

JAVA: PAST & PRESENT

A DESCRIPTION OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY IN THE WORLD, ITS ANCIENT HISTORY, PEOPLE, ANTIQUITIES, AND PRODUCTS * * BY
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WITH A MAP AND MANY ILLUSTRATIONS

IN TWO VOLUMES

VOLUME I



LONDON WILLIAM HEINEMANN

THE HINDU PERIOD

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“ These kingdoms were afterwards united under *Panji Suria Ami Sésa* [A.J. 1082 : A.D. 1157], the son of *Ami Luhur*.

“ *Panji Suria* dying, he was succeeded by his son *Panji Laléan*, who removed the seat of government from *Jang'gala* to *Pajajaran*. This took place in A.J. 1200 [A.D. 1275].”

From the foregoing it is seen that, compact, defined, and, comparatively speaking, limited as the territory of Java is, it has never been for any length of time under one sovereign. It is true that one or two of the Hindu princes, more ambitious and possibly more enlightened than the others, have at times, by peaceful means or by arms, subjugated their immediate neighbours, and thus temporarily added them to their dominions, but their authority over the whole island was (except in the cases of Mandang Kámulan and Majapahit) never more than nominal. The life, moreover, of these great States (especially in later days) has always been more or less marked by anarchy and rebellion, murder, poisoning, torture, and treachery everywhere, while the natural tendency of the first inhabitants, submissive in a high degree to the Hindu conquerors, lent itself to a subdivision into smaller States and communities in every period of the history of the island. Thus by the side of the line of princes whose names appear in the lists of sovereigns, many smaller Hindu States, with dynasties and separate interests, existed in Java from the earliest times.

Another cause which no doubt also tended greatly towards this state of affairs was the difficulty and danger attached to travelling and transport throughout the island. Ever since prehistoric times, with the exception of a few barren stretches here and there, the whole island has been overgrown with a tangled and practically impenetrable mantle of trees, bushes, and creepers, so dense as entirely to shut out the light.

These forests, which stretched from the shores to the mountain-tops, were the home of tigers, elephants, buffaloes,

rhinoceros, and leopards, snakes, droves of wild and dangerous swine, troops of monkeys, and other disagreeable and dangerous animals, a state of things, naturalists maintain, which would very soon be the case again if Nature was left to itself for a few years.

It is no doubt due to these reasons also that so many separate and independent kingdoms were able to exist in the island at one and the same time, and that the local historians in each division, owing to the Hindu invasions taking place at more than one point, and overlapping one another, have come to be at variance in the various records and chronologies which they have left behind them.

In some accounts it is stated that the religions and arts of India were first introduced into Java by a Brahmin named *Tritrésta*, who with numerous followers landed on Java, and established the Hindu era, for which reason he is still considered by some Javans to be the same with *Aji Saka*.

The descendants of *Tritrésta* are said to have succeeded to the government of the country, and a list of eighteen princes is adduced to bring the history down to the ninth century, when the empire of *Jang'gala* was established.

The following account of princes beginning with *Tritrésta*, who is said to have established his government at *Giling Wési*, at the foot of the volcano *Se Míru* (Smeroo), together with the dynasties which they severally established and the dates at which they succeeded to the government, is in parts somewhat fabulous, but in the main is probably correct.

The account is taken from a collection of the legends of the country compiled by *Nata Kasuma*, the *Panambaham* of *Sumenap*, in Madura, in 1812, either for himself or Sir Stamford Raffles :—

“ Before there were any inhabitants on Java, *Wisnu* (Vishnu) presided therein ; but having offended *Sang yang Guru*, *Tritrésta*,

PART III

THE HINDU-JAVANESE PERIOD

FROM THE EXTINCTION OF THE EMPIRE OF MENDANG KAMULAN,
A.J. 927 (A.D. 1002), DOWN TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE
EMPIRE OF MAJAPAHIT, A.J. 1400 (A.D. 1475)

Troubles with the Chinese in Banyu Mas and Tegal.—*Máisa Laléan*, after destroying his *kraton* at *Blora* to prevent it falling into the hands of *Báka*, now proceeded to *Bányu Mas* and *Tegal* to assist the chiefs there against the Chinese, who by their extortions and oppressions had even now become troublesome to the people of Java. The Chinese were attacked and their chief killed. From this period the Chinese were allowed to live anywhere in the island, and not, as formerly, in one district only. It was about this time that a brother of *Máisa Laléan*, *Chitra Arung Báya*, also called *Chamára Gading*, finding himself deceived by *Báka*, collected a party together at *Jang'gala* and embarked from the harbour of *Madura* for the island of *Celebes*, where he established himself. He is the first prince of whom the *Búgis* make mention.

