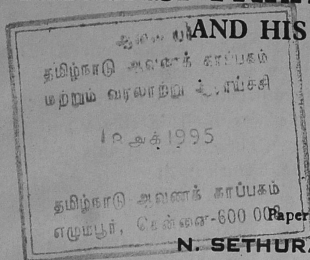


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TENKASI PARAKRAMA PANDYA

AND HIS SUCCESSORS



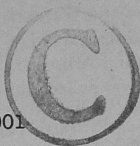
AL ✓ Paper presented by

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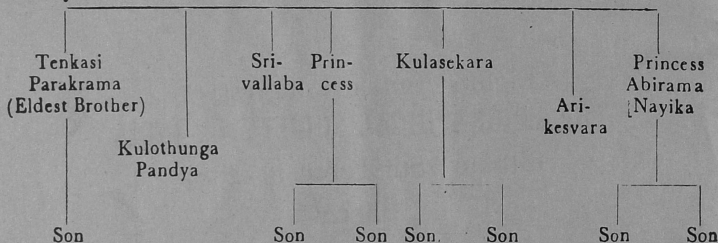
Tenkasi Parakrama Pandya And His Successors

(N. Sethuraman, B. Sc., D. M., I. T.)

Jatllavarman Arikesarideva Parakrama Pandya ruled from A. D. 1422 to 1463. His capital was Tenkasi, the suburb of the modern town Shenkotta in Tinneveli District. Parakrama Pandya constructed the Tenkasi Viswanatha temple. His records¹ state that the temple was built in stages and it took seventeen years to complete the construction. The erection of this temple was the greatest event of his reign and so in the historical literature he is called "Tenkasi Parakrama Pandya".

Parakrama was the eldest. He had four brothers and two sisters. The brothers were Kulothunga Pandya, Alagan Perumal Kulasekara, Srivallaba and Arikesvara. The name of the first sister is not known. The second sister was called Abirama Nayika.

In this article attempt is made to identify the successors of Parakrama Pandya. Among them one was the son of Parakrama. Two were the sons of Kulasekara. Each sister had two sons. The princes and their records are identified with the help of inscriptions and the Sanskrit poem **Pandya Kulodayam**².



Inscriptions of these kings are available. They quote the years in Saka era. Where Saka year is absent, the records furnish the astronomical data along with the Solar dates of the months. The kings had same names like Parakrama, Kulasekara, Srivallaba, Vira Pandya etc. This creates serious difficulty in the investigation of their records. Scholars were puzzled in identifying the princes and their positions in the genealogy. In certain cases records which bear the same name of the king were assigned to only one king. However, the astronomical data not only do not agree but point out to different initial dates. This

discrepancy is clearly spelt out in Archaeological Report on Epigraphy 1918, page 159, paragraph 58, which in its concluding remark states "it is not possible to account for this discrepancy at present".

It is true that several princes had identical names. They quote the stars in which they were born. In Tamil this is referred to by the phrase "nam pirandha nakshatra". Evidently it means the star in which the king was born. Certain records quote the stars in which the reign of the king was born. In Tamil this is referred to by the phrase "attai pirandha nakshatra". It means the star in which the reign of the king was born. In other words it is the accession star of the king.

Earlier scholars thought that "nam pirandha nakshatra" and "attai pirandha nakshatra" meant the birth star of the king. They applied this surmise to those records in which the names of the kings and the stars of asterism are same and assigned them to one and the same king. But the astronomical data did not agree. Scholars were puzzled.

Actually when a particular star is quoted as the birth star of one king, the same star is quoted as the accession star of another king - and both the kings have the same name. It is evident that they are different identities. A close examination of the inscriptions of this period, the birth and accession stars of the kings and the Sanskrit poem Pandya Kulodayam help us in identifying the princes and their records.

Jatilavarman Arikesari Deva Parakrama Pandya

A record³ which comes from Tenkasi is dated in the 40th year of Jatilavarman Arikesari Deva Parakrama Pandya. The other data are Saka 1384, Mithuna 28, ba 13, Friday and star Mirgaseera. The data perfectly agree with Friday the 25th June 1462. Star Mirgaseera in the month Mithuna of 1462 falls in the 40th year. Therefore, star Mirgaseera in Mithuna of 1422 falls in the 0th year. The star was current on 18th June 1422. The king did not ascend the throne till this date.

