyed long reign of more than sixty years during the earlier part of which he continued to be loyal to his overlord. It seems that he participated in the northern campaigns of Singhana for one

of his inscriptions dated 1228 A.D. states that he had defeated the Latas, and also collaborated with Singhana during one of his Gujarat expeditions.⁴

Composition of the Army

The Yadava army comprised infantry, cavalry, and the elephant force. Chariots do not seem to have formed a part of the army. But of all these branches of their military force the Yadavas seem to have possessed a long tradition of maintaining an efficient elephant force. From the Suktimuktavali of Jalhana reference about elephant force of Yadava military administration can be cited.*

यत्वारस्तस्त्वं सज्जातास्तनया नयशाठिनः
 भुजा इव हरेः शश्वद्विक्रमश्री विभ्रामताः
 चतुर्भुखाद्वीर्णा निगमा इव ते बभ्रुः
 ग्न्यातो महीक्षरो जलहः साम्बगङ्गाधरावपि
 उपायैरिव तैः काले चतुर्भीः सुप्रयोजितैः
 मैलुगिद्विगोणिपालस्त्वं राज्यं ज्ञातं सदोन्नतम्
 बिज्जणवलजलराक्षीं विमथ्य भुजमन्दरेणयः कृतवान्
 वीरत्रियमङ्कस्थानं न कस्य महीक्षरः स्तुत्यः

* Introduction to the Suktimuktavali, vv 5-9.

किं चित्रं यदि भोगानन्देऽनन्तस्तत्तनयो बहून् ।

अननय बालिसद्वास्थान्नागरन् स्वस्वामिने ददौ ॥

-धुर्जरभूभृत्कलके कण्ठकवियमेऽतिवुर्गमे येन ।

भगदत्तकीर्तिभाजरा दुष्टशजः स्वेच्छया नीतः ॥

मलः पल्लविलोरुभरीतिराभिलस्यस्थल्लो मैतुगि- ।

मुञ्जः स्वर्जितविष्कभस्त्रिभुवनब्रह्मा किल ब्राह्मणः ॥

अन्ने नुन्नयराक्रमे विजितभुबभ्रु राप्रान्ङुगे ।

येनाकानि मुञ्जविष्कमभृता किं केन तस्मार्जितम् ॥

मलिन्या हस्तमग्ने प्रतिहतबलबद्धे विवर्गेऽसंगे

राज्यं प्राज्यप्रभारवप्रथितशुणभृता कृष्णनाजराय भवत्या ।

तान्नेवर्हिरे मयति द्विगुभिलरधिसणशक्ति भक्तिविधिते

सर्वे यः स्वात्मिकार्थे रहितमनयद्वारा भावुकैर्नानुजेन ॥

-धुवं यस्मास्ति हस्तारब्जे मदन्धरा करिवाहिनी ।

दानोदकप्रवाहोऽत्र दृश्यते कथमन्यता ॥

यद्गुणैर्गथितः शुद्धैरभितैर्ब्रह्मगोलकः ।

विधिते कार्त्तिकन्यायाः श्रीडाकन्दुकविभ्रमम् ॥

The Yadavas were not slow to take advantage of the unsettled condition of the northern country to extend their power and territory. Mallugi seems to have been engaged in a war with Vijana. A person of the name of Dada was commander of his troops⁵ of elephants and is represented to have gained some advantages over the army of the Kalachuri prince. He had four sons of the names of Mahidhara, Jahla, Samba, and Gangadhara. Of these Mahidhara succeeded his father and is spoken of as having defeated the forces of Vijana. But the acquisition of the empire of Chalukyas was completed by Mallugi's son Bhillama. He captured a town of the name of Srivardhana from a king who is called Antala, vanquished in battle the king of Pratyandaka, put to death the ruler of Mangalaveshtaka of the name of Villana and having obtained the sovereignty of Kalyana, put to death, the lord of Hoysala who was probably the Hoysala Yadava Narasimha, the father of Vira Ballala. The Commander of his elephants was Jahla, the brother of Mahidhara, and he is represented to have rendered Bhillama's power firm. He led a maddened elephant skilfully into the army of the Gurjara king, struck terror into the hearts of Malla, frightened the forces of Mallugi, and put an end to the victorious career of Munja and Anna.⁶ When in this manner Bhillama made himself master of the whole country to the north of the Krishna, he founded the city of Devagiri and having got himself crowned made that city his capital.

This took place about the Saka year 1109.

