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Different political dynasties in Medieval Andhra (CA. 1000-1400AD): A study

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Abstract

The medieval period concerned with for this study is Andhra comprising all parts of the present Andhra Pradesh state. The objective of this study is an explanation of the role of the chiefs and chieftains and the socio-historical relations in their appropriation of power in medieval Andhra with a view to situate the feudal chiefs in medieval Andhra in historical relations. It deals with the political and socio-cultural aspects of various social groups, with special reference to the feudal chiefs of the medieval period in Andhra under different ruling dynasties. This vacuum in power structure provided opportunities for numerous chieftains and principalities which were under the over lordship of these major supra-regional powers, to become independent. The Samanthal system, and the feudatory chiefs and the minor principalities which also played a prominent role in the political affairs during the medieval period in Andhra, they were treated as tax collecting authorities in the administration of the early Andhra kingdoms. In the process of developing the feudal characters in our socio-political space these Samanthalas became prominent in the administrative affairs. Besides the duties of collecting taxes, they were also entrusted with the duty of governing some small principalities in the dominions of their overlords. They also started maintaining some army. Generally, they were obedient to their overlords. Generally, the defeated king, instead of being pulled down was made a feudatory or royal official. These feudatories governed their principalities with the acceptance of their overlords. They levied taxes on the subjects in their administrative jurisdiction and paid some of the amount as a tribute to their overlords. These chiefs became prominent and played a significant role during the time of wars and were appointed as feudatories. The legitimization of political power by medieval feudal chiefs ability, to a large extent, is related to the inter-and-intra-sub regional process; has a linkage to the centripetal and centrifugal variables in the realm of respective 'state (s)' and the socio-cultural dynamics of the peasant, pastoral, and tribal communities in adapting to the new frontiers, power and authority of the 'state' in the medieval framework.

Keywords: Samanthal system, medieval period, regions of Telangana, Rayalaseema and coastal Andhra

Introduction

Samanthal system was the main characteristic feature of medieval Andhra. Andhra history indicates that the Samanthal system was part of the administration of this land from the rule of the Satavahanas (Satyannarayana, 1982). During the medieval period, Andhra desa was divided into a number of small principalities and was under the sway of different chiefs. Andhra was completely under the rule of the Samanthal kings, Dandanayakas, Amatyas and Senanis during the 11-14th centuries. The Eastern Chalukyas, the Rashtrakutas, the Chalukya-Cholas, the Kalyani Chalukyas and the Kakatiyas exercised the feudatory system in their administration. In Andhra Desa, the Vengi Chalukyas owed allegiance to the Cholas in the eastern direction and in the western direction to the Rashtrakutas, the rulers of Malked in Karnataka and the Western Chalukyas of Kalyani. And the Kakatiyas of Warangal had their feudatories in the regions of Telangana, Rayalaseema and coastal Andhra.

Different politico-administrative and economic conditions led to the formation of Samanthal system in medieval Andhra. As the empires in the medieval period are vast, kings used to appoint the Samanthalas in different administrative divisions for the safeguard of their dominions. Sources indicate that these Samanthalas also had their own capitals. Generally, these capitals are situated on the banks of the rivers, along the coast and hilly-forested zones and were very far to reach. Senanis (soldiers), Dandanayakas (army officers), Amatyas (ministers) and Samanthalas (feudatories) played an important role in protecting the territories. The empire was divided into Rastras (states) Mandalas (small revenue divisions) and

Gramakutas (villages) for administrative purpose. Generally, the chiefs maintained an army and provided assistance to the king during the time of wars. They participated in the battles on behalf of the king. They provided security in the bordering areas of the kingdom. Kings sanctioned some areas to those Samanths in return to their services. They were given the authority to collect taxes in their respective principalities. The kings exercised all powers in appointing and dismissing the Samanths. The Samanths also had full-fledged freedom in recruiting and removing various employees under their control.

The Chalukya-Cholas (ca. 1075 AD-ca. 1200 AD)

The Chalukya-Cholas ruled Andhra Desa from ca. 1075 AD to ca. 1200 A. D for 125 years. Kulothunga Chola I was referred to by the historians as the founder of the dynasty. It is the fusion of two crowns of the Eastern Chalukyas and the Cholas. It is the first amalgamated dynasty in the annals of Andhra history. It was also for the first time in the history of south India that a person Kulothunga Chola I inherited an empire through his mother, the Chola princess. The Chalukya-Cholas succeeded the Eastern Chalukyas of Vengi in Andhra desa and stood as a link between the Eastern Chalukyas on the one hand and the Kakatiyas on the other.

