

## Emergence of Rajputs as Ruling Elite in Jammu Region

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One of the important features of the early medieval social formation has been the proliferation of caste and sub-castes at pan Indian level. It has been argued that the reason behind this was the process of land grants which led to the emergence of feudal social formation and other concomitant developments which change the character of society<sup>1</sup>. In the realm of social formation it initiated the process of Brahmanisation and acculturation of tribal people, who were given scripts, calendar, art, literature and a new way of higher life and subsequently integrated into the larger brahmanical social order. Embedded in this social formation was another important development of the rise of Rajputs who not only hegemonized the political landscape of early medieval India but also emerged as one of the most important landed aristocracy in most of the regions of the Indian sub-continent. The economic power, which was measured largely in term of possession of agrarian land also created the process of social mobility and several of the social groups who were outside the pale of brahmanical social order, such as Medas and Hunas, acquired the status of 'Rajput' from a tribal position. The Pratiharas belonged to the Gurjara clan and became an important ruling power in the 8th century A.D. They were originally pastoralists and agriculturists. The Pratiharas as part of the tribal Gurjara clan branched off to emerge as a ruling power. The genealogies 'fabricated' for this period tried to claim high status for the ruling lineage<sup>2</sup>.

The present paper seeks to examine the origin of Rajputs<sup>3</sup> in Jammu region with special reference to Jamwals. They emerged as the major ruling family in the region with their centre of power at Jammu. The

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<sup>1</sup> R.S.Sharma, *Rethinking India's Past, See Social Changes in Early Medieval India c AD 500-1200*, pp 247-263, New Delhi, 2009 (Reprint 2010)., also B.D.Chattopadhyaya, *The Making of Early Medieval India.*, see , *Origin of Rajputs*, pp. 57-88, New Delhi, 1994, (Reprint 2006)

<sup>2</sup> The Rajputs have evolved complex mythological genealogies. The ancestry can be divided into two main branches: the *Suryavansa* or the race of the Sun (Solar Race), which claims direct descent from Lord Rama; and the *Induvansa* or *Chandravansa*, or the race of moon (Lunar race), which claims direct descent from Lord Krishna. Later a third branch, the Agnikula, or the fire born, was added. These people claim that they were manifested from the flames of sacrificial fire on Mt. Abu. From these principal races emerged 36 Rajput clans, each clan belonging to one of the three basic lineages (*vansha* or *vamsha*). Each of these *vanshas* or lineage is divided into several clans (*kula*), all of whom claim direct patrilineage for a remote but common male ancestor who supposedly belonged to that *vansha*. Some of these thirty six main clans are further subdivided into *Sakhas* or branches, again based on the same principle of patrilineage. Each *sakha* or basic sub clan has its individual genealogical creed, describing the essential peculiarities, religious tenets and original domicile of the clan.

<sup>3</sup> Various historical writings on Rajputs either portray them as timeless mounted warriors dwelling in Western India or as foreign immigrants. Historians differ in their views regarding the origin of Rajputs. The earliest investigation on the issue was taken by James Todd in his book *Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan* who has linked Rajputs to foreign immigrants like Sakas, Hunas and Gurjaras who came to India and settled here. However the nationalist historians like C.V Vaidya in his work *History of Medieval India II, Early History of Rajputs (750-1000)* has regarded them as the descendants of Vedic Kshatriyas who came to the forefront to protect their ancient faith against the foreign invasions. BD Chattopadhyay in his work *The Making of Medieval India* has however argued that Rajput was not a static category and many clans that came to power adopted the name "Rajput". The Rajputs appear to have developed from diverse clans and gained the military strength necessary to begin to conquer their own lands and to establish them as independent political entities .Their position was strengthened by building forts, which served as centres of power, as well as by strategic inter clan marriages, which strengthened alliances. As these clans rose to power, they had genealogies written to validate their newly acquired Kshatriya Rajput status by projecting their ancestry into the past and connecting it with past rulers.

major focus of analysis would consist of the origin of Jamwal as Rajputs and their rise in the political domain of the region. The major sources of analysis in this context would be the genealogical records of Jamwals and the existing oral tradition about them. The study of genealogy, however, is not considered merely as familial memory; rather it is considered crucial social documents that were intrinsically related to the memory of the past of an individual, group or a community. Thus it would be structured around the different modes of conceiving temporality as embedded in different types of genealogies and the way it was articulated in practise to mark and calculate time.

Rajputs came to prominence at the pan Indian level during the early medieval period i.e. about 7-8<sup>th</sup> century AD but for Jammu region its chronology is a blank before 10<sup>th</sup> century AD when it was referred to under the name of Durgara<sup>4</sup>. It is quite possible that Jammu may date from an earlier period, as legend says, though it may not have been a place of any importance and did not become the capital till a later time. It has been evident/ reflected from the traditions that the region was inhabited by aboriginal people like meghs and dums and a large number of their akin tribes. This area was organized into tribal polity by the local tribal leaders called Ranas and Thakurs. The period of their rule was known as *Apathakurai/Apthakuri*<sup>5</sup>. The oral traditions of Jammu define Ranas and Thakurs as two types of knights who were the original rulers of these hills. When Rajput Rajas from outside the region arrived here the number of Ranaships amounted to hundreds<sup>6</sup>. The Rajput Rajas easily defeated and subdued these Ranas and established their principalities in their respective regions. This is corroborated by the fact that in every principality the population was grouped into two hostile factions – firstly the original inhabitants and their local leaders on one side and secondly the usurping Rajas and their followers on the other.