Jahlana, son of Lakshmidēva, who had succeeded his father, assisted Krishna diligently by his counsels in conjunction with his younger brother. He was commander of the troops of elephant and as such fought with Krishna's enemies.⁷ He compiled an anthology of select verses from Sanskrit poets called Suktimuktavali.

Krishna's successor Mahadeva, however, again invaded Konkan with an army consisting of a large number of elephants.⁸ Somesvara was completely defeated on land. Jahlana was not the only exception in this regard, as his performance was repeated by Hemadri, the author of the Chaturvarga-Chintamani.

Hemadri, superintendent of all the elephant-riders, inspiring men to appreciate the fineness of his virtues, conqueror of the province of Jhadi, crest-jewel of minister, a Rohana mountain of the gems of virtues, is exercising the administration of the whole kingdom which has been obtained by his favour and controlling the whole treasury.

The commander of the cavalry forces was known as Pattasahanadhipati. Peyiya sahani, the general of Bhillama-V held two posts of Pattasahanadhipati and Ghodeya-*raya*.⁹ Inscription from Mutgi of Bhillama-V refers that Haying widespread fame, being renowned for his fortunes, a lord of

the Royal Horse, Peyiya sahani, a king of cavalry, a Radheya (Karna) to the needy, has gained a name for himself. His general and arrow to the hearts of foes, oppressing by his Rahu-like arms the moons that are hostile kings, a celestial tree to all sages and friends has become glorious, a distinguished master of the Horse, Malla against the valient enemy who shows on the stage of battle the ferocity of Mari (Durga) or the deadly demon, a mass of poison, the light of grim lion, the heat of lightning, the swelling of the wrath of the destroyer and the fire of the frontal eye of mara's foe (Siva) is constantly applied the prowess of arm of the illustrious master of the Horse Mall. In Mahadeva's reign, Beyi-deva,¹⁰ Kannara's master of horse fell in battle in 1264 above statement is given in Devanagere Taluqs inscription.

The commander-in-chief of the army was designated as Mahaprachandandanayaka or Senadhipati. It has already been pointed out above that Yadava Dandanayaka or Dandanatha combined in himself both the military and administrative functions.

The accountments of the Soldiers

An interesting description of the Deccanese army is contained in a military review given by Somadevasuri in his Yasastilakachampu¹¹ as follows:

पुष्टोदयः क्षितिपते नियतं तदेव
 कामं महोत्सवसमागमनं सुदृश्यम् ।
 मोदागमश्च परमो ननु सेवकरनां
 जायते दुष्टसाचेवापचिच्छेद्यं देव ॥

कदाचिद्दृश्यादृश्यादिदृश्याकारितसमस्तसामन्तलोकः सकलसैन्यसमाह्वयेने-
 तुङ्गलमङ्गलसंगतेकरेषु बलदशनिवसरेषु निरतिहतपरदृक् प्रतानश्च विरते-
 एतज्जुतम्, उल्लोच्यते शुकप्रसूनमश्रुती जालजालिखितार विकटमेव शृङ्ग-
 मुह्यमण्डलमेव, कर्तरीमुखचुम्बि लामूलशमश्रुबाहम्, उद्विभ्रमभानमदीलितकित-
 कपोलं पटिलकुलमेव, किमश्रिमापित्तेनिर्मितशिशुस्वकीकम्, महामण्डलाव-
 गुक्तिरगलनालमन्थमीशतन्मन्थमेव, अकुफणिकृत कालायसवल्यकश-
 लकरभोगम्, बालबिलेशयवेदितवितपभगं भद्रश्रीयानोक्तहुगहनमेव,
 अन्तमिदेशोत्तम्भितासिधेनुकम्, अहोश्चरानुवक्ष्ममध्यमेनवलं मन्थालकायमि-
 अत्राङ्गुणोदिरपत्तिलेबिडनिवसनं सकौपीनं वैरवानसवृन्दमेव, अनेकरडनाम-
 संभ्रावनेप्रीवतनम् अलम्सतवाडम्बवेदुमरमागद्योत्कर्णितवदनम्,
 उध्वनवदरेखासिलसिलसिलवेदुप्रसादं देव, इदं विहितवेविधायुधवतनौचित्यं
 दाद्विगत्यं बलम्.

