

On the Buddhism of the Kushan Dynasty

King Kaniška (c 128—c 151) of the Kushan Dynasty is sometimes called “the second Aśoka” or “the Buddhist Clovis.” Nevertheless, it is very little that we know of the exact circumstances of his conversion, or of his contributions towards Buddhism. It is partly due to the scarcity of materials and partly due to his “life” too much embellished by later Buddhists.

As to the conversion of the king, we find it is said in the *l'Inde classique* 2024 that he was converted into Buddhism by Pārśva. But this view is not exact. It is rather to be considered that it was Aśvaghosha who became the spiritual father to the king.

The present thesis is written, as an attempt to make an inquiry into the thought and views of Aśvaghosha, who were closely related with King Kaniška and his achievements as a Buddhist, whereby it is hoped some light should be thrown upon the Buddhism of the Kushan Dynasty.

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