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Another record⁴ which comes from Tenkasi belongs to the same king. The data are Saka 1385, regnal year 42, Karkataka 30, Su 13, Thursday, and Uttiram. The data perfectly agree with Thursday, the 28th July 1463. Star Uttiram in the month Karkataka of 1463 falls in the 42nd year. Therefore star Uttiram in Karkataka of 1422 belongs to the 1st year. The star was current on 4th July. The king came to the throne prior to this date.

18th June 1422 = Oth regnal year

4th July 1422 = 1st regnal year.

Parakrama Pandya came to the throne between the 19th June and the 4th July 1422.

Another record⁶ which comes from Tenkasi states that Parakrama died on a full moon day in the month Markali in Saka 1385 corresponding to 24th Dec. 1463.

Parakrama Pandya's birth star was **Mirgaseera**⁴. His records are many. The greatest event of his reign was the building of the Tenkasi Viswanatha temple. His records⁷ state that Parakrama performed the foundation function of the central shrine on 6th May 1446. He consecrated the Shiv Linga (Lord Viswanatha) in the Central shrine on 10th June 1447. Prior to 16th April 1451 the Central shrine, Ardha Mandaba, Maha Mandaba Goddess shrine, Prakara walls etc. were completed. Parakrama laid the foundation for the nine storey front gopura on 3rd November 1457. When the gopura was under construction Parakrama died on 24th December 1463. The rest of the nine story gopura work was completed⁸ by Alagan Perumal Kulasekara the younger brother of Parakrama.

Kulothunga Pandya

Tenkasi record No. 569/1917 belongs to Jatilavarman Kulothunga Pandya⁹. He calls Parakrama, the builder of Tenkasi temple, elder brother (annalvi). The record states that star Jeyshtha was the birth star of the king. The data of the record are regnal year 43, Saka 1388, cyclic year Vyaya, Mithuna 29, Su 13, Thursday and Jeyshtha. The data correspond to 26th June 1466. Except this record we do not find any other record of this king. Probably he was sick and was not able to share the administration of the government.

Kulothunga Pandya was the younger brother of Parakrama. He ruled from 1423 to 1466. His birth star was Jeyshtha.

Alagan Perumal Jatilavarman Kulasekara

Tenkasi record No. 198/1895 (S. I. I. V. 762) belongs to Alagan Perumal Jatilavarman Kulasekara Deva. In this record Kulasekara states that his elder brother (annalvi) Parakrama Pandya built the Tenkasi Viswanatha temple from the foundation to the pinnacle. The data of this record are regnal year 44, Vrichika 6, full moon, Thursday and Kirtika. The data perfectly agree with 4th November 1473. It is evident that this Kulasekara was the younger brother of Parakrama and he came to the throne in 1430. The records which belong to Jatilavarman Kulasekara are tabulated below.

Alagan Perumal Jatilavarman Kulasekara 1430 - 77

(Table 1)

Record No.	Village	Regnal year & date	A D Date
453/1917	Kurralam	37, Rishaba 27, Ba 5, Saturday and Sravana	23— 5—1467
477/1917	-do-	38, Tula 3, Su, Friday and Anuradha	2—10—1467
526/1917	Tenkasi	39, Tula, Thursday, Migaseera.	6—10—1468
519/1917	-do-	Saka 1390, year 39 Tula 13; Ba 11 Wednesday, Uttiram	12—10—1468
564/1926	Srivilliputhur	Saka 1395, year 44, Kanni 19, Ba 10, Ayllyam, Friday.	17— 9—1473
565/1917	Tenkasi	44 Makara 7. Monday, Punarvasu.	3— 1—1474
544/1917	-do-	44, Kumba 24, Su 2, Friday. Uttirattadhl.	18— 2—1474
346/1950	„	Saka 1399 current year 47, Mina 25 Friday, Su 7 and Ardra.	21— 3—1477

The above table reveals that Kulasekara, the younger brother of Parakrama, ruled from 1430 to 1477. His Tenkasi record 565/1917 states that Kulasekara's birth star was Punarvasu.

