

Naravas

Naravas (Numidian: 𐤎𐤓𐤕𐤓, *Nrbs(h)*;^[1] Punic: 𐤎𐤓𐤕𐤓, *NRWT*)^[2] was a Numidian prince of the 3rd century BCE,^[3] occasionally referred to as a king,^[4] descending from the Massylian royal dynasty of Eastern Numidia.^[5] He played a pivotal role in the Mercenary War (241–238 BCE), initially joining the Libyan rebels before later aligning with Carthage, an alliance that significantly shifted the balance of power during the conflict.^[6] Naravas was the son of Zelalsan II,^[3] the uncle of the Numidian King Masinissa,^[5] and the son-in-law of the Carthaginian general Hamilcar.^[4]

Alliance with Hamilcar Barca

During the Mercenary War, Naravas had joined the army of Spendius. During a critical time, he switched his allegiance to Hamilcar Barca of Carthage.

In 239 BC, he arrived at Hamilcar's camp with 2,000 horsemen. This probably saved the Carthaginian army from destruction. His troops pushed back the mercenaries of Mathos, the Libyan chief, at the Battle of Bagradas River. After the battle, he took possession of the town of Utica.

Family

Naravas married the third daughter of Hamilcar Barca, the sister of Hannibal. Her name is unknown, but Gustave Flaubert gave her the name Salamambo in his novel of that name.

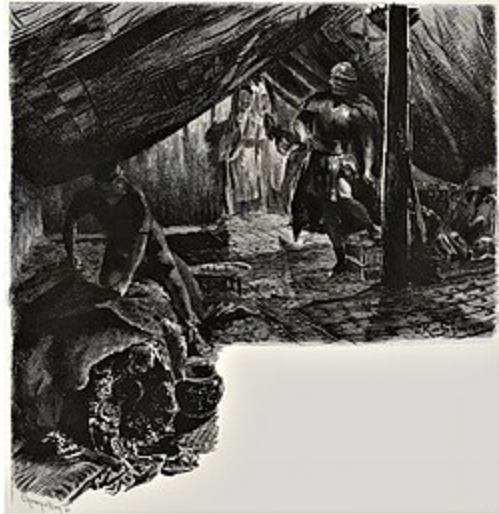
References

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Numidian prince

Possibly a king



Entrance of Naravas into Mâtho's Tent, as envisaged by Georges Rochegrosse and Eugène-André Champollion.

King of the Masaesyli?

Reign	unknown
Predecessor	Last recorded previous ruler <u>Aylimas</u>
Successor	perhaps <u>Syphax</u>

Born	3rd century BC Eastern Numidia
Spouse	<u>Salamambo</u> (3rd daughter of <u>Hamilcar</u>)
House	<u>Massylii</u>
Dynasty	<u>Massyllian</u>
Father	<u>Zelalsan II</u>

Military career

Conflicts	Mercenary war <u>Battle of Utica</u> <u>Hamilcar's defeat of Spendius and Autaritus</u>
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4. Akyeampong, Emmanuel Kwaku; Jr, Professor Henry Louis Gates (2012-02-02). *Dictionary of African Biography* (<https://books.google.com/books?id=39JMAgAAQBAJ&pg=RA2-PA14>). Oxford University Press. p. 14. ISBN 978-0-19-538207-5.
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6. Kadra-Hadjadji, Houaria (2013). *Masinissa, the Great African* (<https://books.google.com/books?id=raL5dP66324C&pg=PA35>) (in French). KARTHALA Editions. pp. 35 to 43. ISBN 978-2-8111-0915-8.

Battle of the Bagradas River (240 BC) Siege of tunis
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External links

- Dictionary of Greek and Roman Biography and Mythology, page 1138 (<https://web.archive.org/web/20060511141815/http://www.ancientlibrary.com/smith-bio/2246.html>)
- Cannae: the Experience of Battle in the Second Punic War. (<https://web.archive.org/web/20121025081259/http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1G1-129813244.html>)

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