Why was the Sakaya Republic Destroyed ?
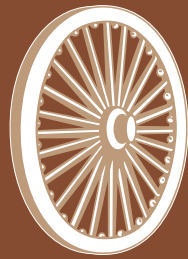
Why was the Sakyan Republic Destroyed?

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The Sakyan and Koliyan republics were established on the opposite banks of the Rohiṇī river. The members of the ruling assembly in these two republics were called *rājās* and the chief of the *rājās* was called *mahārājā.* They had autonomy over all domestic administrative matters. However, they were not fully independent states like Vesālī because both were vassal states of the neighbouring kingdom of Kosala.

The Sakyans and the Koliyans were both *khattiyas* of the Ādicca (Ikṣvāku) clan of the solar dynasty. There was no other royal *khattiya* family equal to them in the region, and therefore, members of the royal families of these two republics married only among themselves. Both clans were very proud of the purity of their royal blood and had practised this tradition of inter-marriage since ancient times. For example, Suddhodana's paternal aunt was married to the Koliyan ruler Anjana. Their daughters, Mahāmāyā and Mahāpajāpati Gotamī, were married to Suddhodhana, the chief of the Sakyans. Similarly, Yashodhara, daughter of Suppabuddha, who was Anjana's son, was married to the Sakyan prince, Siddhattha. Thus, the two royal families were related by marriage bonds between maternal and paternal cousins since ancient times.

In spite of such close blood-ties, there would be occasional rifts between the two royal families, which sometimes turned into open hostility.

The traditional occupation of both clans was agriculture. The lowlands of the Tarāī province at the foothills of the mighty Himalayas were very fertile. The Rohiṇī river brought abundant water from the Himalayas and irrigated the