

Conquest of Seven Kaya states.

Yongduk Kim

Sogang University

Nihongi records that in the 46th year of Jingoo's reign(366A.D.) an emissary Shima was sent to the Taksoon state to pay respect to the King migumi.

The emissary was told by King that Paekche people Kudei, mitsuru maguko came here and told us that Paekche King was interested in Wa Japan in the east and didn't know the way to the country though we want to send a mission there.

The exact location of Taksoon state is not known. Some guesses it to the Daegu or Namhae.

Our guess is Doksan area near present Dokyong fortress near Seongju, Gyeongrang province. Our guess is based on observation that Paekche people and Imna- Wa people may have found the place convenient for meeting since it is located halfway between Paekche people in Hamchang and Wa people though Imna.

We have already presented our argument's that Gorigari, me of the ancestors of Ko the fabricator of the Inariyama sword, was the lord of Gorigari province or present day Hamchang, Gyongsang province.

The second is the placename Doksan sounds very close to Taksoon. The third reason is that Doksan is located to the west of Silla, which is eventually the target of assault by the joint forces of Paekche and Imna_Wa.

Finally the Wa generals Arada and Kaga in the Silla campaign were recorded as ancestors of upper Kenu clan which ruled the Gunma region in the north of Tokyo for centuries since fifth century not in the fourth century when the Silla campaign took place.

We believe the Ko's clan of Inariyama sword and the upper Kenu clan to be identical.

The Jingoo entry records on that a follower Nihaya of lord Shima was dispatched to have an audience with Paekche King Chogo, who rejoiced and presented precious gifts.

Nihongi continues to record that the generals Arada and Kaga from the upper Kenu clan were dispatched to meet Paekche general Kudei with soldiers at Taksoon.

However they conferred to agree that the strength of their combined army is not adequate for the assault against Silla and agreed to request reinforcement.

In the middle of fourth century there existed no strong central government in Wa Japan to dispatch generals from the north eastern region of Wa Japan. So our guess is that the legends of warriors from the Kenu clan was carried on in the

clan from their clan history while they were still in the Kara region before emigration to Wa Japan in around 396 A.D.

The detail of this saga of Kenu clan's emigration will be presented later.

Nihongi records on that Paekche generals mogura Kongi, Saranoko were joined by Wa warriors Sabaek and Gaero to launch assault against Silla only to fail.

About this time (364 A.D.) Silla chronicle records that in facing with the assault of numerous enemy Silla installed thousands of straw figures with armours at the foothill of Toham hill with an ambush of a thousand soldiers nearby Paekche it is proper now to find out why Imna-Wa was hostile against Silla. In fact Samguk Sagi never refers to Imna as such but only as Wa.

To answer this question, we have to consider the placename Imna itself. Imna refers to an ancient near the present Sangdan or Hadan area a convenient port of entry for people from Wa Japan or the other way around. Imna is believed Idu representation of original placename of masara or malla which belonged to the mahan state according to Wee china chronicle or Hanwon chinese chronicle Imna was established as a port entry from Wa Japan or take off to Wa. As such Imna perhaps was associated with Wa. This land of mahan was settled by people from the wear of Korean peninsula, while Kara people including Silla were settled by people who moved down inland.

So these people of two differing ethnic background had a good reason to be hostile perhaps from early on.

As any rate, after failing in their attack against Silla, the combined forces of Paekche and Wa attacked instead the small seven Kara states to the West of Nakdong river including Bishi(Changnyeong), south Kara(Kimhae), Doku(perhaps Changwon), Ara(Hanan), Dara(Hapcheon), Taksoon(Deoksan), and Kara(Goryong) Nihongi records on that the forces sailed around to the west to reach Gohejin(or Gangjin) and subjugated Tomudareh (or Cheju).

In the entry of the ensuing year, Dasagi or the port in the estuary of the Seomjun river is subjugated and was Ewein to Paekche according to Nihongi with the approach of the army of Paekche's King Chogo and prince Kusu, the four small states at Biri(Jeonju), Biju(Gimjeh), Pomigi(Soonchang), Barago(Imsil) surrendered voluntarily upon this historical event, Paekche King and prince joined with mogura Konji and others at Iruski near the estuary of Geum river celebrated the victory with great rejoice. Later Paekche King and chikumanaga of Kaya met on top of a huge flat rock at mount Kosa and Bigi to exchange the pledge of eternal allegiance.

At this time, Paekche took hold of the total territory of mahan state and some more in the west of Nakdong river while the mahan state was laid to rest finally.

This eventful year was 369 A.D. according to Nihongi. Three years later, Paekche buffered famous seven branched sword to Wa King Gi perhaps in celebration and commemoration of the successful subjugation of seven Kara

states and in consideration of the meritorious contribution made by the Wa King Gi, who must have been the leader of Wa army.

Although there is some reservation to the validity of the date 369 A.D. We believe the era name of the sword refers to this momentous year for Paekche to have taken over the complete control of mahan's territory, in the fourth year of Paekche's own era name Tae... , which was promulgated in the year of conquest. We have some reservation on the date 369 A.D. since Samguk Sagi records that in 367 A.D. Paekche lord of Taksoon fortress surrendered to Silla, in 366 A.D, visit by Paekche emissary and in 369 A.D. gift of two splendid horses to Silla, etc. contradich with the above date of was by Paekche and Wa.

As to the award to the Paekche generals or the ancestors of Ko's clan of the Inariyama sword, lord Daga Bishi was promoted to rule over the joint conquered richers provinces. Daga and Bishi near present Changnyeong around 470 A.D. in our understanding of the inscription on the sword.

Around 395 A.D. the lord Dasagi was moved from Daga_Bishi to the very important port of river an other important port of embarcation to and four between Paekche and Wa.

Perhaps we should elaborate the connection of Imna to Wa and its historical hostility against Silla.

Elsewhere, we argued the etymology of some of the names of states in the Wa entry in the Wei China chronicle (written in the third century A.D.) to the effort

that the idea grams for Tsushima island is keyword of mahan settlers, who moved on to Wa Japan now the same Damara settlers were the occupants of imna, since an attack Chinese chronicle.

Hanwon (7th century) so srat. According to Samguk Sagi, a fierce battle took place between inland Kara states and port states, which we believe including Imna and Danara island in 209 A.D. Silla is said to have come to support an inland state Ara to win the battle.

So we believe this was as the beginning of hostility between Imna-Wa and Silla.

One more war took place between Ara and other port states again with Silla siding with Ara state again to win.

Among many hostilities between Imna-Wa and Silla, perhaps the most important one took place in 369 A.d. the war of conquest over the seven Kara state by the combined forces of Paekche and Imna-Wa.

We argued that the seven-branched sword was offered to Wa King Gi thy Paekche.

It so happen that the lord Nihongi of the mononobe clan, the custodian of seven branched sword leads the clan to east of Wa Japan eventually to rule a small state in Yamato region according to the Chronicle of the clan and Nihongi, which states that the state surrendered to the new conqueror Ojin.

Now the mononobe clan had a long tradition of a middle name Kara attached to mononobe, moclaiming their origin in Kara, which in this care can only be Imna Kara.

Besides, their ancestral god's name Damara also insinuates their historical connection to mahan settlers of placename Damara. All there evidence suggest to no that the mononobe clan, a mahan people, took part in the campaign against seven Kara wtates, while Inariyama sword clan fought for Paekche in this campaign.