चण्डांशुरश्मिसंघर्षज्वलल्लुन्नाश्रमण्डलम् ।

लप्ललापानलभ्याप्तं विदधानमेवाम्बरम् ॥

इतश्च पर्यतववितकुललतया धिमुष्टिमेतमस्तकमध्यकेशम्, अतिप्रलम्ब
 श्वणदेशदोलायमानसंस्कारसुपर्णा कर्णिकाकेराकरेलेकमन्तीयमुखमण्डलतया
 कपोलस्थलीपरिकल्पितप्रफुल्लकर्णिकामकननरमिन्, समत्कर्णितसुक्कचिबुकम्
 दूरग्रमणारोमलोमशम्, अहुरहःप्रभाजितदशनप्रकाशपेशलवदनतया प्रद-
 र्भितस्वकीययशाप्रसूतिक्षेत्रमेव, अजङ्गग्रहपारिवेधवर्तुलदन्तदन्तद्विपितभुज-
 कोरवरम्, अन्वरतद्विरलपारसरागरवक्ताशीतशरीरतया कर्णिकेनलकककुल

कालिन्दीकल्लोलकुलामिव, प्रायुर्बहीरपत्रप्रभाशरामिकासंपादितगमन-
 गालुडोषलकुटिमच्छायम्, दरद्वेषपटलकलकालिकुटिकटितलेखासक
 लसकनम् संध्याभूषणविक्षान्त्रिभारसंदर्भनिर्भरं नभ, उव, देव, इदमनेकदो-
 लिकारविल द्वाभिल वसम् ।

Somadeva writes that the infantry wore red pagaris tapering upto a horn like point in the middle which made them look like a row of unicorns. They had closely shaven faces. They wore necklaces of three bands of multicoloured beads over their covered necks. Their iron bracelets were shaped like snakes and daggers adored their waists. Their clothes were tied up at the loins. They wielded many weapons with skill and were accompanied by bards who sang of their former deeds of valour and roused them to fresh endeavour and achievement. The soldiers' ideal was a lofty one. It was to win or to die. To flee from the battle-field was to incur indelible infamy.

Sufficient evidence is lacking in regard to the strength of the Yadava army. Only a few notices are met with in records. But even these stray notices are enough to point out to the existence of formidable Yadava army. When Bhillama-V invaded the Hoysala territory in 1191 A.D. his army is said to have consisted of an infantry of 2,00,000 men and a cavalry of 12,000 horses.¹² Although the battle of

Soratur resulted in the defeat of Bhillama-V, a Hoysala record could not conceal a reference to the brave warriors of the Yadava army. Singhana is said to have possessed numerous horses. The Singhana records of Sorab Taluqs refer that Simhanadeva's officers came with an army of 30,000 horses and captured the hill fort of Gutti that is Chandragutti in 1239. An inscription from Harihara refers to the vast army of Bhillama-V as consisting of 20,000 soldiers and 12,000 cavalry when Ramachandra invaded the Hoysala Narasimha-III in 1275 along with his allies Tikkama and Irungola Chola had a huge expedition into the heart of the Hoysala country. A record relates that they brought 12,000¹³ horses with them, and if that estimate is anywhere near the truth, the army must have been formidable. Narasinha however, was able to muster a force which put the Yadava to flight and chase him as far as Dumme.

In the year 1294 or Saka 1216 Alla-ud-din Khilji took a small army of 8,000 men and marched straight to the South till he reached Ellichpur, and then suddenly turning to the west appeared in a short time before Devagiri. The king never expected such an attack and was consequently unprepared to resist it. According to one account Ramachandra was even absent from his capital. He hastily collected about 4,000 troops and threw himself between the city and the invading

army. The Muslim writers tell us that when Sankaradeva returned to the capital to the rescue of his father, he had with him a force consisting of 5,00,000 soldiers, 10,000 horses and eight powerful elephants.¹⁴

Recruitment to the army was made from all classes. The chief consideration before the Yadava rulers in the matter of recruitment of soldiers was their performance on the battle-field. Singhana selected Kholesvara to lead the Gujarat expedition only after the latter had already made a mark in winning a number of victories in Khandesh and Vidarbha. It is interesting to note that Kholesvara was the son of a Brahmana who for his piety and scholarship, was regarded as an ornament of his agrahara. But the son preferred the Sastras to sastras and in course of time established a good reputation of a dependable general. So was Bichana son of Chikkadeva another famous general of Singhana. Bichana was to southern kingdom what Kholesvara was to the northern. He was a Vaisya by caste but was a veritable Yama in destruction of the enemy and also a Chanakya in polity.¹⁵

Bichana's elder brother Malla was entrusted with authority over all the dominions of the king. Malla's son Chaunda was Krishna's right arm. It is thus evident that the recruitment of the Yadava army was not restricted to one class only.