Jatilavarman Arikesvara

The next brother was Jatilavarman Arikesvara¹⁰ and he was younger to Kulasekara. His records are tabulated below.

Jatilavarman Arikesvara

(Table 2)

Record No.	Village	Regnal year & date	A. D Date
541/1917	Tenkasi	S ka 1390, regnal year 32, Simha 21, Sukla 2.	19— 8—1468
No. "A" of page 252 T. A. S. I	Sambur Vadakarai	34, Karkataka 5, Su 5, Tuesday and Uttiram	3— 7—1470

The above records indicate that Arikesvara came to the throne in 1437 and his rule extended up to 1468. The Sanskrit poem Pandya Kulodayam supplies some extra information. It states¹¹ that at the demise of Tenkasi Parakrama the brothers Kulasekara and Arikesvara took over the administration of the kingdom. After sometime Kulasekara died. Later Arikesvara also died.

The last date of Kulasekara as gleaned from the inscriptions is 1477. Evidently Arikesvara died sometime after this date. For the present we shall surmise that his reign came to an end in 1478.

Srivallaba

Sambur Vadakarai record (A of Table 2) of Arikesvara supplies some more information. In this record Arikesvara refers to the grants made in the earlier days by his elder brothers (*annalvi*) Parakrama Pandya and Srivallaba. After referring to those grants, Arikesvara on his part also offers some more grants. It is said that Srivallaba was younger (*thambi*) to Parakrama and elder to Arikesvara. The record states that star *Uttiram* was the accession star ("*attai pirandha nakshatra*" of Srivallaba). Karivalamavanthanallur record No. 278/1908 belongs to Alagan Perumal Srivallaba Deva. It quotes Saka year 1393 corresponding to 1471. Probably he is the same Srivallaba mentioned in the Sambur Vadakarai record. We shall place this Srivallaba between Kulothunga Pandya and Kulasekara and surmise that he was alive in 1471.

Sundara Pandya alias Vira Pandya son of Tenkasi Parakrama

Tenkasi record 547/1917 belongs to Parakrama Pandya. The record quotes Saka 1385, Karkataka, the 42nd regnal year of the king. It is evident that this record belongs to Tenkasi Parakrama and it is dated July 1463. The record registers gift of land to the Brahmins for the recitation of the Vedas. The land was situated in Vira Pandya Chathurvedhimangalam founded in the name of prince Vira Pandya. Probably this Vira Pandya was the son of Parakrama. Tenkasi record 10/1912 belongs to Sembaka Sundara Pandya alias Vira Pandya Deva. It is dated Saka 1384 corresponding to 1462. The record registers the gifts of houses and shares in the village of Vira Pandya Chathurvedhimangalam to the Brahmins for reciting Vedas etc. The record also refers to such grants already made but on a smaller scale in the Saka years 1369, 1378, 1382 and 1384 evidently by the king.

The above two records indicate that Sembaka Sundara Pandya alias Vira Pandya Deva was the son of Parakrama Pandya and the village Vira

Pandya Chathurvedhimangalam was founded in his name. Earlier grants made in the Saka years referred to above indicate that this Vira Pandya also ruled in the capacity of Yuvaraja in the period 1447 to 1462.

Two Sons of the First Sister

A record (No. I, page 263, T. A. S. I) which comes from Sambur Vadarai belongs to Srivallaba Deva. In this record Srivallaba calls Tenkasi Parakrama "uncle" (*mamadi*). It is evident that this Srivallaba was the nephew (sister's son) of Parakrama. The record further states that star Ardra was the accession star ("*attai pirandha ardra*") of the king. The data of the record are regnal year 5, Kanni 30, Ba 7, Friday and star Ardra. The data perfectly agree with 29th September 1458. This date yields the accession of the king in 1454. Except this record, no other record of this king is available.

It is evident that Srivallaba was the son of the sister of Tenkasi Parakrama. His accession star was Ardra. This prince also shared the administration of the government from 1454 to 1458.

Three records Nos. E, F and G - T. A. S. I - pages 251 to 261 belong to Ponnin Perumal Parakrama alias Vira Pandya. In all these records the king refers to the transactions of record A of Table 2 dated 1470. Again he states that those grants were made in the earlier days by his uncles (*mamadi*) Tenkasi Parakrama, Srivallaba and Arikesvara. It is evident that this Parakrama Pandya Deva alias Vira Pandya was another son of the sister of Tenkasi Parakrama and the dates of these records should fall after 1470.