The Kingdom of Pajajaran.—*Máisa Laléan* now proceeded with his followers to the west, and finding two brass cannon near *Bogor*, in the vicinity of the modern *Buitenzorg*, considered them an omen and with his followers established himself here, building a small city and *kraton* at *Pakúan*,¹ to which he gave the name of *Pajajaran*, taking for himself the sovereignty of the country, under the title of *Browijaya Máisa Tandráman*. He being duly acknowledged as sovereign in West Java, the new city soon rose to importance and became the capital of a new empire. This was about A.J. 955 (A.D. 1030).

¹ *Pakúan* was where the *desah* of *Batoe Toolis* now stands.

a bamboo spear with an iron point. Each combatant had his wife and concubine with him, armed with a stick three feet long, and stood between them.

At a signal given on a drum, beaten first slowly and then quickly, two men advanced with their lances and began fighting. After three bouts the wives separated them with their sticks, calling out *Larah, larah, larah*,¹ upon which they stopped fighting. If one was killed in the fight the *bitara* ordered the victor to pay a golden coin to the relations of the deceased, whose wife now followed the conqueror, who was obliged to look after her.

For money the better inhabitants used Chinese copper coins of various dynasties, all of which were current here, besides gold and silver brought by the Arabs.

There were daily markets at which fowls, goats, fish, fruit, and vegetables of all kinds were sold, being both plentiful and cheap.

Some of the Javans were very rich, and grew sugar-cane and other produce.

The sugar-cane is described as having a white cover, and being very thick and in length twenty to thirty feet.

Amongst the fruit mentioned at this time were plantains, coconuts, sugar-cane, pomegranate, the capsules of lotus, mangostine, and water-melons. We are told that besides rice the country produced sugar, sesamum, and yellow beans, but *no barley or wheat*.

The inhabitants traded in sapan-wood, sulphur, rhinoceros horns, diamonds, white sandal-wood, lignum aloes, nutmegs, long pepper, ordinary pepper, steel, tortoise-shell, prepared and unprepared gold, silver and ivory. Of birds they had at Majapahit red, green, yellow and white parrots, and the *gracula religiosa* (beo), which exactly imitated human speech. There were also cockatoos, green and coloured pigeons, and others.

¹ " Probably the Javan word *larah*, meaning to " pull " or " draw back."

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whose name was *Sri Padadoalapamo*,¹ sent an envoy to carry a letter and some gifts to the Emperor of China, which is the first actual confirmation of the kings of Java presenting tribute to the Chinese.

The historical works of the Liang dynasty (A.D. 502) enter into more details about Java than any previous accounts. The following is an extract from one such, and refers to old Bantam :—

“The country of *Lang Ga-su*, or *Langga*,² is situated in the Southern Ocean ; its length from east to west is thirty days and from south to north twenty days ; its distance from Canton is 24,000 *li*.³

“The climate and the products of the soil are about the same as in Siam. Lignum aloes in its different qualities and camphor oil are very abundant everywhere. Men and women have the upper part of the body naked ; their hair hangs loosely down and around their lower limbs ; they only use a sarong of cotton. The king and the nobles, moreover, have a thin flowered cloth for covering the upper part of their body [*slendang*] ; they wear a girdle of gold and golden rings in their ears.

“Young girls cover themselves with a cloth of cotton, and wear an embroidered girdle. In this country they have made the city walls of piled-up bricks ; the wall has double gates and watch-towers. When the king goes out he rides on an elephant ; he is surrounded with flags of feathers, banners and drums, and is covered by a white canopy. His military establishment is very complete. The people say that their country was established more than four hundred years ago. In 515 the prince sent an envoy with a letter and presents to the Son of Heaven.”

During the Tang dynasty (A.D. 618) a little more information regarding Java is vouchsafed. Kaling (Kling) is also called Djawa⁴ (Japara) :—

“The people make fortifications of wood, and even the largest

¹ The name is no doubt hypothetical.

² This was in the district of Bantam.

³ A *li* is roughly a mile.

⁴ Djawa, Djapa, or Djapo.

houses are covered with palm leaves. They have couches of ivory, and mats of the outer skin of bamboo.

"The land produces tortoise-shell, gold, silver, rhinoceros horns, and ivory. The country is very rich; there is a cavern from which salt water bubbles up spontaneously. They make wine of the hanging flowers of the cocoa palm; when they drink of it, they become rapidly drunk. They have letters and are acquainted with astronomy.

"The king lives in the town of Djapa,¹ but his ancestor Kiyen had lived more to the east at the town of *Palukasi* [probably Toeban]. On different sides are twenty-eight small countries [districts], all acknowledging the supremacy of Djawa. There are thirty-two high ministers on the mountains of *Lang piva* [Dieng],² where the king frequently goes to look at the sea.