The first Chalukya-Chola king, Kulottunga I adopted the Samantha system and stabilized his position in Andhra during his reign. All the available sources regarding the polity of the Chalukya-Cholas indicate their political supremacy in Andhra. But their feudatories like the Velanati Cholas, Kondapadumatis, Kona Haihayas, etc. were virtually independent. Though the Velanati Cholas owed allegiance to the Chalukya-Cholas, they controlled all the other chiefs such as the Kostas, Kondapadumatis and Chagis and made them their own subordinates. It seems that almost all the chieftains in Andhra desa began to exercise the de-facto rule, owing nominal allegiance to the Chalukya-Cholas. The feudatory chieftains accompanied the ruling the Chalukya-Chola monarchs in times of invasions and wars. The Chalukya-Cholas were successful in the Kalinga wars and in repelling the Western Chalukyan attacks with the support of the feudatory chieftains such as the Velanati Cholas, the Kotas of Dharanikota and the Kondapadumatis (Krishna Kumari, 1985) ^[2]. The Chalukya-Cholas, in return, made the above Mandalikas much powerful and heightened their local stature. After the battle of the Godavari, several feudatories ceased to acknowledge the names of the Chalukya-Chola kings in their records (Krishna Kumari, 1985) ^[2].

Important Feudatories under the Chalukya-Cholas Velanati Cholas (ca. 1100 AD-1300 AD)

The Velanati Cholas ruled the areas of Aruvankadu and Gudrahara Vishaya with the capital at Chandavolu in the present Guntur District during ca. 1100 AD-1300 AD. They belong to the Durjaya family. Their inscriptions are found in Draksharamam, Chandavolu, Tripurantakam, Dharanikota, and Chebrolu. Mallavarman seems to be the founder of the family. Since they owed allegiance to the Chalukya-Cholas, they held the name 'Choda' as prefix in their names and as a mark of their respect towards their overlords (Sastry, 1990). Nanniraju, Gonka I Chodaraju, Rajendra Choda, Gonka II and Prithviswara were the important rulers in this line. Inscriptions say that the Velanati Cholas belonged to Chaturtha Kula (the fourth caste).

The struggle between the Velanati Cholas and the Kalyani Chalukyas for capturing the throne of Vengi is significant during this period. Since Vengi was the important place for the Chalukya-Cholas, the overlords of the Velanati Cholas, they fought for preserving Vengi for the interest of their overlords. The Velanati Chola kings with their constant struggle with the Kalyani Chalukyas for Vengi, regained it ultimately (SII. vol. IV, no. 1182). They became independent during the reign of Rajendra Chola II. They also had control over their co-feudatories like the Haihayas of Palnadu, Kona, and the Chalukyas of Pithapuram and Kolanu. (SII. vol. IV, Nos. 1066, 1113 & 1137). During the reign of Rajendra Chola the Velanati Chola kingdom was annexed into the Kakatiya Empire in ca. 1257 AD (Sastry, 1990). They owed matrimonial alliances with other co-feudatories, i.e. the Kondapadumatis and Haihayas of Palnadu, who also claim their descent from Durjaya.

The Kondapadumatis (ca. 1100 AD-1282 AD)

The Kondapadumatis held sway in the region to the west of Kondavidu. They had their capital at Nadendla. They are the subordinates of the Chalukyas of Vengi and later on owed allegiance to the Chalukya-Cholas and maintained friendly relations with the Velanati Cholas. Their records, excepting the Chebrolu one (which give the early history of the dynasty), indicate that Buddhavarman is the ancestor of the dynasty. He is mentioned that he served Mukkanti Kaduvetti, the Pallava King and obtained the region of Omgerumargatraya as a reward. Later on Buddhavarman played an active role in the political affairs and assisted Kubjavishnu in conquering the local giri (hill), vana (forest) and jala (water) forts. Along with the other important petty chiefs Kubjavishnu made Buddhavarman also as his subordinate. Kondapadumati inscriptions refer to Buddhavarman as he served Kubjavishnu like Hanuman to Srirama.

Buddhavarman obtained 73 villages at the western direction of the hills of Kondavidu as a reward. While Kubjavishnu founded the kingdom of Vengi, Buddhavarman also founded the dynasty of Kondapadumati and became the ancestor of Kondapadumatis (SII. vol. IV, nos. 662, 690 & 692). Chebrolu inscription refers to them as the Chaturtha Kulas (SII. vol. VI, nos. 103 & 246 of 1897).