The records E and G contain the same astronomical data, namely, regnal year 7, Tula 14, Su 2. Thursday and Anuradha. The data perfectly agree with Thursday the 13th October 1474. Record F quotes regnal year 7, Kumba, Ba 14, Sunday and star Avittam (*Danishta*). The data perfectly agree with Sunday the 5th February 1475.

Record F states that that star Avittam (*Danishta*) was the accession star ("*attai pirandha avittam*") of the king. Tenkasi inscription No. 548/1917 belongs to Parakrama alias Vira Pandya. The data are Saka 1402, regnal year 13, Virchika, Ba 10, Sunday and Hasta. The data correspond to Sunday the 26th November 1480.

Srivilliputhur records 565 and 566 of 1926 belong to Alagan Perumal Parakrama Pandya. The data are Saka 1403, regnal year 14, Kanni 7, Su 14, Thursday and Sadayam. The data agree with Thursday the 6th September 1481.

The record belongs to Ponnin Perumal Parakrama alias Vira Pandya and in this record he is called Alagan Perumal Parakrama. (Such kind of curious deviations confused earlier scholars).

All the above five records reveal that Ponnin Perumal Parakrama alias Vira Pandya of accession star Avittam was the second son of the sister of Tenkasi Parakrama. Probably he was the younger brother of Srivallaba (1454-58) and he took part in the administration of the kingdom in the years 1468 to 1481.

Two sons of Kulasekara

Kulasekara who ruled from 1430 to 1477 was the younger brother of Tenkasi Parakrama. He had two sons whom we shall see below.

A record which comes from Srivilliputhur (Table No. 1) is in the 44th year of Kulasekara and it is dated 17th September 1473. This record mentions prince Parakrama Pandya Deva son (magan) of Kulasekara. It is evident that another prince by name Parakrama Pandya existed around 1473 and he was the son of Kulasekara. Tenkasi Records 520 and 521 of 1917 belong to Parakrama Pandya Deva. The data are Saka 1406, regnal year 11, Karthikal 28, Su 8, Friday and Uttirattathi. The data correspond to Friday, the 26th November 1484. It is evident that this king came to the throne in 1474. In this record Parakrama Pandya refers to the transactions carried out in the reign of Kulasekara. This information and the initial year 1474 prompt us to infer that Parakrama Pandya of this record was the son of Kulasekara. The records of Parakrama Pandya of accession 1474 are tabulated below. In the records he is called Jatilavarman Alagan Perumal Parakrama Pandya Deva born in the star Danishta ("nam pirandha avittam").

Jatilavarman Alagan Perumal Parakrama Pandya born
in star Avittam (Danishta) accession 1474,
(Table 3)

Record No.	Village	Regnal year and Data	A. D. Date
No. H page 262, T. A. S. I	Sambur Vadakaral	Regnal year, 11, Tula 2, Su, 12 Friday and Sadayam.	1—10—1484
520 and 521 of 1917	Tenkasi	Saka 1406, regnal year 11. Karthikal 28, Su 8, Friday and Uttirattathi.	26—11—1484

Record No.	Village	Regnal year and Data	A. D. Date
664/1917	Panpuli	Saka 1425, regnal year 30, Kumba, Su 12, Sunday Ardra	28—1—1504
No. 12, page 47	Sankara	Saka 1428, regnal	1506
T. A. S. I.	Nayanar Koil	year 33.	
N. 8, page 46	-do-	-do-	1506
T. A. S. I.			

Sambur Vadakarai record (H of Table 3) supplies some important information. It states that the record was caused to be engraved by **Parakrama Pandya of birth star Ardra**. This Parakrama quotes the 11th year of his elder brother (**annalvi**) Alagan Perumal Parakrama. The date of the record is 1st October 1484.

It is evident that the elder brother was called Alagan Perumal Parakrama. **His birth star was Avittam**. He ruled from 1474 to 1506. The younger brother was also called Parakrama and **his birth star was Ardra**. Both were the sons of Kulasekara.

