NO. 28: PODAGADH STONE INSCRIPTION OF SKANDAVARMAN, YEAR 12

Provenance : Podagadh, Koraput district, Orissa.

References : C.R. Krishnamacharlu, EI, Vol. XXI (1931-32), pp. 153-57 and plate; and S.N. Rajaguru, IO, Vol. I, Pt. 2 (1958), pp. 94-97.

Language : Sanskrit, in verse.

Metre: Verse 1 ārya, verses 2-8 and 10-13 anuṣṭubh; verse 9 vaṁśasthāvila.

Script : Southern variety of the alphabet of about the sixth century A.D.

Date : 12th regnal year, the twenty-seventh day of the month of Mādhava (Vaiśākha).

TEXT<1>

(1) सिद्धम् ।। हरिणा जितं जयति जेष्यती[त्ये]षा गुणस्तुतिर्न्न[हि] [सा] [।\*] ननु भगवा[नेव]

(2) जयो जेतव्यं चाधिजेता [च] ।।[१\*] श्रीनलान्वयमुक्ख्यस्य<2> विक्क्रमक्षपितद्विषः [।\*]

(3) नृपतेर्भवदत्तस्य सत्पुत्रेणाव्यवंस्थिताम्<3> ।। [२\*] भ्रष्टामाकृष्य राजर्द्धिं

(4) शून्यामावास्य पुष्करीम् [।\*] पितु ≍ पितामहानाञ्च जनन्या ≬ क्रि (कृ)तिना [ततः] [।।\*] [३\*]

(5) कृत्वा ध[र्म्मार्थ]नेभ्याशानि(मि)दमात्महितैषिणा [।\*] पादमूलं कृतं विष्णो [राज्ञा]श्री[स्कन्दव]-

(6) र्म्मणा ।। [४\*] पूजार्त्थमस्य चैवेह सोदकम्भूरिदक्षिणम् [।\*] पुरुषाय पुरं [द].... <4>

(7) र्क्कतारका(क) [म्]<4> ।। [५\*] सत्रोपभोज्यं<5> विप्राणां यतीनाञ्च विशेषत[ः] [।\*] [दीनानाम]प्यनाथानां....

(8) च सर्व्वशः ।।[६\*] अप्रवेश्यं भटैश्चेदं सदा करविसर्ज्जितम् । श्री[चक्रद्रो]णपुत्र(त्रा)य....

(9) यथोचित[म्\*] ।।[७\*] स्थितिश्चेयं पुरो बद्धा धर्म्या स्तम्भे निवे[शि]ता [।\*] यश्चेमां

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हनापये[त्सं]स्थाम्महापा[त]... <6> ।। [८\*]

(10) व्यतिक्क्रमेद्यो हि महीपते[ः\*] स्थिति[म्] कुलाधम पार्त्थिवकिल्विषम्पिबे[त्\*।]

(11) समन्वियाद्यश्च [नरेन्द्र]सत्पथम् स वासुदेवाश्र[य]माप्नुयाच्चिर[म\*] ।। [९\*]

(12) द्वादशेब्दे नरेन्द्रेण माधवे मासि चोत्तमे [सप्तविंशे] दिने पुण्ये

(13) स्तम्भोयं [गा]हितस्स्वयम् ।। [१०\*] स्थिति<7>र्भागवते [नैव]म् भर्तु ≍ प्रिय[चा]. . .

(14) सेनापतिना कल्याणमालिने<8>हाल्पबुद्धिना ।। [११\*] . . . .

(15) लिखितं [चौ]लिसूनुना<9> भक्तया [जां]तुरदासेन [।।\*१२]

(16) [आ] जेन विश्वरुपेन(ण) निर्गुणेन गु[णैषिणा] [।।\*१३]

ABSTRACT

The inscription begins with the word svasti, which is followed by a verse in lines 1-2 in adoration of Hari (Viṣṇu) in His aspect as the essence of victory. Verses 2-4 in lines 2-6 refer to the reigning king, whose name seems to be Skandavarman. He has been described as the son of Bhavadatta of the Nala family, who recovered the lost sovereignty of the family by restoring and repopulating the city of Puṣkarī. He is stated to have installed the footprints of Viṣṇu for worship. Verses 5-6 (lines 6-8) record that he granted (some land or a village) along with some money which was to be availed of, for a satra for feeding brāhmaṇas, ascetics and destitutes. Verse 7 records that the donated holding was made permanent and free of all taxes in the name of the Highest Being and non-interferable by royal officers. Verses 8-9 record the king’s admonition of those who would be involved in the violation of the charity, and the promise of salvation through the grace of god Vāsudēva (Viṣṇu) to those who would follow the good path of kings and maintain the donation. Verse 10 records the date of the installation of the inscribed pillar under the personal supervision of the king, as year 12, the twenty-seventh day of the month of Mādhava (Vaiśākha). Verse 11 refers to the general (sēnāpati), named Kalyāṇamālin, the composer of the record, who has been described as devoted to god Viṣṇu as well as to his master. Verse 12 refers to the writer of the record as Jānturadāsa, the son of Cauli. Part of a verse at the end seems to refer to a person named Viśvarūpa, son of Aja, who may have been the engraver of the inscription.

<1. From the facsimile in EI, Vol. XXI (1931-32), pp. 156 and 157.>

<2. Read मुख्यस्य.>

<3. Read व्यवस्थिताम्.>

<4. The rest of the verse may be read as दत्तामचन्द्रार्कतारकम् ।।>

<5. H.N. Sastri suggests सत्वोपभोज्यं but the word सत्रो is clear.>

<6. Krishnamacharlu suggests to reads it as महाशतकस्नुते.>

<7. The word स्थिति is clear in the facsimile. But Krishnamacharlu reads it as प्रीति.>

<8. Krishnamacharlu reads कल्पिता मालिनेहा...; Rajaguru and Krishnamacharlu read the name of the general as प्रीतिभागवत and that of the composer of the record as मालिन. But the name of the general is Kalyāṇamālin, who is also the composer of the record.>

<9. The person seems to be the same as चुल्ल, the writer of the charters of Arthapati- bhaṭṭāraka (No. 26) and Bhavadattavarman (No. 27)>