

## केसर सिंह गुण रासो

### The *Kesar Singh Guṇ Rāso* (1697 CE) of Haridas Parik

The *Kesar Singh Guṇ Rāso* is an historical encomium, a poem praising the character and deeds of Kesar Singh (d. 1697), the *rao* or ruler of Khandela (a small 'kingdom' in what is now northeastern Rajasthan). Its author, Haridas Upadhyay Parik, was a local noble as well as a servant and friend to Kesar Singh. Haridas devotes the largest part of his text (324 out of 605 total verses) to describing the conflict between Kesar Singh and Abdullah Khan, the *subahdār* of Ajmer. In the final encounter between their armies at Haripura, Kesar Singh loses his life in battle, thus securing his fame and a place in heaven.

Although the primary subject matter of the poem is Kesar Singh, the poet Haridas devotes almost half of the work (272 verses) to describing and praising Kesar Singh's ancestors, beginning with Rao Shekha (d. 1488)– the Kacchwaha Rajput credited with asserting his autonomy from the dominant lineage of Kacchwahas at Amer and establishing his own semi-independent kingdom in the region later named for him, Shekhawat. The following excerpt recounts the life of Raimal, Shekha's son and heir, in the space of 17 verses.

Haridas begins by enumerating the sons of Shekha, noting that although he was the youngest son and his older brothers quite capable, it was Raimal that ascended the throne. He then recounts a conflict between Raimal and 'Hindal' (possibly Humayun's brother) in which Raimal is victorious. Finally, he describes how Raimal, at the request of the Mughal emperor, subdues the Rathore Rajput king of Bikaner, Lunkaran, who was responsible for raiding travelers and disrupting the functioning of the empire. Haridas summarizes the major events of Raimal's reign with great economy, even while managing to include vivid descriptions of the sights and sounds of battle; this short excerpt thus gives us insight into Rajput-Mughal and Rajput-Rajput relations, and into how these relations sometimes played out on the field of battle.

The *Kesar Singh Guṇ Rāso* has been published twice. The first edition (titled *Kesarsimh Samar*) was edited by Jhabarmal Sharma and published in 1932; the second edition (which builds upon Sharma's work) was edited by Gopalnarayan Bahura and Raghunathprasad Tiwari and published in 1998. This excerpt is taken from the second edition, with minor changes intended to correct for hypercorrection by earlier editors (e.g. the editors' modification of the *bindu* to a *candra-bindu*, a feature that would not have appeared in early manuscripts).

**हनूफाल<sup>1</sup>**

ता पुत्र द्वादस वीर लघु पाट थप्पि गहीर ।

दुर्गो जु जेठ सुजान भो रत्न अभो अमान ॥५४॥

द्वादस = बारह, 12. लघु = small. पाट = संज्ञा पुं० [सं० पट्ट, पाट] throne. छोटा पाट = पु. [हिं० छोटा+पाट] a type of silkworm. थप्पि → थप- = स्थापित करना to establish. गहीर = गहरा = गंभीर serious, steadfast. अमान = वि० [सं०] immeasurable. दुर्गा = Raimal's eldest brother. जेठ = वि० [सं०] जेष्ठ eldest. रत्न = Raimal's elder brother. अभो = आभा = Raimal's elder brother.

अचलोजु कुम्भ उदार भारुज रिडमल कंवार ।

रयमाल दुर्जन साल लौ मानियों हिंदाल ॥५५॥

अचल = a son of Shekha. कुम्भ = a son of Shekha. भारमल = a son of Shekha. रिडमल = a son of Shekha. साल = संज्ञा पुं०, स्त्री० [हिं० सलना या सालना] poking, piercing, pain. हिंदाल = The individual to which this refers is not completely clear, but is most likely Abu Nasir Muhammad Hindal (4 March 1519 – 20 November 1551), younger brother of Humayun. However, according to other sources, Raimal did not defeat Hindal; rather, the battle was a draw, and the representative of the rising Mughal power extracted some kind of fine or tribute.

यन अष्टकी औलादि गय चारि कुंवर स बादि ।

तिहि पाट रायांमाल भुव छत्र सत्रा साल ॥५६॥

सत्रा = शत्रु enemy. भुव = भुवन world, earth.

थपि उत्थपै सुलतान बल भीम अर्जुन बान ।

घर गज्जहीं गजराज बहु सूर वीर समाज ॥५७॥

उत्थप = संज्ञा पुं० [हिं०] उठान । उत्थान । rise, raising.

1. A *mātrik* meter containing 14 mātras and ending with a heavy then light syllable, often used in martial poetry; however, many of Haridas's *hanūphal* verses contain only 12 mātras (though they do end with a heavy then light syllable).

अनमी जु अस कुन ओर नहिं नंवत काहू ठोर ।  
यह सुनी साह हिंदाल चढ़ियो सु सजि गज ढाल ॥५८॥

अस = ऐसा in this manner, in any manner.

रण नाद खूब बजाय सर दिये डेरा आय ।  
उपहार मांग्यो आनि सुनि सिंह गरज्यो जानि ॥५९॥

सर = सर अंजाम ? अमरसर ? तेज ?

मनु असतु नाग जगाय बिन चंपि योही खाय ।  
करि रोहियो दस सीस आराधियो जिन ईस ॥६०॥

असतु = असत [स.] sleeping, hidden. रोहियो —> रोह- = रोकना, चढ़ना. to stop, mount, attack.