The initial ruling family of Jammu hills have been Jamwal Rajputs who ruled in Jammu and adjoining area towards plains. Jamwals claim their origin from Raja Kush son of *Suryavanshi* King Maharaja Ramachandra of Ayodhya. Jamwals do not find a mention in the celebrated list of 36 royal clans of Rajputs given by Chand Bardai. Hence the tradition have linked them to the royal Rajput clans<sup>7</sup> of Udaipur, Mewar, Jaipur and other *Suryavanshi* Clans<sup>8</sup>. It is also believed that the same clan is called Kachwaha in Rajputana<sup>9</sup>. From the study of *Vansavalis* the origin of the above clans is traceable to Raja Kush because their genealogical origin is linked to Maharaja Soumitra, who was from the dynasty of Raja Kush.<sup>10</sup> It is further clear that Maharaja Soumitra, who was the last ruler of Ayodhya, was from the dynasty of Raja Kush. It is also said that Raja Soumitra had abdicated the throne of Ayodhya<sup>11</sup>. It is from Maharaja Soumitra that *Suryavanshi* clan separated from the rest of the Rajput clans. Whatever might have happened at that time, the Jamwal clan has its origin from Raja Kush son of Maharaja Ramchandra of Ayodhya. Therefore Jamwals trace their descent from *Suryavanshi* clan of Ayodhya

Maharaja Soumitra had many sons among which Maharaja Mahabharat, Raja Koram Dutt, Shiv Raj and Mool Raj alias Mool Dev became famous<sup>12</sup>. Jamwal, Chambyial and Bandral castes originated from Raja Mool Raj who was also called as Mool Dev, Marat Dev and Marad Dev.

Raja Mool Dev had two sons namely Auragpal and Himanandri. Auragpal was the king of a small state near the bank of river Ganga. From his clan there was a king namely Bharat Dev who had two sons namely Agnibarn II and Agnigarb. Agnigarb developed strained relations with his brother Raja Agnibarn II and left his home state in the attire of a *sadhu* with the assumed name of Agnigar /Agnigar<sup>13</sup>. He remained at

<sup>4</sup> H.C. Raychaudhuri, *Political History of Ancient India*, sixth edition, Calcutta, 1953

<sup>5</sup> *Apthakurai* means independent rule

<sup>6</sup> Hutchison & Vogel, *History of the Panjab Hill States*, Delhi, 1933, Reprint 1999, p 12

<sup>7</sup> A Clan is a unilineal descent group, the members of which may claim either patrilineal descent or matrilineal descent from a founder but donot know the genealogicalities with the ancestor/ancestress.

<sup>8</sup> Thakur Kahan Singh Billowria, *Tawarikh-i-Rajputan-i-Mulk-wa-Punjab*, Jammu, 1913, p.281

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid*, p.282

<sup>10</sup> Thakur Kahan Singh Billowria, *Tarikh-i-Rajgan-i-Jammu-wa-Kashmir*, Lahore, 1930, p.1

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid*, p.53

<sup>12</sup> Thakur Kahan Singh Billowria, *OpCit*, 1913, p.282

<sup>13</sup> Diwan Kirpa Ram, *Gulabnama* (Translated from Persian & Annotated by SDS Charak), Srinagar, 2005, p.8

the bank of river Ganga<sup>14</sup> for about two years and then left towards Punjab and Kohistan-i-Punjab<sup>15</sup> with a group of *Sadhus*. Finally, he reached Nagarkot, the capital of Kangra state, where very soon became popular as *Raj Rishi*.<sup>16</sup> At that time Kangra was ruled by Raja Bhumi Chand II of Katoch clan. After sometime, on enquiries made by the Raja, he disclosed his true identity and family lineage. The Raja of Kangra motivated him to come out from the life of a recluse and appointed him as his chief advisor. He entrusted him with the administration of territory east of river Ravi as overlord. Raja further cemented the relation by marrying his daughter with Agnigar.

After spending some time as administrator on the eastern bank of river Ravi, Agnigar crossed Ravi and captured some villages in the present day Kathua region. After capturing some more villages he declared himself as an independent king<sup>17</sup>. He had a son namely Vayu Sharba who captured village Parole and some more villages and married Irra Devi, daughter of a local chieftain. Queen Irra Devi died young. Raja Vayu Sharba loved her very much and he, therefore, founded a town in her memory near Parole by the name of Irravati<sup>18</sup> which later on became famous as Irravan. The *Samadhi* of the queen still exists at this place. A *Mela* is held every year on first of Baisakh at this place in memory of the queen. The ruins of old town are still visible here. This Raja further extended his territory up to river Ujh and made the whole area as an independent state.<sup>19</sup> He made Irravan as his capital with boundaries of his kingdom extended up to Ravi in the east, Sunderkot hills in Billawar in the north, river Ujh in the west and district Gurdaspur in the south.

