

gasbar, perhaps « treasurer », which is also an Elamite place-name, but prefers to think of the Semitic 'Ραβσάκης, 'Ραψάκης of the Bible, believed to be a proper name by the Septuagint although it is the name of a charge, and spelt here backwards, « by a witticism well known in the East ».

236. GAUENISPOLA (< *GAUMISPOLA)

gauenispola F, FA, FB

guanauis pola FAt

necuram LT

necuueran Z

nenispola TA¹

nespola TA³

nocueran R

YULE (*Y*, II, 300) has adopted « Gauenispola »; it is « Ganenispola » in *B*¹, 443, but is accidentally omitted in *RR*, 288. There is something wrong with the text here and, as YULE says, corrections by copyists have made it worse; but it is certain that the name, as YULE has observed (*Y*, II, 307; cf. also III, 145), is the « Gomispola » of other travellers, the « Pulo Gommès » of the *Neptune Oriental*. It is a small island off Achin Head, in the direction of the Nicobar Islands. The Turkish *Muḥit*, using Arabic sources of c. 1500, mentions several times جاسم فله *Jāmis-fulah* = *Gāmis-pula* cf. *Fe*, 704). Accordingly, I have little hesitation in restoring Polo's form to « *Gaumispola ». Cf. also FERRAND, in *JA*, 1922, 94-95.

237. GAVI

gavi F, FB, L, VB, Z; R

ghavi TA¹

giaui TA³

gioni LT

goni VA

goru P

goui F, L, VB

gouy FA, FB

goym G

gravi V

All the good Mss. give « Gavi », not « Govi » as in YULE; *RR* and *B*¹ read « Gavi ». The « Gavi », according to Polo, were low-caste Hindoos, who ate beef. Although the commentators say nothing about it, the word would seem to go back to Skr. *gavya*, derived from *go*, « cow », but the term as the name of a caste is apparently not met with in the texts, nor is it in modern usage. *Gavya* means « devoted to the cow ».

Even by reading « Govi », there is no satisfactory equivalence. The lowest class on the Coromandel coast was that of the Paraiyans (> Pariahs); on the Malabar coast, they were the Mukkuvan (cf. DAMES, *Barbosa*, II, 64; YULE, *Hobson-Jobson*², s. v. « Mucoa, Mukuva »), who were known also on the eastern coast as far north as Madras and are mentioned by Ma Huan in 1416 as Mukua (*Mugwa; cf. *TP*, 1915, 450); but one does not see how the first syllable could have been dropped by Polo.