Darukapuram record 585/1915 belongs to the younger brother Parakrama of birth star Ardra and it is dated Sunday 24th May 1482 - the 8th regnal year of the king¹². It is evident that he too came to the throne in 1474 and lived up to 1484.

Abirama Nayika - second sister of Tenkasi Parakrama and her two sons

The Sanskrit poem Pandya Kulodayam describes the reigns of Tenkasi Parakrama and his successors. The poem narrates as follows¹³.

1. Parakrama Pandya the founder of the Tenkasi Viswanatha Temple left the kingdom in the hands of his two brothers Kulasekara and Arikesvara and attained the feet of Lord Shiva.
2. When the two brothers were ruling, their sister Abirama Nayika gave birth to two sons, namely Champaka Parakrama Pandya and Vira Pandya. (The princes were born when Tenkasi Parakrama was no more).
3. When the boys had been invested with the sacred thread and instructed in weaponry and the science thereof, Kulasekara and Arikesvara passed away one after the other.

4. After sometime Champaka Parakrama Pandya was crowned and he was called Kulasekara with the surname Kodandarama.
5. As days passed on Champaka Parakrama alias Kulasekara crowned his brother Vira Pandya. War broke out between the Pandyas and the Kerala king Jayasimha. Champaka Parakrama alias Kulasekara and his brother Vira Pandya defeated the Kerala king Jayasimha.

It is evident that Abirama Nayika was another sister of Tenkasi Parakrama. Evidently the two sons of Abirama Nayika were born after 1463. They should be young princes in 1478 when Kulasekara and Arikesvara passed away. The two princes should have been crowned sometime after 1478.

A record¹⁴ which comes from Quilon belongs to the Kerala king Jayasimha alias Vira Keralavarman and it is dated June 1496. Most probably this Jayasimha was defeated by Champaka Parakrama alias Kulasekara and his brother Vira Pandya.

All put together the elder should have come to the throne sometime after 1478 followed by the younger and both should be contemporary to Jayasimha of 1496.

Satisfying these information we have inscriptions of two princes of the same names. In the inscriptions the first is called **Jatilavarman Parakrama Pandya alias Kulasekara**. His birth star was **Kirtika**. He came to the throne in 1480 and ruled till 1508. Evidently he should be the first son of Abirama Nayika. The title Champaka mentioned in the poem refers to the town Kurrallam which is called Campakavanam to which presiding diety the later Pandyas were devotees.

Records of Jatilavarman Parakrama Pandya alias Kulasekara of birth star Kirtika are many. They contain Saka years and astronomical data which confirm his accession in 1480. More than twelve records with dates are published in page 114 of A. R. E. 1918. The dates range from 1497 to 1508. In all these records the king states that he was born in the star Kirtika.

Vasudevanallur record 350/1950 belongs to Parakrama Pandya alias Kulasekara. The data are Saka 1409, regnal year 7, Mithuna 21, Ba 12, Monday and Rohini. The data correspond to 18th June 1487. Accordingly, Rohini in Mithuna of 1480 belongs to Oth regnal year. It was current on 5th June. His Tenkasi record 502/1917 quotes Saka 1419, regnal year 18, Simha 2, Su 3, Tuesday and Uttiram. The data correspond to 1st August 1497. Accordingly Uttiram in Simha of 1480 belongs to 1st year. It was current on 7th August.

Parakrama Pandya alias Kulasekara - of birth star Kirtika came to the throne between the 6th June and the 7th August 1480. His rule extended up to 1508 as evidenced by his Urmenialagiyan village record No. 618/1917 dated Saka 1429, month Makara, corresponding to January 1508.

The poem Pandya Kulodayam states¹⁵ that Parakrama alias Kulasekara crowned his younger brother Vira Pandya. Evidently Vira Pandya should have come to the throne after 1480. We have two records of this king, Nos. 250 and 251 of 1940-41 and both come from Devadanam. They quote the same date the second regnal year of the king Saka 1409, Mithuna 16, Ba 7, Wednesday, and Uttirattathi which correspond to 13th June 1487. The records introduce the king as Champaka Parakrama Deva alias Vira Pandya. The other records of this king are not available. His position and his date prompt us to infer that he should be the second son of Abirama Nayika. Probably he came to the throne in the first half of 1486.