In the fifth generation of Vayu Sharba there was a king namely Agnigar II who had 18 sons from his three wives<sup>20</sup>. The prominent among them were Bahulochan and Jambulochan. Agnigar II acquired territory up to and across river Tawi with the help of his sons. The eldest son i.e. Bahulochan became the king after his father. He founded a town on the bank of river Tawi as Bahu Nagar. He also built a fort on his name as Bahu Fort<sup>21</sup>. This place was earlier known as Dhar Angar. Till today the forest area is known as Dhar Angari.

It is pertinent to mention here that Raja Bahulochan shifted his capital from Irravan to Bahu. Irravan remained the capital of this clan for six generations. Raja Bahulochan was a great king of his time. He had some boundary dispute with Raja of Sialkot on which war broke out between the two rajas. In the battle Raja Bahulochan and his many brothers got killed. On his death his wife performed *sati*.<sup>22</sup> Raja Bahulochan had no issue therefore his younger brother Jambulochan ascended the throne.<sup>23</sup> He took command of the battle and finally took revenge of the death of his brother by killing Raja Chandrahas of Sialkot. Rest of his surviving brothers settled at different places and gave origin to different clans.

Once, when Raja Jambulochan was on a hunting trip in the forest on the bank of river Tawi, he was mesmerised to see a lion and a goat drinking water from the same pond.<sup>24</sup> He was convinced about the sanctity of the place where in everybody could live with peace and harmony. After due deliberations, the foundation of a new town was laid down which was named Jambu. The same town is now called the city of Jammu. Raja Jambulochan constructed his palaces at the same place after clearing the forests. So the clan of Raja Jambulochan, by virtue of its residence in Jammu, became known as Jamwal<sup>25</sup>. This indicates that the

<sup>14</sup> Moulvi Hashmatullah Khan, *Tarikh-i-Jammu*, Lahore, Reprint, 1991, p.46

<sup>15</sup> The region has been identified with Shivalik Hills

<sup>16</sup> Jagdip Singh Sambyal, *Sambyal Clan and Samba*, Samba, 1995, p.2

<sup>17</sup> Thakur Kahan Singh Billowria, *OpCit.*, 1913, p.282

<sup>18</sup> Annon, *Tarikh-i-Jammu* (Urdu), Srinagar, p.8

<sup>19</sup> Thakur Kahan Singh Billowria, *OpCit.*, 1930, p.2

<sup>20</sup> Thakur Kahan Singh Billowria, *OpCit.*, 1913, p.283

<sup>21</sup> Diwan Kirpa Ram, *OpCit.*, p.19

<sup>22</sup> Thakur Kahan Singh Billowria, *OpCit.*, 1913, p.283

<sup>23</sup> Parwez Diwan, *A History of Jammu*, New Delhi, 2008, p.19

<sup>24</sup> Jagdip Singh Sambyal, *OpCit.*, p.3

<sup>25</sup> Thakur Kahan Singh Billowria, *OpCit.*, 1913, p.283

spatial context also determined the nomenclature adopted by Rajput clans. But it is not so in all the cases as Jamwals have been mentioned living in Montgomery and Sialkot<sup>26</sup> which is now in Pakistan and also some areas of Punjab. It is quite possible that these might have migrated from Jammu at some time in historical antiquity. There are other versions about the foundation of Jammu. According to one tradition there was a cave on the bank of River Tawi attributed to *Jamawant*, on account of which the place came to be known as Jambu/Jammu. Another legend is that the name Jammu is derived from *Jambulin (Jamanu)* tree which grew in abundance on this ridge.

Raja Jambulochan had his son as Puran Karan, who had two sons i.e. Daya Karan and Dharam Karan. During this period disturbances broke out in Kashmir valley and the Brahmans of Kashmir requested Raja Puran Karan for help<sup>27</sup>. He deputed his elder son Daya Karan with a large army to Kashmir. First of all Daya Karan consolidated various areas of Kashmir into a state and then settled there. His clan became known as Bhau Rajputs<sup>28</sup>.

The clan of Raja Daya Karan is reported to have ruled in Kashmir for 55 generations. This has also been mentioned in *Gulabnama* written by Diwan Kirpa Ram<sup>29</sup>. According to another view clan of Raja Daya Karan ruled for three generations i.e. for 55 years only and the last ruler was Raja Som Dutt who was killed during the war of Mahabhart<sup>30</sup>. However from the facts mentioned above it is clear that the Jamwal Rajputs had remained the rulers of Kashmir during the ancient time also and again, in 1846 AD when Maharaja Gulab Singh acquired the state of Kashmir and became the ruler of whole State of Jammu and Kashmir.

