

years of age (p. 31). Tisso, being 72 years in 246 B. C., was born 319 B. C., and was twenty years of age 298 B. C. Consequently Siggavo, being born 463 B. C., initiates Tisso 299 B. C., when he himself was a man of 165 years. Professor Max Müller has shown in his own lucid way* "that 477 B. C. is far more likely" the conventional date of Buddha's death than 443 B. C. But even if we take this date, we shall find that Siggavo must have been flourishing at the age of 98 years! This is by no means the only example in the Mahāvanso to show that its authority is not a whit higher than that of the Brahmans and Northern Buddhists, and it seems to me that Max Müller has convincingly shown, how hypothetical or conventional the date of the Nirvāṇa is. I must confess, however, that in my opinion the Chinese chronology is some degrees more probable; at least the relative positions are right in Hiouen-Thsang, viz. that Kanishka reigned about 300 years after Aśoka, for 263 B. C. + 300 leads to 37 A. D., and it is proved that Kanishka's reign must have extended till after 33 A. D. at least; secondly, Buddha's death is placed 1000 years before about 635, which again gives for the Nirvāṇa about 363 B. C. I see no reason, why Hiouen-Thsang should be correct for 900 years, and err at 1000. But even if Hiouen-Thsang might be supposed to err in the date he assigns to Buddha, he is demonstratively right in the relative dates assigned by him to Aśoka and Kanishka, and as the nearer we come to his own times the greater the probability is for his being correct, it is allowed to assert that his testimony about Vikramāditya, combined with the testimony of the astronomers and of Kalhana-Pandita greatly enhances the value of the Hindu authorities.

One might reasonably have expected, that some sources would have been quoted, so reliable as to put at naught the combined authority of Utpala, Kalhana-Pandita, Brahmagupta, Albírūni and Hiouen-Thsang. Far, however, from this being

* History of ancient Sanskrit Literature, p. 263-263, and p. 299.