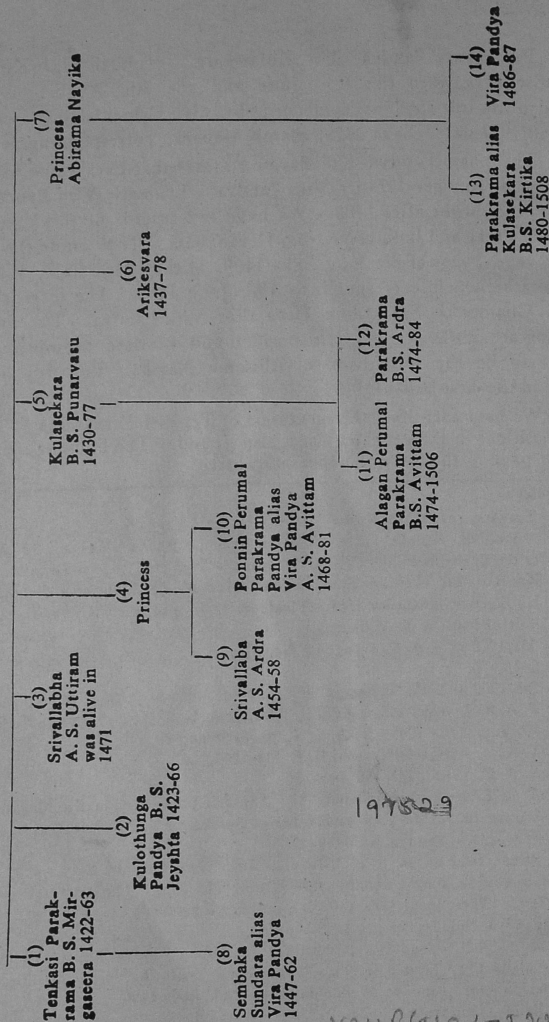
We have identified the successors of Tenkasi Parakrama. Their dates and their positions in the genealogy are also found. The findings are tabulated in the last page in the form of genealogical tree.

Foot Notes :

- 1) Travancore Archaeological Series Volume I page 99.
- 2) "Pandya Kulodayam" - Sanskrit poem, a Maha Kavya, by Mandala Kavi - critically edited by Dr. K. V. Sarma - Published by Vishveshvaranand Vishva Bandhu Institute of Sanskrit and Indological Studies - Punjab University - Hoshiarpur - Edition 1981. Please refer to pages xlvi, lxxvii and lxxv. I am indebted to Dr. K. V. Sarma.
- 3) 531/1909 - T. A. S. I page 99 No. IV.
- 4) 547/1917.
- 5) 506/1909 - T. A. S. I page 98.
- 6) T. A. S. I, pages 255 and 257; Also see A. R. E. 1926-27 page 98 para 56.
- 7) 507 and 511 of 1909; T. A. S. I, pages 98 and 99.
- 8) T. A. S. I page 103. - A. R. E. 514/1909.
- 9) A. R. E. 1918 page 158 para 56.
- 10) A. R. E. 1918 page 158 para 57; Sanskrit poem Pandya Kulodayam, confirms that Arikesvara was the younger brother of Parakrama and Kulasekara.
- 11) Page 225 - Pandya Kulodayam.
- 12) Please refer to A. R. E. 1916 page 100. The data are Saka 1403, regnal year 8, Rishaba 30, Su 9, Sunday and Uttara Phalguni. The data agree with 24th May 1482. The quoted Saka 1403 is a mistake for 1404.
- 13) Pandya Kulodayam pages 222 to 253.
- 14) T. A. S. II, page 26. Record of Jayasimha alias Vira Kerala Varman quotes Kollam 671, Jupiter in Tula Rasi, month Mithuna, day of Anuradha Nakshatra which correspond to Wednesday the 22nd June 1496.
- 15) Pandya Kulodayam, page 237.

TENKASI PARAKRAMA AND HIS SUCCESSORS

B. S. = Birth Star. A. S. = Accession Star.



No. 13 Parakrama alias Kulasekara and No. 14 Vira Pandya are the heroes of the Sanskrit poem Pandya Kulodayam.