After Raja Puran Karan of Jammu, Raja Dharam Karan, his second son became the ruler of Jammu<sup>31</sup>. In the fourth generation of Dharam Karan, Shakti Karan became the Raja of Jammu who was a great scholar of Sanskrit. He ruled Jammu according to the *Shastras* and for this reason he was also called as Raja Shastri. He extended his territory up to Banihal and made Dogri the official language<sup>32</sup>. The *Shastri* calendar is also named after this Raja. His son Shiv Parkash was a keen Shiva devotee and when he became the king he remained busy mostly in *puja* etc. He did not pay much attention to the affairs of the state. Taking advantage of this Raja Shailaya of Sialkot captured most of the territory of the Jammu state.

In his third generation, there was a Raja namely Pushap Parkash who killed Raja Shailaya of Sialkot in a battle and captured Sialkot fort<sup>33</sup>. He also captured the territory of Jammu which was lost during the reign of Raja Shiv Parkash. In his fifth generation there was a king namely Jam Parkash who had two sons. The elder son was named Kishore Inder, who ascended the throne of Jammu and the second son was Sanindra, who is also called as Sindi/Sindhu Dev. He got married in Multan and shifted there. There was a king namely Tejbaran, in the eight generation of Raja Kishore Inder, who meditated at Vaskund on the bank of river Tawi and became staunch Devotee of *Bhaid Nag*<sup>34</sup>. From that day onwards Jamwal Rajputs became the devotees of *Bhaid Nag/ Bhaid Devta*.

Raja Tejbaran had Bodh Arjun as his grandson and in his eight generation, Raja Raj Balabh became the king of Jammu. During his reign Raja Mangal Chand Katoch of Kangra attacked Jasrota<sup>35</sup>. In the battle, Raja Raj Balabh got killed and his wife performed sati with him. Since he had no issues, his cousin Bhanu

<sup>26</sup> Sir Denzil Ibbetson, ED Maclagan, HA Rose, *A Glossary of Castes and Tribes of Punjab and North West Frontier Province*, (Vol II), Lahore, 1911

<sup>27</sup> Thakur Kahan Singh Billowria, *OpCit*, 1930, p.55

<sup>28</sup> Thakur Kahan Singh Billowria, *OpCit*, 1913, p.283

<sup>29</sup> Diwan Kirpa Ram, *Gulabnama* (Annotated & Translated by SDS Charak and Anita Billawria), Srinagar, 2005, p.8

<sup>30</sup> Moulvi Hashmat Ullah, *OpCit*, p. 47

<sup>31</sup> Diwan Kirpa Ram, *OpCit*, p.8

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>33</sup> Thakur Kahan Singh Billowria, *OpCit*, 1913, p.283

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>35</sup> Diwan Kirpa Ram, *OpCit*, p.11

Jakh became the king<sup>36</sup>. After many generations in his clan, Raja Jog Rai ascended the throne of Jammu in about 328 A.D.<sup>37</sup> He had two sons namely Mallan Hans alias Man Parkash and Suraj Hans.

Raja Jog Rai gave some villages to his elder son Mallan Hans as Jagir. Mallan Hans took up farming which was considered against the traditions of Jamwal Rajputs. Therefore, the descendants of Mallan Hans became known as Manhas Rajputs, which is probably the first clan that bifurcated from Jamwals. The descendants of Mallan Hans settled at village Pargwal, Chaprar and Thub. Later Manhas Rajputs became an important community amongst Rajputs and inhabited the country below Jammu border i.e. the districts of Rawalpindi, Jhelum and Sialkot<sup>38</sup> and Shakargarh now in Pakistan and Jammu, Rajouri, Kathua districts of Jammu province. Mallan Hans died during the life time of his father and Raja Jog Rai gave the throne of Jammu to his younger son Suraj Hans. In the fifth generation of Suraj Hans there was a Raja called Kirti Dhar who ruled during 668 A.D. In the fifth generation of Raja Kirti Dhar there was a Raja called Bhoj Dev who had four sons namely Kharan Dev/Bharurak Dev, Avtar Dev, Kharak Dev and Pahlad Dev. The clan of Kharan Dev/ Bharurak Dev came to be known as Mankotia Rajputs when area of Ramkot was given to him as jagir<sup>39</sup>. Raja Bhoj Dev was killed in a battle with the forces of Nassir-ud-din of Ghazni, when he attacked Punjab where Raja Bhoj Dev had gone to help his friend Maharaja Jaipal of Punjab. After his death his son Avtar Dev became the Raja of Jammu.

Raja Avtar Dev died in 1195 A.D and Raja Jas Dev ascended the throne.<sup>40</sup> He founded the town of Jasrota about 45 miles east of Jammu town on the bank of river Ujh and named it on his own name. The rule of Jasrota was handed over by Raja Jas Dev to his uncle Raja Karan Dev. The clan of Raja Karan Dev became famous as Jasrotia Rajputs.<sup>41</sup> Raja Chak Dev who was the grandson of Raja Jag Dev had his son namely Braj Dev alias Bajay Dev who was killed by Prithvi Raj Chauhan alias Rai Pithora Raja of Delhi.