Navy

The Yadava army had a naval wing also. This was probably set up after Konkan was annexed to the Yadava kingdom. Hemadri refers to a naval engagement between the Silahara king Somesvara of Thana and Yadava Mahadeva.¹⁶

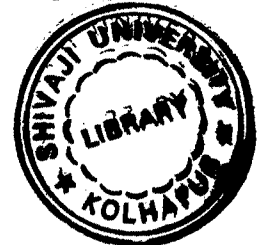
यो भोजदेवान्नुपलेः प्रतापीजग्राह ग्रहं महामन्दसालः
 सार्धं जनन्या सहजरीवितेन सोमेश्वरस्यापि जहत्त राज्याम् ॥
 यदीयगन्धर्वदिपगणपात्री निष्कृत दानाम्बुत्तरङ्गिणीषु ।
 सोमः समुद्रपूर्वपेशलोपि ममज्ज सैन्यैः सह कुङ्कुणेशः ॥
 सीमोलुङ्घनमेव शक्य जगतां संहार इत्युच्यते ।
 ऋधे वज्रहरेपि यः दृष्टितेभृतं मेनाकमत्रायत ।
 स्मारं स्मारममुष्य दुःसहमहः सन्देहदावनतं
 तेनोम्भोनिधेनापि कुङ्कुणपातेनरिदि कुक्षिरहितः ॥
 यदीयगन्धर्वदिपगणपात्री निष्कृत दानाम्बुत्तरङ्गिणीषु
 सोमः समुद्रपूर्वपेशलोपि ममज्ज सैन्यैः सह कुङ्कुणेशः ॥
 एतत्प्रतापो बहिरम्बुराशेर्वेनितरेथास्ति कुतः प्रयामि
 क्षेरं विमृश्येति यदीयवैरी सोमेश्वरो वाडवमेव यातः ॥

Soma or **Somesvara** was completely defeated on land and his power broken, whereupon he appears to have been taken himself to his ships. There somehow he met with his death, probably by being drowned, for it is said that even the sea did not protect him and that he betook himself to the submarine fire, thinking the fire of Mahadeva's prowess to be more unbreakable. Konkan was thereupon annexed to the territories of the Yadavas.

Some Viragal stones near Bombay commemorate the deaths of heroes who fell in an action fought on land and sea. Altekar thought that they may be the commemorative stones of those heroes who fell in the battle fought between **Somesvara** and Mahadeva. Later, in Ramachandra's period, the western coastal region was put in charge of a military governor Ramadeva who was the commander-in-chief and also the Paschimasamudradhipati (lord of the western ocean) of Ramachandra. He had under him one Jaideva who was designated as Konkanadhikari (governor of Konkan). Unfortunately we do not know the number of ships that belonged to the naval squadron of the Yadava army. It may not have been as large as the Cholas had under them. The Yadavas must have also taken over the Kadamba fleet after the Kadamba rulers were subdued and their territory annexed to the Yadava empire. The Kadamba fleet was employed for the conquests of islands that could be reached by sea.

Forts

Forts played a vital role in warfare, especially in siege warfare. They not only gave protection to the city within but also acted as a strong bulwark against the enemy outside. As a record states, the fort was the navel of the wheel of the sovereignty of a king.¹⁷ Of the traditional four-fold division of the forts as Sthaladurga (fort built on land), Jaladurga (fort surrounded by water), Giridurga (hill fort) and Vanadurga (fort built in the midst of forests) we frequently come across giridurga in the Yadava records. The Deccan plateau afforded an excellent opportunity to construct a large number of such forts. It is precisely for this reason that the hill forts predominate in this region. The Yadavas therefore, engaged themselves in capturing these forts. Bhillama-V in course of his expedition against Hoysala Ballala-II seems to have captured a number of forts such as Lokkigudi (modern Lokkundi six miles east of Gadag), Erambara (Yelburg in the Hyderabad state), Kurrugod (near Bellary), Gutti (fifty miles east of Bellary), Bellittage (Belatti near Lakshmisvara), Rattapalli (in the Kod taluk) and Hangal. Though Ballala-II captured all these forts after the retreat of the Yadava army, they were retaken by the Yadava army during the reign of Singhana. Up in the north Enkai fort in the north east part of Nasik district was a proud possession of the Yadavas.



