

Twitter Thread by Vibhu Vashisth ■■



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■**Lalitaditya Muktapida: The Great Hindu King of Kashmir who missed our text books.■**

Lalitaditya Muktapida was the great Hindu King of Kashmir who belonged to the Karkorta Dynasty and provided heroic resistance to the foreign invaders.



He remained undefeated throughout his reign & expanded his empire in all directions.

The famous book Rajatarangini which was written in 12th century had given us details of the golden age of Kashmir.

The rise of Karkota dynasty of Kashmir was the turning point in Indian history.

KALHANA'S RĀJATARANGINĪ

A CHRONICLE OF THE KINGS OF KĀŚMĪR



M.A. STEIN

This great dynasty was founded by Durlabha-var dhana. Many eminent historians claim that this king was married to the daughter of Baladitya the last king of the Gonanda dynasty.

Lalitaditya ascended the throne about 724 CE and was the fifth ruler of the Karkota Dynasty.

He was a follower of expansionist policy and wanted to conquer the neighboring kingdoms.
He also defeated the powerful king of Kannauj i.e Yasovarman and emerged as a champion of north India.

Kalhana also mentioned that the king of Kashmir undertook a World Wide Campaign and reached the sea coast of east India (Kalinga).
Here the king of Gaur (Bengal) is believed to be the first king to accept the suzerainty and sent several elephants to the king of Kashmir in respect.



Later according to Rajatarangini, Lalitaditya crossed the Kaveri and captured some islands. From here he went towards the west and conquered Avanti.

During his reign, Lalitaditya defeated the Kambhojas, Turks (Tukharas), Tibetans, Dardas, and Arabs. It is believed that Lalitaditya recruited several Chinese mercenaries in his army who were great military strategists.

Also when Lalitaditya expanded the empire in the northwest region he started recruiting central Asian Turks. During his reign, the northwestern frontier of the Indian subcontinent was threatened by the Arabs.

LOST IN HISTORY



Lalitaditya Muktapida

Maharaja of Kashmir

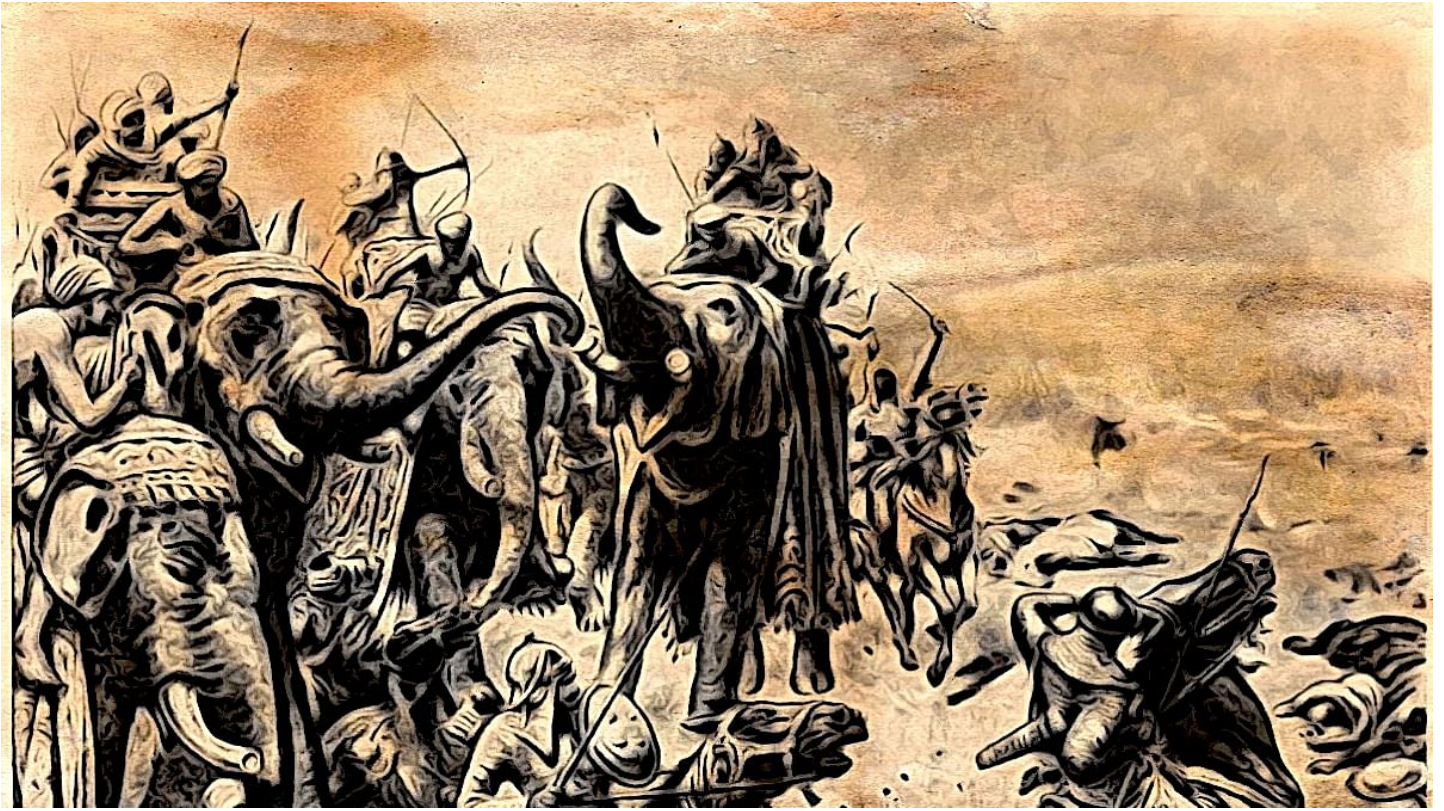
(724-760 CE)

- ★ Defeated the Arabs
- ★ Subjugated the Turks & Tibetians
- ★ Reigned over an empire twice the size of the Mughals
- ★ Built the Martand Sun Temple

Yet vanished from history pages?

