

Chauhan Rajputs of Badaun (A Chapter from the book **Badaun ke Ran Banukure Rajput**)

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Abstract

*The text provides a comprehensive historical account of the Chauhan community, emphasizing their valor and legacy. It begins by highlighting the pride associated with the Chauhans due to the last Hindu emperor of Delhi, Prithviraj Chauhan, and the immortalization of his deeds in the epic poem *Prithviraj Raso*. The Chauhans, considered part of the Agni clan, are linked to an ancient yajna performed by Brahmins to protect Vedic religion and create a warrior class. The narrative contrasts the Chauhans' resistance against various foreign invaders, including Greeks, Shakas, Kushans, and Huns, with their eventual decline due to Muhammad Gauri's invasion. Despite their significant contributions, such as establishing kingdoms and fostering scholarship, the Chauhans faced challenges and changes, including infighting and invasions. The text also mentions the Chauhans' decline into infanticide practices and their later attempts to regain prominence. Significant branches of the Chauhans settled in various regions, contributing to local history and culture. The account illustrates the Chauhans' enduring legacy and their impact on regional history and cultural practices.*

Keywords: Chauhan Rajputs, Budaun, Maharishi Vashisht, Pratihara, Gupta Empire.

The people of this place have been giving a special pride to the Chauhan community because of the last Hindu emperor of Delhi, Prithviraj Chauhan. The poem Prithviraj Raso also immortalized Prithviraj Chauhan, the emperor. Chauhans are considered to be of the Agni clan. The origin story of the brave communities that Maharishi Vashisht had organized to protect the country is told in symbols. Here, Maharishi Vashisht is the symbol of a learned Brahmin, and Agni is the symbol of the bravery needed at that time. The idea of the story is that many Brahmins who used to perform yajnas etc., on Mount Abu were killed by the non-Aryan communities. These yajna performers once performed a special yajna to protect yajna and religion. Panwar, Chauhan, Solanki and Pratihara are believed to be born from this yajna.

Though the Greeks, Shakas and Kushans came to this country in large numbers and ruled and left their mark on culture and civilization, when their kingdoms ended, they did not leave this country. However, they adopted the religion of this place and settled there. All these castes

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were warlike; they had no difficulty living away from the defeated place by forming their small kingdoms.

The Hun caste that destroyed the Gupta Empire in the sixth century differed from the castes that had come till then. This caste destroyed the art and civilization of India. Wherever their groups passed, there was a deathly silence. The Huns spread over northern India like a swarm of locusts. The whole country was terrified by their atrocities. Later, they were initiated into the Hindu religion, but the Rajputs did not accept them in their class.

To protect the country from such foreigners, those castes were searched who had once ruled. They were called Rajputras or Rajputs. According to Chand Kavi, a Chakravarti emperor, Ram Parmar found thirty-six families of Rajputs and distributed the whole country's land among them. The secret of the story of Agni Kund is that the Kshatriya class of the country, which had become non-violent after being converted to Jainism and Buddhism, was again converted to Vedic religion and prepared for the battlefield.

There is a temple of Shakambhari Devi near Sambhar Lake to the north of Ajmer. The Chauhan kingdom appears to have been established here in the eighth century. One of their branches had also established Chauhan kingdoms in Ranthambore, Nadol and Dholpur. The name of Vighraha Raj I is essential as the initial ruler of Shakambhari. He established an independent kingdom of Chauhans. His grandson Ajayraj established Ajmer.

Coins made of mixed metal have also been found, and the name of his queen, Somal Devi, is inscribed. Bisaldev Chauhan was a very glorious ruler of this family. The Tomar dynasty ruled Delhi under the patronage of Gaharwar kings. Bisaldev undertook victory tours far and wide. His horses trampled the entire Punjab under their feet. His kingdom extended from the Shivalik hills in the north to Gujarat. Apart from being brave and courageous, he was also a scholar and he gave shelter and honour to many scholars in his court. He also built a Sanskrit school in Ajmer, from the rubble of which a mosque named "Dhai Din Ka Jhonpra" was built. Some parts of a Sanskrit play "Hari Keli Natak" written by Bisaldev, were found on its pillars. "Lalita Vighraha Raj Natak" written by Somdev has also been found engraved on some pillars. This Somdev was also in the court of this Chauhan emperor. The most famous and popular emperor among the Chauhans was Prithvi Raj. His character described in Chandvadardai's "Prithviraj Raso" is mostly incorrect and baseless. His being Anang Pal Tomar's maternal grandfather and Jaichand's cousin is just a poet's imagination. Jaichand's Rajsuya Yagna and the swayamvar of the girl Sanyogiya etc. are all baseless imaginations. None of the wars that the poet has made