After Buddhavarman, Manda I Ganda, Manda II Buddharaju, Chodaraju, Manumanda III Malliraju, Manda IV. Buddha IV and Panda ruled this dynasty. The kingdom was lost to the Kotas of Dhanyakataka; ultimately they were made as subordinates to the Kakatiyas of Warangal.

The Chagis (ca. 1100 AD-1477 AD)

The Chagis or Tyagis ruled the Natavadi and Vijayavati Vishaya with their capitals at Gudimetta, Vijayawada and Vinukonda for nearly three centuries and a half. They owed allegiance to the Chalukya-Cholas, the Kakatiyas and the Gajapatis respectively. Their family name was Vipparla. They had alliances of marriage with the Kakatiyas and the Kondapadumatis. The Chagi records trace their ancestry to Durjaya and Durjaya Kula (SII vol. VI, no. 218). Muppa I is the earliest known person in the Chagi family. Dora I, Pota-I, Dora II, Pota II, Ganapaya, Dora III, Manuma Pota and Manuma Ganapaya ruled this dynasty.

The relation between the Chagis of Vinukonda and Gudimettla is not known. But the Chagis of Vinukonda bore the suffix 'Nayaka' or 'Nayudu' in their personal names.

Annama Nayaka, Gannama Nayaka and Komma Nayaka are the important chiefs mentioned in the records of the Chagis of Vinukonda. It shows that this branch of the Chagis might have been the army officers or they held some superior position as heads of certain principalities.

The Kotas (ca. 1100 AD-1270 AD)

The Kotas were the political successors of the Kondapadumatis and ruled over Velanadu 6000, on the southern bank of the river Krishna, for over a century and a half from the beginning of the 12th to the last quarter of the 13th century AD, with different capitals at Dhanyakataka, Tadikonda, Yanamadala and Draksharamam. The main branch of the Kotas ruled with its capital at Dharanikota (Yasodadevi, 1993).

The Kotas owed allegiance to the Chalukya-Cholas in the beginning, and the Kakatiyas towards the end. They sought alliances of marriage with the Kakatiyas, The Chagis, the Velanati Chodas and the Haihayas of Palnadu. Beta I, Gunda, Bhima I, Betaraju, Keta I, Bhima II, Kota II, Bhima III, Keta III, Bhima IV and Ganapati ruled the branch of Dharanikota.

The capital for the second branch of the Kotas was Yanamadala. Betaraju was an important king in this line, and Kakatiya Ganapatideva gave his daughter Ganapamba to Betaraju of Yanamadala. After the death of Betaraju, Ganapamba ruled this branch. The rule of a woman feudatory is the significant feature of this Kota family. Ganapamba, as a Kota chief, owed allegiance to her sister, Rudramadevi. IPURU inscription mention her as Mahamandaleswara Kota Ganapambayama Garu (ARE, 535 of 1913). It shows that the woman feudatory Ganapamba governed her principality just like any other male person without any difficulty and also being legitimized.

Manuma Pota was the first known person of the Tadikonda branch. After his death, his wife Padam bika succeeded the throne. The first known king of the Kotas of Draksharamam is Bhimaraju.

The relationship between the Kotas of Dharanikota, Yanamadala, Tadikonda and Draksharamam is not known. But all these rulers seem to be of Shudra origin. Because they claim the ancestry of Dhanunjaya, who was the subordinate of Pallava king Trilochana Pallava (Yasodadevi, 1993). The rulers of Kota families appear among the feudatories of the Pusapatris in the 17th century AD. But their names are not known.

The Chalukyas of Pithapuram (ca. 925 AD 1226 AD)

The Chalukyas in Andhra claimed that they to belong to Manavya gotra and descent from Harita. They also claim themselves as Chandra Vamsa Kshatriyas (Yasodadevi, 1993). They owed allegiance to the Chalukyas of Vengi, the Chalukya-Cholas, the Kalyani Chalukyas, and the Gangas of Kalinga and acquired significant political successes. The Chalukyas of Pithapuram ruled the country from Pithapuram to Simhachalam with their capital at Pithapuram for nearly three centuries from ca. 925 to 1226 AD. They maintained political relations with the Gangas, Cholas and the Haihayas, besides the minor kingdoms in Vengi and other Chalukyas in Vengi and Kalyani.

Beta Vijayaditya V was the originator of the Chalukyas of Pithapuram. After him Satyashraya, Vijayaditya II, Vishnu Vardhana, Mallappa II, Vijayaditya III, Mallappa III, etc. ruled this dynasty. Among them Vishnuvardhana was a

strong ruler and was referred to as an ornament of the lunar race of the Chalukya family (EA. vol. XX, no 268). There is no information about the allegiances between the Pithapuram Chalukyas and the Kakatiyas; probably, after the rule of Vijayaditya, Pithapuram Chalukya territories came under the Kakatiya rule.