#KashyapKaKashmir

The new conquerors were ferocious warlords who by now had brought the Middle East, North Africa under their banner. But the advance of the Arabs was bravely halted by the Hindu Monarch of Kashmir. It is believed that king Lalitaditya defeated the Arabs four times during his reign.



It is believed that Lalitaditya took some regions of Punjab from the Arabs.

This type of leadership was the reason behind the conquest of places like Turfan, Kuchan of modern-day Xinjiang province of China. His empire also covered the silk route region of modern-day Afghanistan.

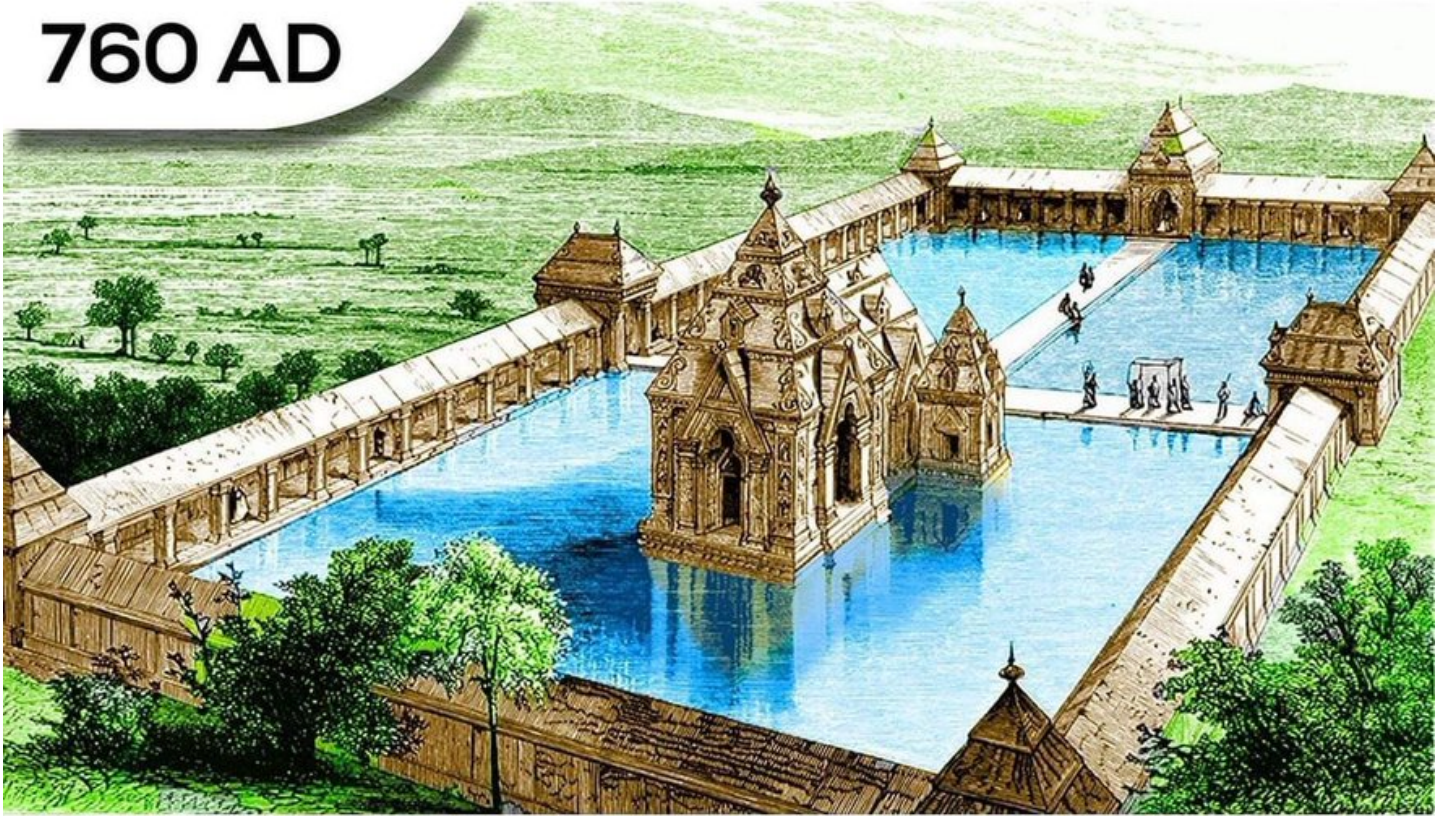
Lalitaditya through his unending conquests gained huge wealth and resources. He utilized them in an intelligent way and embellished his kingdom by building towns, monasteries, temples, and images of Gods.

He also made a new capital named Parihaspura where this Hindu king built many temples. The five major works of Lalitaditya according to Kalhana's Rajatarangini were Parihasakesava, Muktakesava, Mahaviraha, Govardhanadharana and Rajavihara.

MARTAND SUN TEMPLE, KASHMIR

Destroyed by Sultan Sikandar Shah Miri in 1401

760 AD



NOW



Lalitaditya died around 760 CE. During his thirty-six years reign, he protected the empire from several invaders and also promoted art and culture. For his conquests and promotion of art, culture and learning historians had given him the title of Alexandar of Kashmir.

The later kings of this dynasty were not as strong and determinant as Lalitaditya. The Karkotas of Kashmir remained there till the middle of the ninth century.