Prithviraj fight for kidnapping the girl is true. The only truth that can be extracted from the Raso is that the Chaudans had an old enmity with the Rathores. It is a historical truth that Prithviraj attacked the Chandelas. A large number of Badgujars were called from Rajasthan for this war. After this war, Badgujar leader Raja Pratap Singh started living in Pahasu of Bulandshahr district. His children established three centres of Badgujars in Bilari tehsil. When these great kingdoms of India were wasting their power in mutual hatred and ego-fulfilment, Muhammad Gauri was looking for an opportunity to take advantage of this situation of the country. He first attacked the Chauhans. Gauri was defeated in this war and fled. The very next year, he suddenly came to capture the Chauhan kingdom with a large army of mountain robbers. Maharaj Prithvi Gaj was defeated and made a prisoner—the sun of Indian bravery set. Gauri placed Maharaj Prithviraj's son, Govind Raj, on the throne of Ajmer. He ruled as his vassal. Hariraj, a brother of Prithvi Raj, went towards Chambal, establishing a new Chauhans dynasty in Ranthambore in 1165. Jalore state of Marwar remained with the Chauhans.

In 1301, Alauddin Khilji conquered the Ranthambore fort. This defeat shocked the Chauhans. They crossed the Ganga and established many of their kingdoms. The famous kingdom of Mainpuri was formed in 1363. This kingdom added glory to the Chauhans. The Chauhans of Mainpuri have been well-known for their pride and honour. These Chauhans consider themselves to be from Sambhal. These Chauhans, considered the best among the Rajputs, maintained their pride for a long time. These people had become so conscious of their pride that during the Mughal period, they started killing their daughters as soon as they were born. The midwives were ordered that if a girl was born, they should strangle her without hesitation. For several hundred years, the Chauhan mothers of Mainpuri were deprived of their daughters' love. This practice came to an end when the British came to power. A few years after the country gained independence, this brutal female infanticide got state patronage. By giving open advertisements in newspapers to inform whether the fetus is a boy or a girl, the girls are being killed before they are even born. History is repeating itself.

A branch of Chauhans settled Haldaur town in Bijnor district. Its founder, Halda Singh, was the first to come here. About 600 years ago, a Chauhan Rajput king, Sangram Singh, settled Etah. This family claims to be a descendant of Delhi emperor Prithviraj Chauhan. Chauhan Sangram Singh built a strong fort here. In 1857, this Chauhan family's brave Thakur Damar Singh openly revolted. Damar Singh was defeated in the war, and his title as king and all his property were confiscated. At the same time, this fort was also demolished with cannons.

A vital place named Sakit, about ten miles south of Etah, was also settled by a Chauhan king named Sankat Dev. He also built a fort here. In 1520, the king of this place raised the flag of rebellion during the time of Bahlol Lodi, but he could not face the Lodi armies and had to flee from here. The town named Vila Ram, located four miles west of Kasganj, is also said to have been founded by some Chauhan king.

Shivpuri Chauhan is a famous kingdom in the Bareilly district. During these Chauhans, poets named Brahma Gyanendra, Shuk Yatindra, Brahma Rishi and Kewal Rishi lived in Shivpuri two hundred years ago. Manuscripts of their poems have been found in the town. The Chauhans of Pipri have been influential in the Badaun district. While other Rajput castes of Rohilkhand have forgotten their ancient glory, the Chauhans' arrogance is intact. They have not yet forgotten their being Gaja. Among the Chauhan poets, Balveer Singh "Rang" of Etah was called the emperor of Hindi songs. A branch of Chauhans went to Bhadawar near Agra and took the name of Vami, Bhadoria. In this famous dynasty, two great melodious lyricists, Shiv Bahadur Singh Bhadoria and Lakhan Singh Bhadoria are currently engaged in poetic practice. It will be said to be a matter of surprise that the brave Chauhans did not produce poets of heroic sentiments.

It is said that the Katiha Chauhans of Badaun; after the defeat of Prithviraj Chauhan, seven Chauhans from Jalandhar came to the Usahat state of Badaun district. Here, a Jadoun king from Ujjain ruled and settled Ujhani under the name Ujjaini. The seven brothers who had come to take refuge in this state sat in the court without greeting. The king found this behaviour strange. It was found that the Chauhans did not bow before any other Rajput. For this, the next day, swords were placed on the way to the court so they would be cut if they did not bow their heads. Four Chauhan brothers got their heads cut off, and the remaining three were stopped with great effort. The king settled the three brothers here by giving them jagirs near Usahat and Usawan. The descendants of these heroes are still settled in these areas. They are called Katiha Chauhan. This story of Katiha Chauhan has been obtained from the book "Kshatriya Kul Thamman" by the grace of the famous book lover of Badaun, Shri Raja Ram "Jigyasu".

Original book: Badayun ke Ranbakure Rajput (A rare book on the History of Rajputs of Badaun)

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