The Haihayas (ca. 1100-1700 A D)

The Haihayas held sway during the 1100 to 1400 AD with different names in different parts of Andhra. They are Kona Haihayas, Haihayas of Palnadu, Panchadarla Haihayas and Gona Haihayas of Vardhamanapuram. We do not know the relation between these branches of Haihayas. But all these families commonly claimed descent from a mythical person, Kartaviryarjuna whose capital was Mahishmati.

The Haihayas of Kona mandala (ca. 1073 AD-1364 AD) held sway in the Godavari deltaic area for over three centuries. Kirtiraja was the earliest known person of this dynasty (SII. vol. IV, no. 1011) who owed allegiance to the Cholas. He served the Chalukya-Chola king Kulottunga I and acquired a small principality as a reward around Rakuduru, in the present Godavari district. Probably Rakuduru was his capital (SII. vol. IV, nos. 780&1286). Inscriptions show that during the period of Bhima Vallabha and Rananadha, Kakatiya sway extended into the Godavari districts. Prataparudra was the reigning king. Probably, Bhima and Rananadha acknowledged the Kakatiya suzerainty (Yasodadevi, 1993). When the Kakatiya power ended, Kona Haihayas owed allegiance to the Reddi kings.

The Haihayas of the Palnadu branch ruled during the 12th century with their capital at Gurajala. They accepted the authority of the Cholas and their representatives, the Velanati Cholas, except when they were forced to accept the Chalukyan supremacy. The earliest historical person of the Palnadu Haihayas was Chagi Beta. The historically significant incident of Palnadu war between the brothers of Palnadu Haihayas occurred during this period. The civil war in Palnadu resulted in the immediate destruction of the region. The Haihaya kingdom ended but the heroes of the war are immortalized in the minds of the masses. This war hastened the fall of the Velanadu kingdom and other minor powers in Vengi, and brought in its tract the invasion of Rudradeva of the Kakatiyas (Yasodadevi, 1993).

The Haihayas of Panchadarla (ca. 1200-1403AD) ruled the regions of Simhachalam and Panchadarla in the south Kalinga during the 12th and 14th centuries AD. Choda I, Upendra, Choda II and Bhima are the important kings that ruled this dynasty (Lakshmi Kantham, 1989) ^[6].

Gona Haihayas (ca. 1190-1294 AD) ruled over the tracts around Raichur (which were later a part of the Nizam's dominions) with the capital of Vardhamanapuram. Their names ended with Reddy or Nayani. They owed allegiances to the Kakatiyas and had marriage alliances with the Malyalas, the other feudatories of the Kakatiyas. The earliest historical person of the family was Gona Kota Bhupati. Their genealogy was given in Ranganadha Ramayanam. Gona Ganna Reddy and Gandaya are the important rulers of this line (Parabrahma Sastry, 1978).

The Kakatiyas and Their Feudatories (ca. 1000-1323AD)

The Kakatiyas, one of the major dynasties that ruled Andhra desa during the medieval period started their career as the Samantha Dandanayakas of the Rastrakutas and the Western Chalukyas of Kalyani. The early Kakatiya rulers, i.e. Beta I,

Prola I, Beta II and Prola II accepted the supremacy of the Western Chalukyas. Until the rule of Prola II, the Kakatiyas were also considered as one of the feudatories of the Western Chalukyas. But they are more powerful than the remaining chiefs. When the influence of the Western Chalukyas decreased, the Kakatiyas declared independence and started their own independent sway (Parabrahma Sastry, 1978).

When the Kakatiyas proclaimed sovereignty from their Western Chalukyan overlords, all the remaining feudatories of the Chalukyas turned to the subordinates of the Kakatiyas. After achieving independence Ganapatideva invaded and annexed the territories of the Velanati Cholas and all the feudatories of the Chalukya-Cholas and Velanati Cholas including the Kona Haihayas, Kondapadumatis of Nadendla, the Kotas, the Chagis, the Telugu Chodas of Nellore and the Natavadis. They became allies or relatives to the Kakatiyas. Ganapatideva's sovereignty over the chiefs, who were almost enjoying a sort of independence, was mere nominal. He allowed all the chiefs to remain as they were in the Chalukya-Chola and Western Chalukyan periods. The subordinate chiefs of the Kakatiyas were allowed to have their freedom in all aspects except military affairs (Parabrahma Sastry, 1978).