"This country sent envoys to the emperor to bring tribute, together with those of *Dwahala*, *Dwapatan* [Bali]. The emperor favoured them with a reply under the great seal, and as *Dwahala* asked for good horses these were given to them."

At this time the Chinese were already coming to Java in considerable numbers for trading, and in the east at *Yortan*,³ *Tuban*, and *Grissee* several, and perhaps many, had settled permanently. Consequently when one of the Javan chroniclers⁴ records the wreck of a large junk near *Semarang* in 921, and states that the Chinese in her formed an establishment on the island of Java for the first time, he is making a statement which is not in accordance with probabilities, for there is all likelihood that some had been established in the island three or four centuries before this date.

In Chapter I., Part II., of this history, the account is given of the great Chinese expedition (A.D. 1292) sent to punish the King of *Tumapel*⁵ by the first Mongol Emperor Kublai Khan. The sons of Heaven on this occasion fared badly,

¹ Japara. Japara was subject to the King of Méndang Kamálan, which was in full life and vigour at this time.

² L-ang, Di-ang.

³ Bangil.

⁴ Chapter I., Part II.

⁵ In the Sourabaya district, and corresponding in all probability to the ancient capital of Jang'gala.

massin was at this time subject to the King of Cochin China, and it is probable he objected to the English being here¹; in any case the Chinese rose in 1707, and Catchpole barely escaped with his life. This put an end temporarily to the English Company's trade here. It was, however, started again in 1787, and English ships called in here now and then for a cargo of pepper. From 1733 to 1809 the Dutch had a factory and a fort here called "Fort Tatar," but after a great deal of trouble with the sultan and Chinese, who found their ancient trade being interfered with and consequently caused the Dutch all the annoyance they could, the factory was sold to the sultan for 50,000 rupees.² The Chinese had been doing business at Banjermassin certainly as early as 1368, if not in 618 during the Tang dynasty, for their history of the latter date speaks of the coast of Borneo. It is not, however, until the former date, which was during the Ming dynasty, that the town of Banjermassin is actually mentioned. A long account given by the Chinese chronicle in 1368 of this place is as follows:—

"At Banjermassin they have a city with walls of wood, one side of which lies against the mountain. The chief of this country keeps several hundreds of finely dressed girls, and when he goes out he rides on an elephant and is followed by these girls carrying his clothes, shoes, knives, sword, and betel tray; if he goes in a boat, he sits cross-legged on a couch, and these girls sit on both sides with their faces turned towards him, or are employed in poling the boat: his state is always very great.

"Many of the people make rafts of trees bound together, and build houses on the water in which they live, just as is done at Palembang. Men and women use a piece of cloth with many colours for wrapping round their head; their back and breast are generally bare, but sometimes they have a jacket with short sleeves, which they put on over their heads. The lower part of their body is surrounded with a piece of cloth. Formerly they used plantain leaves as plates, but since they trade with the

¹ See chronological tables.

² It is said the Chinese gave the sultan the money to pay this.

Chinese they have gradually begun to use earthenware. They also like very much earthen jars with dragons outside ; when they die they are put into such a jar, and buried in this way.

“ Far in the interior there is a village called Wu-lung-li-tan, where the people all have tails ; when they see other men, they cover their face with their hands and run away : their country is rich in gold dust, and when merchants carry goods there to trade with them, they give a sign by beating a small copper gong,¹ lay their goods down upon the ground, and step back about ten feet. These people then come forward, and when they see something which suits their fancy they put some gold at the side of it : if the owner tells them from his distance that he is prepared to sell it at that price they take up the article and go away, if not, they collect their gold again, and go home, without talking any further with each other.

“ The products of the country are rhinoceros horn, peacocks, parrots, gold dust, crane nests, wax, rattan mats, chillies, dragon's blood, nutmegs, deer hides and so on. In the neighbourhood are the Beadjoo,² who are of a ferocious disposition, and go out in the middle of the night to cut off people's heads, which they carry away and adorn with gold ; therefore the traders fear them very much, and at night carefully mount guard to await them. The last King of Banjermassin was a good man who treated the merchants very favourably ; he had thirty-one sons, and fearing that they might molest the merchant vessels he did not allow them to go out. His wife was a daughter of a Beadjoo chieftain, and a son of hers succeeded his father. This man listened to the words of his mother's relatives, began to oppress the trade, and owed much money to the traders, which he did never pay ; after this the number of those who visited the country gradually diminished. The women of this country come in small sampans to the ships in order to sell articles of food, but the trade is carried on by the men.”

When the English took Java in 1811 Raffles sent Alexander Hare, a man known for his great eccentricities, to Banjermassin as Resident. The country was then noted for its gold, which is still to be found there in great quantities if

¹ This is perhaps the origin of a gong being beaten at auctions in Java.

² Dyaks.