

moment there is no further evidence for either of the two possibilities.

Note Grenet: All such Roman synchronisms in this source clearly belong to a late stage of the redaction and are off the mark. What should be followed is only the synchronism between Ardashir and ‘Vehsacan’, which creates no impediment to the latter’s identification with Vasudeva.

Reply ed.: As Vāsudeva’s reign ends around AD 227 he may have faced difficulties with Ardashir I, which would explain his mission to China, in search of help. Vaskuṣāṇa’s date of AD ±249 according to the Sanchi inscription, however, goes well with Philip the Arab. Details are mixed up, but the story as such should be kept in mind.

The time of Vasiṣka

120 – Years AD ±251-±257: Dates for Vasiṣka in inscriptions: 24 to 30

as *mahārāja rājātirāja devaputra sāhi vāsiṣka*: years 24, 28 (SS #59, 62)

as *maharaja rajatiraja mahata tratara jayata detriata(?) svayabala maharajasa śpala-sakarita dhramathita devaputra vazeṣka guṣaṇa devamanuṣasamp(u)[j]ita*: year 30 (CKI 230)

Note ed.: The second case from Kamra (CKI 230) is so far the longest list of titles and epithets used by any of the Kushans. It means, “the *mahārāja*, the king over kings, the Great, the saviour, the victorious, *detriata*, he who has strength through himself, who is honoured by the army of the *mahārāja*, who is steadfast in the law, the son of the gods, Vaziṣka the Kuṣāṇa, honoured by gods and humans (...)”. What looks like *detriata* remains enigmatic; **svayambala*, “he who has strength through himself”, has a verbal parallel in a list of royal epitheta at Endere, in southern Xinjiang (Salomon 1999: 5) and can be compared to Kaniṣka being *χοαζαοαργο* at Rabatak. To avoid two different *mahārājas* I see a phrase *mahārājasya *śpalasatkārīta*, “honored by the Mahārāja’s army”. [Thanks to Stefan Baums for pointing out the parallels to *devamanuṣasampujita*].

The time of Kaniṣka III

121 – Years AD ±257-±268: Dates for Kaniṣka III in inscriptions: 30 to 41

as (?)*[ja t]i [kaniṣka]*: year 30 as above in § 121. This reference is obscure and would provide only a living date, while his father Vasiṣka was ruling.

as *maharaja rajatiraja devaputra kaisara vajheṣkaputra kaniṣka*: year 41 (CKI 158)

as *muroḍa marzaka kaniṣka*: year 11 (CKI 148)

Note ed.: The last case with 11 regnal years is fully covered by the dynastic dates; cf. § 118. A unique **mahākaniṣka* is found on a seal (Sims-Williams & Tucker 2005) and may refer to this king.