As the Kakatiyas preferred decentralized type of administration with limited central enforcement, they appointed their officers throughout their kingdom. Besides the feudatories, who were continuing from the Chalukya-Cholas, the Velanati Cholas, the Chalukya family, Viriyalas, Recherlas, Malyalas, Kayastha, Padmanayakas, Chalukyas of Nidadavolu, the Telugu Cholas of Kandukuru, the Saronadhas, Polavasa chiefs, Yadavas, the Reddies of Koppula family and the Parichedis are the other feudatories of the Kakatiyas.

The Cheruku Family (ca. 1158-1324 AD)

The Cheruku family ruled parts of the Nalgonda, Mahabubnagar and Kurnool from ca. 1202 to 1321 AD with different branches at Jammalur, Amrabad and Veluru (Sastry, 1990). Though the Cheruku family belongs to the chaturtha kula, they claimed descent from Brahma and Vishnu. Kata is the founder of the Jammalur branch of Cherukus. The early chiefs of this line started their career as the army chiefs under the early Kakatiyas. But they rose to the position of Mahasamantas later (Rama Rao, 1991). Kata, the founder of the Cheruku dynasty is said to be a brave person. He participated in the victorious struggles of the Kakatiyas and won the favor of the Kakatiya kings. He is also referred to as the killer of the tiger and captured the region of Eruva Mandala. Beta of Kakatiya dynasty recognized the valour of Kata and honored him with the gift of 12 villages. Kata's son Keta was also an eminent warrior and he won the favor of Rudra of the Kakatiya dynasty. Likewise, Kata's son Bollaya Reddy is also a talented person in Cheruku family. Bollaya Reddy and brother's i.e. Kata, Mara and Erra served the Kakatiyas as army chiefs and participated in many wars in the side of their overlords and brought victories. In Cheruku family, Bollya Reddy is mentioned as the most powerful chief and he was appointed as the Mahasamund Adhipathi by the Kakatiya king Rudradeva. Later on the successors of Bollaya Reddy were also appointed as the army chiefs and Mahasamantas by the Kakatiya kings. They extended the principality of Jammaluru by obtaining the regions of

Amrabad and Valuru. They successfully ruled this principality over a period of 166 years i.e. from ca. 1158 to 1324 AD (Sastry, 1990).

The Natavadis (ca. 1104-1269 AD)

The Natavadis ruled over Natavadi vishaya for a century and half with the capital of Madapalli. Inscriptions indicate that they belong to the fourth caste and they did not claim the status of the the Kshatriyas (Inscriptions of Warangal District. no. 27). Beta is the earliest chief of the family. Natavadis served as the feudatories of the Western Chalukyas. Beta's father was the feudatory of the Western Chalukyas. As the Western Chalukyan power ended, Beta, the founder of the dynasty turned to the Kakatiyas subordination and continued as an important feudatory of the Kakatiyas. His successors Durga, Budha, Rudra I and II also worked as the feudatories of the Kakatiyas and have maintained friendly relations with the other contemporary little kings such as the Chagis, Kotas, Kondapadumatis, Kandravadis and Velanati Cholas (Rama Rao, 1991).

The Viriyala Family (ca. 1124-1273 AD)

Poranti Vema was the earliest known person of the Viriyala family. There are many popular military chiefs in this family (APGES no. 3, 87-88). They claim themselves as the descendants of Durjaya. They had alliances of marriage with the Kakatiyas and the Malyalas. They were under the over lordship of the Rastrakutas, Western Chalukyas and the Kakatiyas. The early members of the family such as Poranti Venna, Erra and Bhima served the Rastrakutas as army officers. As the power of the Rastrakutas ended and Western Chalukyas emerged, the members of the Viriyala family also turned to the Western Chalukyas during the period of Erra. Later they changed their allegiance to the Kakatiya rulers (Inscriptions of A.P. Warangal District. no. 27).

The Malyala Family (ca. 1200-1277 AD)

Malyala chiefs held their capital at Sumkisa. Like the Viriyalas and the Kakatiyas. The Malyala chiefs also claim their descent from Durjaya. They owed allegiance to the Kakatiyas and served the Kakatiya kings as Senanis, Dandanayakas and Amatyas. Danna Senani was the earliest person of this family. As an army chief, Danna became prominent during the reign of the Kakatiya king Beta II, and continued as the Samantha Dandanadha and the Mantri till the rule of Prola II. Since the Kakatiyas were also in the subordination of the Western Chalukyas, along with Prola II, Danna also participated in the conquests of Polavasas (APGES no. 3, 87-88). Though the Malyala chiefs started their career as army chiefs under the Kakatiyas, later they roused as the Amatyas during the reign of Rudramadevi.

