

Preliminary report on Tilaurakota (Nepal) skeletal remains

by V.V. RAO

The human habitation predominantly, it is said, belongs to Sunga and Kushan periods as per the evidences of structures, pottery and antiquities etc. Tilaurakota located in terai is about 14 miles in Nepal from Shohratgarh R. S., in India on Northeast Railway. This place is famous as ancient Kingdom of Kapilavastu for it was once upon a time ruled by Shuddhodana, the father of great Buddha.

The studies are carried out on skeletal remains located at Taulihawa, Tilaurakota and Kathmandu. The preliminary observation are as follows:

General condition of the bones:

In general the bones are very fragile and in fragments. The disintegration of the bones is so much, that in some cases only earth impressions of bones are traceable.

Corpses:—

Two corpses are located of which one in habitation structure and the other in the vicinity of habitation structure. The skeletal remains of both of the bodies are very much in disintegrated state: while in the second case only incomplete skull is traceable. The orientation is north to south (i. e. head at north side) in both of the cases. However, the *insitu* appearance of skeletal remains give the impression that they are extended of primary nature. The bodies are not accompanied by funerary goods of pots, pitch-

ers, and other antiquities. But the second body is found associated with a twisted and rusted iron nail. The disposal of the dead is of significance for the corpses are met with in the habitation of brick foundations and in the vicinity of such structures.

Inventory:

The skull is incomplete and disintegrated done impressions are met with on the soil. However, they give the ideas of following parts of human skeleton.

- [i] Fragmentary skull
- [ii] Right clavicle fragments
- [iii] Left fragmentary humerus.
- [iv] Left fragmentary radius and ulna.
- [v] Left fragmentary femur and tibia.
- [vi] Fragments of right humerus, radius.
- [vii] Ulna and tibia

2. Skull incomplete, fragile found *insitu* in normal lateral position; facial portion is very much disintegrated incomplete occipital region.
3. Human skeletal remains of Tilaurakota located in Taulihawa Museum. The bone fragments are fragile.
 - [i] Lower jaw fragments
 - [ii] Left side of incomplete clavicle
 - [iii] Right side fragmentary humerus
 - [iv] Right fragmentary radius and ulna
 - [v] Left fragmentary radius and ulna.

4. Tilaurkota human skeletal remains located at Kathmandu

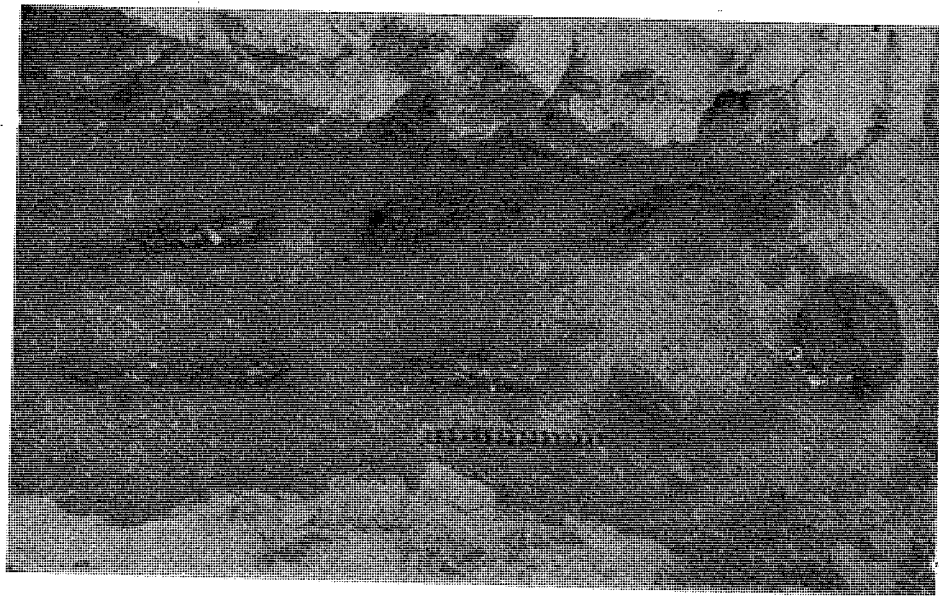
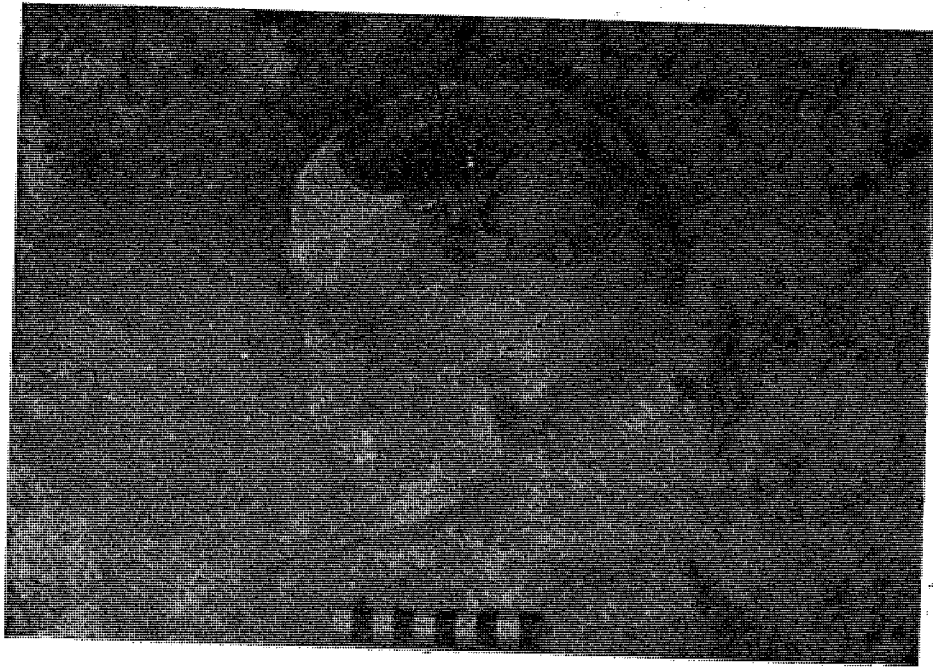
- [i] Remains of metacarpals.
- [ii] Rib fragments
- [iii] vertebral parts
- [iv] lower jaw fragments
- [v] teeth remains
- [vi] pelvis remains
- [vii] crushed and incomplete skull-

5. The animal skeletal remains represent the following animals.

- [i] Bos indicus.
- [ii] Sus scrofa cristatus
- [iii] Avine remains
- [iv] Goat

Tilaurakota excavations arouse interest from osteological point of view that it is here human bones are found for the first time in Nepal archaeology. C. 1500 old human story at Tilaurkota indeed arouses interest towards a detailed study of skeletal remains.





तिलौराकोटमा प्राप्त मानव अस्थिपञ्जर ।
Human skeletal remains of Tilaurakot.