Raja Braj Dev had two sons and the elder Narsingh Dev became heir to the state of Jammu. The second son was Ramil Dev whose clan adopted agriculture profession and became Manhas Rajputs and settled in village Smailpur. Raja Narsingh Dev had three sons. The eldest namely Arjun Dev became heir to the throne, the second namely Saidu settled in village Pargwal and his clan also became known as Manhas Rajputs<sup>42</sup>. The third son namely Jhankar Dev, whose descendants settled in villages Chamb, Toph, Swankha and Thub, also became known as Manhas Rajputs.

Raja Arjun Dev had a son namely Jodh Dev who has two sons namely Mal Dev and Kalyan Dev. Mal Dev became the Raja after his father. He conquered Nurpur and Kangra. He constructed *Baradari* in Purani Mandi with the bricks brought from Nurpur Fort and Palace<sup>43</sup>. He used to hold *darbar* at Purani Mandi and this place was also used for coronation ceremonies of Jamwal kings<sup>44</sup>. Raja Mal Dev was not only brave but very strongly built<sup>45</sup>. He brought two big stones from the banks of Tawi to Jammu town which are lying till date. One stone is lying in Kalijani and the other is in Bhabada Bazar which is now called Jain Bazar. In the *Baradari* at Purani Mandi there is a *pindi* of Raja Mal Dev which is like a *Shiva Linga*. The people of Jammu worship it. Raja Mal Dev ruled for about 40 years and died at Kangra in 1399 A.D<sup>46</sup> in a battle with Timur. The clan of his younger brother Kalyan Dev settled in villages Paloura and Akalpur and became known as Manhas Rajputs.

<sup>36</sup> Thakur Kahan Singh Billowria, *OpCit*, 1913, p.284

<sup>37</sup> Thakur Kahan Singh Billowria, *OpCit*, 1930, p.58

<sup>38</sup> *A Glossary of Tribes & Castes of Punjab & NWFP (Vol III)*, New Delhi, 1985, p.67

<sup>39</sup> Hutchison & Vogel, *History of the Panjab Hill States*, Delhi, 1933, p.565

<sup>40</sup> Thakur Kahan Singh Billowria, *OpCit*, 1930, p.59

<sup>41</sup> Narsing Das Nargis, *Tarikh Dogra Desh(urdu)*, Jammu, 1967, p.211

<sup>42</sup> Thakur Kahan Singh Billowria, *OpCit*, 1913, p.284

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid*, p.285

<sup>44</sup> GC Smyth, *A History of the Reigning Family of Lahore, appeared in 1847*, Reprint edition, New Delhi, 1985, p.235

<sup>45</sup> Shiv Nirmohi, *Duggar Ka Itihas*, Udhampur, 1998, p.31

<sup>46</sup> Diwan Kirpa Ram, *OpCit*, p.18

Raj Mal Dev had three sons. The eldest was Hameer Dev, who ascended the throne.<sup>47</sup> The second was Chandan Dev whose clan became known as Sarkhanya Rajputs. The third son was Sagar Dev whose clan became known as Dhaghodia Rajputs.

Raja Hameer Dev was the contemporary of King Mubarak Shah of Sayyid dynasty of Delhi<sup>48</sup>. In 1420 A.D he attended the durbar of king of Delhi who accepted Raja Hameer Dev as Raja of all 22 Hilly States of Shiwaliks<sup>49</sup>. He is also mentioned as Raja Bhim Dev alias Bhaleem Dev in some historical books. He ruled for 27 years and died in a battle with Sheikha Khokhar. He had two sons namely Ajaib Dev and Hasil Dev.<sup>50</sup> The clan of Hasil Dev came to be known as Salathia Rajputs. Raja Ajaib Dev had a son namely Biram Dev whose grandson was Raja Kapoor Dev who had 22 sons among whom the prominent were Jag Dev and Samail Dev<sup>51</sup>. The other sons of Kapur Dev got jagirs at different places in Jammu and founded their separate clans. Samail Dev raised the dispute regarding the throne. Ultimately the kingdom of Jammu had to be divided into two parts<sup>52</sup>. The state of Bahu was formed with Tawi as a boundary with Jammu and Jag Dev, the eldest son became the Raja of Bahu. The second son Samail Dev ascended the throne of Jammu. He died in 1602 A.D.

Raja Samail Dev had three sons. The eldest was Raja Sangram Dev who ascended the throne of Jammu and ruled for 31 years<sup>53</sup>. The second son was Narayan Dev whose clan became known as Narayana Rajputs. The third son was known as Shobel Dev whose clan became Shobiliya Rajputs<sup>54</sup>. Raja Sangram Dev had two sons namely BhupatDev and Dalpat Dev. Raja Bhupat Dev ascended the throne of Jammu and had two sons namely SarangDharDev and Hari Dev. The clan of Dalpat Dev became known as Dalpatia Rajputs. Since Sarang Dhar Dev died by a fall from the horse, Hari Dev became the king. Raja Hari Dev died in Deccan during campaign of Mughals in which he accompanied Emperor Aurangzeb<sup>55</sup>.