The Nidadavolu Chalukyas (ca. 1200-1400 AD)

The Chalukyas of Nidadavolu held their sway over a portion of the West Godavari district. They claimed to belong to Somavamsa, Manavyasa gotra and to the Harita lineage. They claimed themselves as Chandravamsa Kshatriyas. The Chalukyas of Nidadavolu acknowledged the supremacy of the Kaktiyas and contracted alliances of marriage with them. Probably to strengthen their position, they contracted alliances by marriage with the Haihayas of Kona mandala and the Kakatiyas of Warangal (Suryanarayana, 1986). Vengiswara was the first known person of this family. After him Malla, Gonka I, Ayyaladeva I, Mahadeva, Gonka II,

Virabhadra, Indasekhara and Prataparudra ruled this dynasty. Virabhadra of this line is the husband of Kakatiya Rudramadevi (Yasodadevi, 1993).

The Saronadhas (Kolanus) (ca. 1220-1320AD)

The Saronadhas or Kolanus ruled over Kolanu-Vishaya with the capital at Sarasipura, the modern Eluru in West Godavari, district for three centuries. They owed allegiance to the Vengi Chalukyas, the Chalukya-Cholas, the Chalukyas of Kalyani and the Kakatiyas at different times. The earliest known person of this family was Bhima. He and his children were killed during the rebellion of the subordinate rulers of Cholas and their overlords (Yasodadevi, 1993).

The Induluri family, the second Kolanu family is an important feudatory power of the Kakatiyas, had marital alliances with their overlords, the Kakatiyas. Induluri Annaiah, the eminent chief of this family, married Ruyamma, a daughter of Rudramadevi. Induluri chiefs are believed to be the Brahmans of the Koundinyasa gotra of the Aradhya sect (Rama Rao, 1991).

The Kayasthas (ca. 1220-1320AD)

Among all the feudatories of the Kakatiyas, the Kayasthas were the most powerful. It is believed that these chiefs originally belonged to a class of warriors of western India. Ganapatideva appointed them at Panugallu as governors. Gangaya Sahani was the earliest member who becomes popular in the service of Ganapatideva. His nephews Jannigadeva, Tripurantaka and Ambadeva were also prominent among the Kayasthas. Their inscriptions indicate that the Kayasthas ruled from Panugallu to Marjawada, in the present Caddapah district (Sastri, 1984. no. 43, 96).

Among the Kayasthas, Ambadeva was a powerful chief. Though the Kayasthas accepted the supremacy of the Kakatiyas in the beginning, they became more independent during the reign of Ambadeva. He revolted against Rudramadevi and proclaimed independence in 1290 AD (Parabrahma Sastri, 1978). By virtue of their valour. The Kayasthas rose to the position of independent rulers, though their chiefs started their career as army commanders. Ganapatideva elevated Gangaya Sahani to the position of Mahamandaleswara and honored him with several titles. Durgi inscription dated ca. 1251 AD refers to his title Chalamartiganda and it further attributes him to be the chief of 17 Niyogas (SII. vol. X, no. 334). Inscriptions of Pushpagiri in Cuddapah district refer to Gangaya as Ganda Penderaka Namadeya Kayastha Vamsothama Karanadhavaha Sri Ganda Senapativasya (Inscriptions of Cuddapah District: 137). All these titles of various Kayastha chiefs indicate that they obtained the position of independent rulers in those days. Gangaya Sahani's epithets Chaturvarna Samudharana and Ambadeva's Suryavamsaraya Nirmulana show that they were originally of to the fourth caste and claimed the Kshatriyahood later (Sastri, 1984).

The Kanduru Cholas (ca. 1080-1260AD)

The Cholas in Telugu country are known of from early times. In the second half of the 10th and first half of the 11th centuries AD, the dynasties of Telugu Cholas appear all over Andhra ruling in its different parts for various periods throughout the medieval times till the middle of the 16th century AD. Kanduru Cholas are one of the branches of the

Telugu Cholas. They ruled parts of the Mahabubnagar, Nalgonda and Khammam in the Telangana region. Since they belong to the region of Eravimangalam, which consists of areas in the southern part of the river Krishna such as Atmakur, Markapuram and Dornala and the northern part of Mahabubnagar, Nallagonda and Khammam, they are called as Eruva Chodas. They acknowledged the suzerainty of the Kalyani Chalukyas and the Kakatiyas. They ruled Eruvanadu with different capitals at Kolanupaka, Panugallu, Kanduru and Varthamanapuram from ca. 1040 AD to 1290 AD