फाटंत पहु नीसान बजि चढ़ियो सुलतान ।  
गड़ि खंभ खेत बहारि सुलतान राव सुं रारि ॥६१॥

फाटंत —> फाटना = फटना to break, burst. पहु = [प्रभा] प्रकाश, सूर्य sun, light. रारि = [सं० रारि, प्रा० राड़ि (=लड़ाई)] war.

परि आरिबै बहु मार मचि सेन धोरूँधार ।  
बंही सेल असमर धार लगि वीर वर ललकार ॥६२॥

अरब = संज्ञा पुं० [सं० अर्वन्] horse. Also possibly संज्ञा पुं० [अ०] an Arabian horse. धोरूँधार = धारदार  
वि० [हिं० धार + फा० दार] धारवाला । पैना । sharp. सेल = संज्ञा पुं० [सं० शल्य, प्रा० सेल अथवा देश० सेल्ल]  
spear.

जहं जोगनी जु रगत पीवंत भरि भरि पत्त ।  
वहं घाव परत प्रचंड कटि भये सूर विहंड ॥६३॥

रगत (रगत) पु संज्ञा पुं० [सं० रक्त] । blood. पत्त = पात्र पु. [स.] container, bowl (in this case, probably skull). विहंड = विखंड वि. [सं.] destroyed, broken apart, dismembered.

तहं देखि साह हिंदाल जहं हाकि कर रयमाल ।  
गज ढाहि सेल दुबाह अति लोह मानी साह ॥६४॥

हाकि —> हाक- = हंकना पु २ क्रि० स० to spur; to cry out. ढाहि —> ढाहना = क्रि० स० [सं० ध्वंसन] to fell, to knock down.

बहि मुगल घाते धाय गो साह जीव बचाय ।  
करि फते नबति बजाय सह सेन लूटी राय ॥६५॥

धाय —> धारना to take on, receive; धाना ? = to run.

तहं सीस लागि असमान सुभ दिपत कूरम भान ।  
निज भृति खेत उठाय दिय बाजि धर सिर पाय ॥६६॥

कूरम = कूर्म संज्ञा० पुं० [सं०] tortoise; the standard of the Kacchwaha clan of Rajputs. भृति = भृत = संज्ञा पुं० [सं०] [स्त्री० भृता] servant. बाजि = संज्ञा पुं० [सं० वाजिन्] horse.

*छप्पय*

लूनकरन कमधज्ज साह परि सेन पलानी ।  
तब दिल्ली थरहरी साह बहु संका मानी ॥  
जिब लिखि कै फुरमान भीर रयमाल बुलायो ।  
नारनोल लूटिवा सेन राठोर सु धायो ॥  
उतरे जु आय दोऊ नृपति इक कूरम कमधज्ज वर ।  
रन खंभ गाडि मंडे तहां खेत जु ढोसी अडर नर ॥६७॥

लूणकरण Rathore ruler of Bikaner, r. 1504-1526. Also known as Nunkaran. (Tod, *Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan*, 1132.) पलानि —> from पलान संज्ञा पुं० [सं० पल्याण या पल्ययन, मि० फा० पालान] to mount, saddle. कमधज्ज = the standard of the Rathore Rajputs. थरहरी —> थराना = क्रि० अ० [अनु० थरथर] to tremble, shake. संका = आसंका स्त्री. [सं.] fright, anxiety. भीर पु १ संज्ञा स्त्री० [हिं० भीड़] १. दे० 'भीड़' । difficulty, crisis; coward; cowardice. नारनोल = Narnaul, a town currently in Haryana. ढोसी = a hill and locality near Narnaul.

### भुजङ्गप्रयात

चढी सेन दोऊ स बज्जे निसानं उडी रैनु आकास दीसै न भानं ।  
वहै तीर सोकंत कूकंत बानं भटक्कै बंदूक स छुट्टै कमानं ॥६८॥

रैनु = रेणु = संज्ञा स्त्री० [सं०] sand, dust. सोकंत = सुकंठ a pleasant sound. कूकंत = कुकंठ an unpleasant sound. भटक्कै —> भड़कना क्रि० [अनु० भड़क + ना (प्रत्य०)] to flash. छुट्टै —> छूटना to escape, be left.

तजे कायरं पायरं पाव नट्टे खिमै खग ऊनग सूरंस हट्टे ।  
लगी लोह की मार है वार खारी छकी घाव सूं राव सेना निहारी ॥६९॥

पायर = पायड़ा संज्ञा पुं० [हिं० पायँ] stirrup. खिमै = क्षमनीय वि० [सं० क्षम] strong, powerful. ऊनग = ऊना संज्ञा पुं० a type of small sword, sometimes used by women. खारी —> क्षार.

भगे राव मंडोवरां जंग छंडे जहां रायमालं अपारं सु तंडे ।  
परे सात सै साख साखं कमंधं महा सूरिमा कूरमा जैति लंघे ॥७०॥

मंडोवरां = मण्डोर Mandore, the Rathore capital. तंडे = तंड पु २ पुं० संज्ञा पुं० [सं० तण्डा] attack, destruction; dance. कमंधं = कमध्वज Rathores, i.e. Rathore warriors.

### दोहा

बरस अठासी मांस नव दीह सात दुय जाम ।  
घडी च्यारि गय तजहि गो वैकुंठा धाम ॥७१॥

दीह = दिन day. दुय = दो two. जाम = याम संज्ञा पुं० [सं०] a span of three hours.