Raja Hari Dev had many wives from whom he had eight sons. The throne was acquired by Raja GajaySingh. Raja Gajay Singh had five sons. The eldest son Indra Dev died without any issue. <sup>56</sup>Raja Gajay Singh ruled for 30 years and died in 1703 A.D. His second son, Raja Dhrub Dev became the king. Raja Dhrub Dev ruled for more than 22 years. Raja Dhrub Dev constructed new palaces on the bank of river Tawi and shifted his capital from Purani Mandi to this place which later on became known as Mubarak Mandi. He had four sons, namely Ranjit Dev, Ghansar Dev, Surat Singh and Balwant Singh. The clan of Ghansar Dev settled in Jandiwali, Panjgrain and Bhalwal and the clan of Balwant Singh became known as Sarwainwala Rajputs. The eldest son Ranjit Dev became Raja after the death of Raja Dhrub Dev in 1735 A.D<sup>57</sup>. He became renowned as Maharaja Ranjit Dev.

Maharaja Ranjit Dev sought to bring Chamba under his sway during the minority of Raj Singh, Raja of Chamba. In 1775<sup>58</sup> he deputed army under Raja Amrit Pal of Basohli to invade Chamba. A large portion of Churah, the northern province of Chamba, was overrun. But Raja Raj Singh, with the help of Ramgarhia Sardars drove out the invading force. However Maharaja Ranjit Dev is credited to have conquered all 22

<sup>47</sup> Thakur Kahan Singh Billowria, *OpCit.*,1913,p285

<sup>48</sup> Diwan Kirpa Ram, *OpCit.*, 2005,p.23

<sup>49</sup> Hutchison & Vogel, *OpCit.*,p.45

<sup>50</sup> Thakur Kahan Singh Billowria, *OpCit.*, 1913, p.359

<sup>51</sup> SDS, Charak, *A Short History of Jammu Raj*, Pathankot, 1985

<sup>52</sup> Shiv Nirmohi, *OpCit.*,p.40

<sup>53</sup> Diwan Kirpa Ram,*OpCit.*,p.25

<sup>54</sup> Thakur Kahan Singh Billowria, *OpCit.*, 1913,p.285

<sup>55</sup> Diwan Kirpa Ram, *OpCit.*,p.25

<sup>56</sup> *Ibid*,p.26

<sup>57</sup> Hutchison & Vogel, *OpCit.*, p.540

<sup>58</sup> *Ibid* p.542

hilly states, eleven in Kangra area across river Ravi and the rest eleven states on the western side of river Ravi<sup>59</sup>.

Maharaja Ranjit Dev also acquired a jagir in Kashmir for Rs.1, 25,000 annually. Maharaja Ranjit Dev granted jagirs to his brothers to keep them happy. He granted jagir of Bhalwalta in Udhampur to his younger brother Ghansar Dev, jagir of Surinsar to Balwant Dev and the jagir of Dhansal to his third brother Surat Singh. He also gave important positions to men from his own clan like Mian Ajmat Dev, Mian Isher Dev, Mian Tegh Singh, Mian Mana Singh etc. Maharaja Ranjit Dev also established cordial relations with other Rajput clans such as Ramgarhia, Raipuria, Ganjuria, Panjoria, Kanhachakiya, Panjgrainwalia, Jandiwalia, Hantal, Chibbal, Jandria etc. He also married in some of these Rajput clans and cemented his relations with them. He also recruited the young men from Rajput clans of Salathia, Manhas, Sambyal, Jasrotia and Charak in his army and also gave promotions to encourage them. In this way Maharaja Ranjit Dev gave respectful positions to people from all Rajput clans in his durbar and army. In this way he got full support from all Rajput clans which made his reign peaceful and prosperous.<sup>60</sup> His period is called the golden period of Dogra rule.

He died in 1781 A.D after ruling for 46 years including 12 years in confinement of Nawab of Lahore<sup>61</sup>. During Ranjit Dev's reign the town of Jammu acquired great prosperity. The confusion and disorder in plains diverted trade to the hills, and many wealthy merchants sought asylum or established branch firms in Jammu for safety and security. To all alike, Hindu or Muslim, the Raja extended a welcome and his capital grew and flourished<sup>62</sup>. He had two sons from his two queens. The elder was named Bajraj Dev whereas the younger was called Daleel Dev<sup>63</sup>.

After the death of Maharaja Ranjit Dev, his elder son Raja Bajraj Dev ascended the throne<sup>64</sup>. He ruled for about five years and died in a battle with the Sikhs<sup>65</sup>. His queen performed sati and their one year old child Sampuran Dev was made the Raja under the guardianship of Mian Mota<sup>66</sup>. Mian Mota was the second son of Surat Singh, who was the real brother of Maharaja Ranjit Dev. Raja Sampuran Dev died at the young age of 11 years in 1797 A.D. His uncle Daleel Dev had died earlier during a battle at Lahore. So Jeet Singh son of Daleel Dev ascended the throne<sup>67</sup>. He was a weak Raja and could not control the situation and disturbances started in the state. Mian Mota who was looking after the affairs of state of Jammu during the reign of minor Raja Sampuran Dev, continued to do so even after the death of Raja Sampuran Dev.