(Sastri, 1990). Eruva Bhima Choda I was the earliest chief of this family. During the reign of Eruvabhima Choda II these chiefs rose to the position of Mahamandaleswaras from Mandalikas (APAR. 3/1966). Eruva Bhima Choda II participated in the wars in favor of the Western Chalukyan king Vikramaditya VI and won victories. Vikramaditya gave him Kandurunadu as a reward for his services. After obtaining Kandurunadu by Eruva Bhima Choda II, the Eruva Cholas began to call themselves as the Eruva Cholas in their records. Though both the Kanduru Cholas and the Kakatiyas established their powers contemporarily, Kanduru's power increased since the period of Kakatiyas. But they were ultimately defeated by the Kakatiyas under Rudradeva I and made as the subordinates of the Kakatiyas. Kanduru Cholas like the other feudatories of the period, also claimed themselves as Suryavamsa Kshatriyas and that they belong to the Kasyapa gotra. They also claimed that they are the descendents of Karikala Chola (APGAS).

Other Telugu Cholas (ca. 1050-1350AD)

Besides the Telugu Cholas of Kanduru, there were other chieftains who also belong to the Telugu Cholas. The most well-known of them were Konidena Cholas (ca. 1050-1300AD), Pottapi Cholas (ca. 1224-1350AD), Nellore Cholas (ca. 1100-1350AD) and the Telugu Cholas of Hemavathi. They acknowledged the sovereignty of the imperial Cholas, the Kakatiyas, the Western Chalukyas and the Kalachuris. They were powerful feudatories of this period. They won some military achievements. Towards the close of the 13th century AD and the beginning of the 14th century, the Telugu Cholas lost their power to the Kakatiyas and the Kayasthas (Yasodadevi, 1993). Though all these chiefs belong to the fourth caste, they claimed the Kshatriyahood in their records.

The Polavasa Chiefs (ca. 1024-1161AD)

The Polavasas were also called as Vengondas. These chiefs ruled Ugravadi, Polavasa and Mantrakuta with the capital at Polavasa in Jagityal taluk, Karimnagar district, for a century, from ca. 1075-1161 AD. Madhava Varma was referred to as the earliest member of this family. Polavas also claimed their descent from Durjaya of the Kshatriya origin. But inscriptions of Bavajipet issued by Beta II, say that the Polavasas belonged to Vengonda community (Inscriptions of A.P. Warangal District. no. 14). But we do not have the caste by name 'Vengonda' at present. Polavasa chiefs initially owed alligiance to the Rastrakutas, the Kalyani Chalukyas and later turned to the early Kakatiyas by force. Though the early chiefs of this family were loyal to the Chalukyas they revolted against their overlords during the period of Medaraju II and his brother Ganda and declared independence (Parabrahma Sastri, 1978). But this revolt was suppressed by the Kakatiya chiefs, who were also

the subordinates of Kalyani Chalukyas. With the assassination of Polavasa chief Gunda by Prola II, both the Kakatiyas and the Polavasas became rivals. This rivalry between these two powers perpetuated until the fall of the Polavasa principality into the hands of the Kakatiyas (Parabrahma Sastry, 1978).

The Recherla Reddi Chiefs (ca. 1050-1262 AD)

The Recherla chiefs were the most important feudatories of the Kakatiyas who served as the Dandanayakas and Samantha Mandalikas in the reign of the Kakatiya kings Beta I, Prola I, Beta II, Prola II, Rudradeva, Mahadeva, Ganapatideva and Rudramadevi. They ruled parts of the Amanagallu, Pillalamarri, Miryalaguda, Nagulapadu and Somavaram in the present Nalgonda district; Elakurti, Mulugu, Narsampet and Machapur in the Warangal district; and Huzurabad taluk in the Karimnagar district. Recherla chiefs had their capital at Amanagallu in the beginning. They divided the principality into two branches for the purpose of distribution of power among the brothers. These two brothers held their capitals at Elakurti and Pillalamarri (Sastry, 1990).

The early chiefs of this family, Danna Senani, Muchcha Senani, Kata Senani and Kata Chamupati served the Kakatiyas as Senapatis and Dandanayakas during the reign of the Kakatiya king Prola-II and elevated their position gradually. Recherla Rudra Reddy was the most important chief in this family. His services to the Kakatiyas were remarkable (APGES. no. IV, 73).

