

Kautilya's
Arthashastra

Translated into English by
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Kautilya's Arthashastra

[Thus ends Chapter XXXIII, "The Superintendent of Chariots, the Superintendent of Infantry, and the Duties of the Commander-in-Chief " in Book II, "The Duties of Government Superintendents" of the *Arthasástra* of Kautilya. End of the fifty-fourth chapter from the beginning.]

CHAPTER XXXIV. THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PASSPORTS.

THE Superintendent of Passports shall issue passes at the rate of a *masha* per pass. Whoever is provided with a pass shall be at liberty to enter into, or go out of, the country. Whoever, being a native of the country enters into or goes out of the country without a pass shall be fined 12 *panas*. He shall be punished with the first amercement for producing a false pass. A foreigner guilty of the same offence shall be punished with the highest amercement.

The superintendent of pasture lands shall examine passes.

Pasture grounds shall be opened between any two dangerous places.

Valleys shall be cleared from the fear of thieves, elephants, and other beasts.

In barren tracts of the country, there shall be constructed not only tanks, buildings for shelter, and wells, but also flower gardens and fruit gardens.

Hunters with their hounds shall reconnoitre forests. At the approach of thieves or enemies, they shall so hide themselves by ascending trees or mountains as to escape from the thieves, and

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blow conch-shells or beat drums. As to the movements of enemies or wild tribes, they may send information by flying the pigeons of royal household with passes (*mudrá*) or causing fire and smoke at successive distances.

It shall be his duty to protect timber and elephant forests, to keep roads in good repair, to arrest thieves, to secure the safety of mercantile traffic, to protect cows, and to conduct the transaction of the people.

[Thus ends Chapter XXXIV, "The Superintendent of Passports, and the Superintendent of Pasture Lands," in Book II, "The Duties of Government Superintendents," of the *Arthasástra* of Kautilya. End of the fifty-fifth chapter from the beginning.]

CHAPTER XXXV. THE DUTY OF REVENUE-COLLECTORS; SPIES IN THE GUISE OF HOUSEHOLDERS, MERCHANTS AND ASCETICS.

HAVING divided the kingdom (*janapada*) into four districts, and having also subdivided the villages (*gráma*) as of first, middle and lowest rank, he shall bring them under one or another of the following heads:--Villages that are exempted from taxation (*pariháraka*); those that supply soldiers (*áyudhíya*); those that pay their taxes in the form of grains, cattle, gold (*hiranya*), or raw material (*kupya*); and those that supply free labour (*vishti*), and dairy produce in lieu of taxes (*karapratikara*).

It is the duty of *Gopa*, village accountant, to attend to the accounts of five or ten villages as ordered by the Collector-General.