During these years Sikhs had consolidated their position in Punjab.<sup>68</sup> In 1808 A.D Maharaja Ranjit Singh sent his army to annex Jammu. A great battle took place near Gumat, which was then a forest area. In this battle Gulab Singh son of Kishore Singh, who later on became Maharaja of State of Jammu & Kashmir, exhibited great courage and bravery. <sup>69</sup>He was only 16 years old at that time. In this battle the Sikh army was defeated. However Mian Mota after assessing the strength of Sikhs decided to appear before Maharaja Ranjit Singh and a compromise was arrived under which Raja of Jammu had to give Rs 73000 as nazrana to Maharaja Ranjit Singh for ensuring good relations. However when the disturbances increased Maharaja Ranjit Singh deputed his Thanedar to Jammu to take over the administration and granted pension to Raja Jeet Singh. Therefore, Sikhs acquired direct control over the state of Jammu in 1816 A.D<sup>70</sup>. After some time

<sup>59</sup> Thakur Kahan Singh Billowria, *OpCit.*, 1913, p.287

<sup>60</sup> Shiv Nirmohi, *OpCit.*, p.47

<sup>61</sup> Hutchison & Vogel, *OpCit.*, p.546

<sup>62</sup> *Ibid.*, p.542

<sup>63</sup> Diwan Kirpa Ram, *OpCit.*, p.44

<sup>64</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>65</sup> Hutchison & Vogel, *OpCit.*, p.549

<sup>66</sup> Thakur Kahan Singh Billowria, *OpCit.*, 1913, p.287

<sup>67</sup> Parvez Diwan, *OpCit.*, p.44

<sup>68</sup> Diwan Kirpa Ram, *OpCit.*, p.52

<sup>69</sup> Sat Prakash Suri, *The Dogra Rulers of Jammu & Kashmir*, Gurgaon, 2011, p.19S

<sup>70</sup> SDS Charak, *History & Culture of Himalayan States (vol.v)*, New Delhi, 1980, p.27

Raja Jeet Singh also died and his son Raghubir Dev was sent out from Jammu. Their clan then settled in village Kharota of district Gurdaspur<sup>71</sup>. They were paid pension for their living.

In 1820 A.D Gulab Singh succeeded in killing Mian Dido who was troubling the Sikhs<sup>72</sup>. Maharaja Ranjit Singh became very happy on this and decided to make Dhian Singh, brother of Gulab Singh, Raja of Jammu but Dhian Singh declined and his father Kishore Singh was made Raja of Jammu. The rule of Jammu now got transferred from the dynasty of Raja Jeet Singh to the dynasty of Raja Kishore Singh. Dhian Singh, Gulab Singh and Suchet Singh, all sons of Raja Kishore Singh, were employed in Lahore durbar of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, where they earned great respect. They performed very well in various expeditions entrusted to them by Maharaja Ranjit Singh.

In 1822 A.D Raja Kishore Singh died. Maharaja Ranjit Singh again wanted to make Dhian Singh, who his favourite, Raja of Jammu. However Dhian Singh requested Maharaja Ranjit Singh that Gulab Singh, his elder brother, may be made Raja of Jammu<sup>73</sup>. So, on 16<sup>th</sup> of June 1822, Maharaja Ranjit Singh gave Rajtilak to Raja Gulab Singh<sup>74</sup>. The ceremony of Rajtilak was performed at JiaPota in Akhnoor under a big tree which still exists.<sup>75</sup> At the same time Suchet Singh was given the area of Bandralta in jagir. Raja Dhian Singh was given the area of Bhimber and Jasrota as jagir. However, he continued his services in Lahore durbar as Wazir. Later on Jasrota state was given to Raja Hira Singh son of Raja Dhian Singh and Raja Suchet Singh was given the jagir of Samba<sup>76</sup>. Raja Dhian Singh and Suchet Singh were killed in a conflict at Lahore after the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. Later on Hira Singh was also killed there.

During those days the British had consolidated their control over Punjab and Sikhs had lost war with British.<sup>77</sup> A treaty between Sikhs, British and Raja Gulab Singh was signed at Amritsar on 16<sup>th</sup> of March 1846 under which Kashmir was given to Raja Gulab Singh in lieu of payment of Rs.75 lakhs (war indemnity) to the British on behalf of Lahore durbar.<sup>78</sup> However the areas of Miyani, the salt mine, Jhelum, Gujrat, Hazara and some portions of Sialkot, which were earlier part of Jammu state, were retained by the British Government. Ultimately Raja Gulab Singh founded the independent State of Jammu and Kashmir. Later on he became famous as Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir.