Reddies of the Koppula Family (ca. 1250-1310AD)

Koppula Reddy family ruled some areas in the districts of East Godavari and Visakhapatnam with the capital at Pithapuram. This family of Reddies owed their allegiance to the Kakatiyas. But when the Kakatiyas were losing their strength, the chiefs took advantage of the prevailing conditions and proclaimed independence. Koppuma Reddy, Pagamechchuganda, Kataya, Prolaya, Namaya and Prolaya Nayaka were the important kings in this line. In the year 1310 AD Prolaya of this family was defeated by Kataya Vema Reddy of the Reddi dynasty. Ultimately this family accepted the supremacy of the Reddi kings of Kondavidu (Sastry, 1990).

The Yadavas (ca. 1150-1270AD)

The Yadavas were one of the important feudatories of the Kakatiyas, who ruled over different branches of Addanki, Panugallu and Alavulapadu. The Yadavas of Addanki ruled between ca. 1150-1270 AD as the feudatories of the Kakatiyas. Sarangadhara I is the earliest person in this dynasty. After Sarangadhara I, Madhava Deva I, Singala Deva, Sarangadhara II, Singadeva, Madhava Deva II and Vijaya Deva ruled this branch of the Yadavas. Among the chiefs of Addanki Yadavas, Sarangadhara II was the most powerful. The inscriptions found at Nagulappalpadu, Sarangapuram, Koppolu and Endluru prove his efficiency as a feudatory of the Kakatiya king Ganapati Deva (NDI vol. I).

The Yadavas of Panugallu branch (ca. 13th century AD) belong to the Sevana dynasty and Sarangapani Deva was the important chief in this line. Tikkana's Nirvachanottara Ramayanam refers to them as migrants from Maharashtra (Tikkana. 1961). They ruled as the feudatories of

Prataparudra of Kakatiya dynasty in the areas surrounded by Panugallu and Suryapet. Sarangapani Deva was the prominent among the chiefs of this branch. He is said to belong to the family of Devagiri Yadavas.

The Yadavas of Alavulapadu served as the feudatories of the Cholas of Nellore and Valluraju was said to be the earliest person in this line. Since Manumasiddi, the king of Nellore asked Valluraju to pay tax on grazing; he denied Manumasiddi's order and fought against him. Valluraju's sons Prolaraju and Peddiraju also participated in the war against Manumasiddi. They claimed themselves as the descendants of Lord Krishna (Sastry, B. N. 1990).

The Yadavas of Erragaddapadu ruled as the feudatories of the Chodas of Nellore. Katamaraju was the important chief in this line. As Katamaraju rejected to pay the tax of pullari (tax on the pasture lands) the war occurred between Khadga Tikkana, the brother of Nellore Choda king Manumasiddi and Katamaraju. It is said that both Valluraju of Alavulapadu branch and Katamaraju combinedly fought against Manumasiddi and won the victory. The famous folktale of Katamarajukatha is a master pie of this historical event (Sastry, 1990).

Other feudatories of the Kakatiyas (ca. 1000-1323AD)

During the last days of the Kakatiyas the Velamas of Recherla and the Reddies of Kondavidu were loyal to the last rulers of this dynasty. Details about these two chiefs were discussed in the next chapter. Beside these two important feudatories of the Kakatiyas there were other minor chieftains in this period. They are the Nagas of Darsi branch who ruled over the areas of Nellore Mandala during 13th and 14th centuries AD. Since they held their capital at Darsi, which is situated in the present Prakasam district, they are called as Nagas of Darsi. Among the rulers of Darsi Annadeva are the most prominent and a great warrior. They owed allegiance to the Velanati Cholas, Telugu Cholas and the Kakatiyas in different stages. The inscription at Darsi (NDI. vol. I, no. 13) refer to them as the Kshatriyas of Chandravamsa and belonged to Harita gotra. They also claimed themselves as the Lords of the (mythical regions) of Ayodhya and Bhogavathipura. They had the ferocious snake as their symbol (Yasodadevi, 1993).

Summary

In the light of the above discussion regarding the chiefs and chieftains during the period of our study in Andhra, one can say that the state formation in medieval Andhra is quite relevant to the model of 'segmentary state' proposed by Burton Stien (1980). In this 'state', the centre of authority is absolute but shades towards the periphery into mere ritual hegemony. In a 'segmentary state' the power structure is pyramidal but the latter is reduced to the image of the king (Burton Stien, 1980).

All the major dynasties of the medieval period, i.e. the Cholas, the Chalukya-Cholas and the Kakatiyas followed the policy of decentralization in which the feudatory chiefs played a very prominent role, but the central authority is practically absolute, and the Samanthas attained the ritual hegemony through holding some epithets and newly created genealogies by the Brahman priests. Though both the king and the Samantha seem to have enjoyed real political power, the Samanthas were restricted not to use some terms which indicate one's over lordship in their administrative affairs.

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