Shridhara was appointed by the king Paramara Bhoja of Malawa to defend the fort Enakai. As the last known date of Bhoja is Saka 970 Sridhara's appointment might have taken place before that year. But as the earliest known date of Bhoja's successor Jayasimha-I is Saka 977 the probable date of Bhoja's demise should be about the year Saka 973 or the beginning of 974. This Sridhara was favoured with the grant of four villages for handing over the fort to Bhillama-III and entering in his service. It appears that taking advantage of the Singhana arising out of the death of Bhoja Bhillama-III must have opened talks with Sridhara and won him over to his side. By what other means he did this we cannot be too sure about, but the grant of four villages is certainly not a trifling allurement and therein lies the main interest of this grant. It very nicely points out how men of yore like those of our own times changed sides for earthly gains. In the Bassein plates is mentioned one Sridhara. If the two Sridharas be identical, then in Saka 991 he appears to have been raised to the higher position of a Mahaprachand-Danda-Nayaka.¹⁸

The place name Enkai can easily be identified. In the north eastern part of the Nasik district there is a dilapidated hill fort Ankai which has also got some ancient remains. It is at present a station on both Dhond-Manmad and Kachiguda-Manmad lines of the central railway. The early Yadavas ruled the country comprising, among others, the tract of at least the

Godavari valley and this fort lies on its northern border. Considering the very advantageous position of the fort, Bhillama-III must have tried to bring it under his sway.

There is one more interesting point in this grant; Konattha Rui, Pippalaccha and Kumarahara were the four villages granted to Sridhara; but subsequently in the time of Seunachandra-II Kumarahara was substituted by Devalavalli and this is the probable reason why the grant comes from Devalali.

Kholesvara the Brahmana general of Singhana distinguished himself in capturing the impregnable fort of Torgal in Bijapur district.¹⁹

The king Bhoja who was confined on a hill, has identified with Bhoja-II of the Silahara dynasty of Kolhapur. Some southern inscriptions describe Singhana as a very lord of birds (Garuda) in routing to serpent viz., the King Bhoja who resided on Pranala is presently Panhala a strong fort 12 miles to the north west of Kolhapur. After this defeat of Bhoja the Silhara kingdom was annexed by Singhana; for the inscriptions of his governors are thenceforth found at Kolhapur and the adjoining territory. This Panhala fort was captured by Lakshmidewa the general of Singhana.²⁰

In the Ramachandra's period we come across one Hemadideva

who was a great master of hillfort.²¹ But the greatest and the most impregnable Yadava fort was located at Devagiri. Although the capital city was founded by Bhillama-V, the fort seems to have been constructed by Singhana. Even the Muslim historians have paid rich tributes to the fort. It seems to have attracted the attention of the Muslim rulers so much that one of them ultimately decided to shift his capital from Delhi to Devagiri.²² It is a pity that Ramachandra undermined the impregnability of the fort by hastily surrendering to Ala-ud-din Khalji.

Ethics of Warfare

If the Yadava soldiers were brave on the battlefields, they were equally destructive to their enemies. The terror and destruction caused by them is graphically described in the Kirtikumudi of Somesvara.* Referring to Singhana's invasion of Gujarat, the poet describes that

अथ बूर्जरराजराज्यलक्ष्मी शमणीयां चरचक्षुषा निरीक्ष्य ।
 पृथ्वरं प्रुतमादिदेश दुर्तीमेव तत्संग्रहणाय दक्षिणे द्वः ॥
 श्रुत्वा हि नृपसैन्यसिंहनात्प्रसरा बूर्जरराजराजधरणी ।
 हरिणीव हरिन्मुखवत्खोकं चक्रे तास्तःकरणा मुहुश्चकार ॥
 गृहमारभते न कोपे कर्तुं कुरुते कोपे न संग्रहकणानाम् ।

* Canto IV vv 42-53.