Maharaja Gulab Singh had three sons namely Udham Singh, Sohan Singh and Ranbir Singh. However, both elder sons died in a battle at Lahore.<sup>79</sup> Ranbir Singh was born in July 1830 in Ramgarh fort in Samba. Raja Suchet Singh, 3<sup>rd</sup> brother of Maharaja Gulab Singh, had no issue and he adopted Ranbir Singh. But when both elder brothers died in Lahore, Maharaja Gulab Singh had to make Ranbir Singh the crown prince of state of Jammu & Kashmir. In 1855 A.D Maharaja Gulab Singh gave Rajtilak to Raja Ranbir Singh. In 1857 A.D Maharaja Gulab Singh died at Srinagar in Kashmir. His memorial was built at Rambagh Srinagar and at Jammu also.

Maharaja Ranbir Singh contracted five marriages. His first marriage was solemnised with the daughter of Raja Bajey Singh of Saiba state. His second marriage was with sister of Raja Hira Chand of Kahlor (Bilaspur) and after that he had three marriages in Billowria, Bandral and Charak clans. He had three sons namely Pratap Singh, Ram Singh and Amar Singh and two daughters from Maharani Saibi<sup>80</sup>. He got his fourth son namely Lachman Singh from his Charak Rani. However Lachman Singh died during his childhood.

<sup>71</sup> Thakur Kahan Singh Billowria, *OpCit.*, 1913,p.288

<sup>72</sup> Parwez Dewan, *OpCit.*,p.45

<sup>73</sup> Kahan Singh Billowria,*OpCit.*, 1930, p.83S

<sup>74</sup> Sat Prakash Suri, *OpCit.*, p.21

<sup>75</sup> SDS Charak, *History & Culture of Himalayan States (vol.vii)*, New Delhi, 1980,p.61

<sup>76</sup> Parwez Dewan, *OpCit.*,p.47

<sup>77</sup> SDS Charak, *OpCit.*, p.309

<sup>78</sup> Thakur Kahan Singh Billowria, *OpCit.*, 1913,p.208

<sup>79</sup> Diwan Kirpa Ram, *OpCit.*,p.398

<sup>80</sup> Thakur Kahan Singh Billowria, *OpCit.*, p.289



Maharaja Ranbir Singh died in 1885 A.D and Maharaja Pratap Singh ascended the throne of Jammu & Kashmir<sup>81</sup>. Raja Ram Singh was given Ramnagar and Raja Amar Singh was given firstly, Basohli and later on in its place, Bhaderwah as jagirs<sup>82</sup>. Raja Amar Singh has only one son from his queen Bhatiyal, who was named as Hari Singh. Raja Amar Singh also died young in 1908 AD after remaining ill for some time. Maharaja Pratap Singh had one son from his Charak queen who died at the age of one year<sup>83</sup>. Maharaja Pratap Singh ruled the State for 40 years.

After the death of Maharaja Pratap Singh, Hari Singh, son of his younger brother Raja Amar Singh ascended the throne in 1926 AD. Maharaja Hari Singh was born in 1895. After completing his education and army training he came back to Jammu and was made Commander-in-Chief of Dogra army by Maharaja Pratap Singh in 1914. In 1913 Maharaja Hari Singh was married in the royal family of Dharampur (Kathiawad). However the rani died after brief illness within a year. He married for the second time with the daughter of Raja Bhuri Singh of Chamba who also died after 3-4 years. In 1923 Maharaja Hari Singh contracted third marriage from Dharampur (Kathiawad) and this Rani also died after 15 years. Then he entered into fourth marriage in 1927 with Princess Tara Devi of Katoch royal family of Kangra. Karan Singh was born from this Rani in 1931 in France (Cannes)<sup>84</sup>.

Maharaja Hari Singh ruled from 1926 to 26<sup>th</sup> October 1947 when he signed the instrument of accession with India. India had attained independence from British rule on August 15, 1947 when a separate state of Pakistan was created<sup>85</sup>. His son Dr Karan Singh was made Sadar-i-Riyasat of Jammu and Kashmir.

It is clear from the above details that Jamwal Rajputs have their lineage linked to Maharaja Soumitra, last Suryavanshi ruler of Ayodhia. In fact, the Jamwal Rajputs were the first royal clan, who established their rule in Jammu region from early period and which continued for thousands of years and finally culminated in 1947 AD with the end of Dogra rule. It is also true that other Rajput royal clans i.e. Sambyals, Jasrotias, Lakhanpurias, Mankotias etc.; are the offshoots of Jamwal royal clan. They got settled largely in areas of Jammu, Bahu, Jasrota, Lakhanpur, Ramkot, Jandi, Panjgrain, Raipur, Sarwainsar, Bhalwal, Kanhachak, etc. These offshoots settled at different places are known as minor branches of Jamwal Rajput clan.

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<sup>81</sup> Shiv Nirmohi, *OpCit.*, p.102

<sup>82</sup> Thakur Kahan Singh Billowria, *OpCit.*, 1913, p.289

<sup>83</sup> Shiv Nirmohi, *OpCit.* , p.112

<sup>84</sup> Diwan Narsigh Das Nargis, *Tarikh Dogra Desh (Jammu & Kashmir)*, Jammu, 1967, p.739, 740.

<sup>85</sup> Sat Prakash Suri, *OpCit.*, p.167