

Hammīra Chauhān, king of the unassailable fortress of Ranthambore in southern Rajasthan died in 1301 CE after a monumental battle against 'Alā' al-Dīn Khaljī, sultan of Delhi. This singular event reverberates through time to the point of creating a historical and cultural region that crystallizes through copious texts composed in different genres and languages (Persian, Sanskrit, Hindi, Rajasthani, English) in shifting historical and political contexts, medieval as well as modern. The main Sanskrit poetical work – the *Hammīra-Mahākāvya* – is propelled by a dream in which the dead king urges the poet to write about his deeds. Can history with its preoccupation with the factual, begin in a dream? What does it mean to think about history and time via the imagination? Do time and history arise together with the imagination?

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