अथ गूर्जरराजराज्यक्ष्मी नमणीयां चरचक्षुषा निरीक्ष्य ।
 पृतनं द्रुतमादिदेश दुर्तीमेव तत्संग्रहणाय दक्षिणेन्द्रः ॥
 द्रुतसिद्धिर्नमैव्यसिंहनादप्रसरा गूर्जरराजराजधानी ।
 हरिणीव हरिन्मुखवावलोके चकितललःकरण मुहुश्चक्र ॥
 गृहमारभते न कोपि कर्तुं कुक्कते कोपे न संग्रहं कणानाम् ।
 स्थिरता कृचनपि नीति चेतः परचक्रागमराङ्गुषा प्रजानरम् ।
 अथ श्रीरितधान्यसंचयानां बहुमानः शकतेषु मानवानाम् ।
 विपदानुदये हि दुर्निवारे शरणं चक्रभूदेव देहमाज्जरम् ॥
 समुपैते अथा यथा समीपं रिपुसाजध्वजेनी महत्तदानीम् ।
 परतः परतस्तथा तथासौ जनता जलतभयोच्छ्रया प्रभाती ॥
 तद्वेत्त जवेन यादवेन्दोर्बलमागच्छदतुच्छ वीरगर्वम् ।
 मृकुटीकुंठितं चकार जेपादालिकं श्रीलवणप्रसादे देवः ॥
 उपकण्ठमकुण्ठ विक्रमस्य सफुरदुसमप्रसरा हिरभयरी स्तक ।
 अङ्कुशेस्य चुलुक्यभूषणलक्ष्म्या भयवत्या विहितेव बलुवल्ली ॥
 परिपान्थिवकथिथी प्रभूतांस नृपन्तुच्छपरिच्छदोप्यगच्छत् ।
 बालिसाप्यारिणा नमप्रवृत्तोऽसुभरानां हि पदानि संमुखानि ॥
 बलवारिथिराजगाम शशोरुपतापोत्तमुर्वरोपतापी ।
 रभसादभिधाप्रतिस्म वीरःस महोत्तीरमहीनबाहुशक्तिः ॥
 प्रचुरं तदरात्तिराजचक्रं तदज्यं च बलं चुलुक्यभर्तुः ।
 विमृशन्नहुशोथे संदेहने न जने विद्विनुलेबालि स्थितिरिव ॥
 रिपुसैन्यामिवेशभूः प्रजानां रिदिताम्भूदनेवे दितरपी हुतैः ।
 गगनङ्गुठागतहनेलु बर्णस्तज्जवलेतग्राम समूहधूमकूर्तैः ॥
 शुकुच्छमहीमहीन सरसां चपनस्ताबचिबेण वृष्णिवर्गान् ।
 न बहूनापि दुर्जयानजध्याः समरेमन्यत वीर केवरी सः ॥

The Gurjara capital was thrown into great confusion, people ceased building the houses and collecting corns from the fields. The town-people fought with one another to secure vehicles of any kind with which to flee into the country before the enemy's troops, people had good reason for their consternation, for the invading army was already burning the villages on its route and the flames lit up the skies at night.

Another instance of the fierceness of the Yadava army is referred to in the Vratkhanda of Hemadri as follows:

दीक्षित्वा रणयुद्धदेवयजने प्रोदस्तशरश्चभुवः
 श्रेणीभिर्जगतीपतीन्हृत्त्वता येन प्रतापानले ।
 तिलुङ्गाधिपते, पशोर्वैशसन शैद्रस्य द्रौद्राकृतेः
 कृत्या पूरुषमेधयज्ञविधिना लब्धास्यलोकैजयः ॥

When Jaitrapala of Jaitugi Bhillama's son and successor, attacked the Kakatiya king Rudradeva, he is stated to have assumed the sacrificial vow on the holy ground on the battle field and throwing a great many kings into the fire of his prowess by means of the ladles of his weapons, performed a human sacrifice by immolating a victim in the shape of the

fierce Rudra, the lord of Tailangas, and vanquished the three worlds.

How the enemy scared the Yadava army is conveyed through an eulogy of Chaundasetti, son of Mallisetti and prime minister of Krishna whose fame is great, who is the tongue and right arm of the king Chaundisetti whose prowess is proclaimed in all the quarters and whose merit and fame are exalted is beautiful on account of all his prosperity being increased by the prostration of his body at the feet of the holy Somanatha. Finding that he is intent upon conquering the regions, all the enemies of this Chaundasetti climb an ant-hill, chew grass, wear a petticoat and put on a Karnapatra.²⁴ It is true that the record smacks of some hyperbolism; but we remember the fact that he was the right arm and the spokesman of the king. The hyperbolism of the record would appear so natural. Loot, arson and killing seem to be the guiding principles of warfare and the Yadava army tried hard to excel in them wherever they went, they carried fire and sword. There were however some exceptional instances, when compassion got the better of them. In the war against Telangana Ganapatideva son of Mahadeva, was taken prisoner. Jaitugi, the son of Bhillama, who slew the king of the three kings in battle and seized the whole of his kingdom, and who took king Ganapati from prison and caused him to smile mean put him on the throne of Warangal.²⁵

NOTES AND REFERENCES

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- 2
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- 3
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- 4
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- 5
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- 6
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- 7
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- 8
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- 9
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- 11
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- 13
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- 14
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- 15
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- 17
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