



'Champa' once resided upon the banks of the river Ganga within the Indian state of Bihar and its known today as 'Bhagalpur' but some 5000 years ago it was 'Champa' the capital of 'Anga' the kingdom of the great warrior Karna and part of the powerful state of Maghadha.

As well as playing a prominent role in the history known as 'Mahabharata' the city of Champa some 2000 years ago was the central stage for the prominence of the Jain and Buddhists religions, indeed the very name of 'Bihar' is from 'Vihara' a word from Sanskrit which describes a Jain and Buddhist 'monastery' 'temple' or 'academy'.

As the great emperor Ashoka gave patronage to the Buddhist religion, its newly acquired power and importance allowed it to spread throughout the lands as it made its entrance into the great Buddhist enclave of 'Tibet' as well as the islands of Indonesia and the Indo/Chinese peninsula.

Written by James Cooper

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Buddha was said to have visited six major cities in his lifetime of which Champa was one and the Jain preceptor 'Mahavira' whose name means great (maha) hero (vira) is said to have spent three of his monsoon retreats in the city of Champa.

It was a time of great philosophical and cultural activity and from this came some of the worlds first universities such as the university of Bihar known as the 'Vikramshila' with its 100 teachers and 1000 students, flourishing for over 400 years until 1193 when it was destroyed by the muslims.

Bihar also built the great 'Nalanda' a university which was visited by students from all over the world and one which flourished for some 700 years between the 5th and 12th centuries, its glories coming to an end at the hands of the same muslim ruler which destroyed Vikramshila.

Hare Krishna Centre - Leicester, UK - Vietnam And The Champa Dynasty

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