NO. 23: RUSSELKONDA PLATES OF NEṬṬABHAÑJA, YEAR 26

Provenance : Banatumba, Ganjam district.

References : S.N. Rajaguru, OHRJ, Vol. I (1952), pp. 265-70; D.C. Sircar, EI, Vol. XXVIII (1949-50), pp. 258-63 and plates; and S. Tripathy, 10, Vol. VI (1974), pp. 244-49.

Language : Sanskrit, part prose and part verse.

Metre : Verse 1 vaṁśasthavila; verses 2, 3 anuṣṭubh; verse 4 puṣpitāgrā.

Script : North Indian variety influenced by the Kaliṅga type of script of about the eighth century A.D.

Date : 26th regnal year.

TEXT<1>

First Plate: First Side

1<2>

(1) सिद्धम्<3> स्वस्ति [ ।\* ] । जटाधरः खण्डशशाङ्कशेखरः कपालमाला(लः) सितभस्मधूसरः [ ।\* ]

(2) स्फुरन्महापन्नगव(ब)द्धकंकनः(णः) सदा शिवम्वो(वं वो) विदधातु शङ्करः [ ।।\*१ ] द्विरदवर-

(3) तुरगपदातिपदोद्धृतव(ब)हलधवलधूलीवितानीकृतं(त)नभस्तलात्

(4) जाज्वल्यमानविविधरुचिरप्रहरणावरणात् देवोद्यानव-

(5) नषण्डमण्डपोपशोभितात् हृष्टतुष्टप्रमुदितजनकोलाहलात्

(6) कलिकलहडिम्व(म्ब)डंम(ब)रतस्करदुर्भिक्षरोगापगतात् प्रस्रवण-

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First Plate: Second Side

2<4>

(7) जलगम्भीरकन्दरान्तरविनिसृत<5>विचित्र पुष्पफलपादोपेतात्

(8) श्रीमद्वाराड्डावासितविजयस्कन्धावारात् कुलरुपश्रुतगुणवि-

(9) स्तरप्रभावः स्वभुजव(ब)लपराक्रमाक्रान्तसकलारातिपक्षविक्षोभि-

(10) ताप्रतिहतप्रभावप्रसरः द्रुमराजकुलसम्भूतः नवनवतिपु-

(11) रुषान्तरप्रचूर्श<6>राज्यसन्ततिः प्रदानशूरऽ अनेक<7>शतसहस्रगोवदली<8>-

(12) धनप्रदायी अनेकताम्रपट्टकाङ्कितद्विजकरसमर्पितभुवनतलः प<9>

Second Plate: First Side

3<10>

(13) परलोकसंक्रामितधन[नि]चयः साक्षा[द्\*] धर्म इव आचार्य्य इव शिष्य<11> [इव\*]

(14) कृतयुग इव विनय इव पितेव च अनुकम्पमान[ः\*] प्रजानामुपकारप्र-

(15) वृत्तः पूर्ण्णेन्दुवत्सौम्य[ः\*] तेजस्वी शरदर्कवत् सागर इव गम्भीर[ः\*] स्थिरधर्मा

(16) सुमेरुवत् रघुनघु(हु)षमान्द्धात(तृ)कल्पः परमव्र(ब्र)ह्मण्यपरम-

(17) माहेश्वरो मातापितृपादानुध्यातः प्रकटाभिधानः श्रीनेट्टभञ्जदेवः

(18) कुशली [ ।\* ] काम्वेरालविषये श्रीसामन्तमहास(सा)मन्तराजराजनकराजपुत्रान्त-

(19) रङ्गकुमारामात्योपरिकतदायुक्तकम्व(व)र्त्तमान भविष्यदधिकरणा<12>-

Second Plate: Second Side

4<13>

(20) नन्यांश्च राजपादोपजीविकान्यथार्हं सत्कृत्य समाज्ञापयति विदि-

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(21) तमस्तु भवतां(ताम्) एतद्विषयसम्व(म्ब)ध(द्ध)वण्डूतुङ्गन्नाम<14>ग्रामः<15> चतुः-

(22) सीमापरिक्षिप्तः करादानवर्जितः सर्वावा(बा)धपरिहृतः अकरीकृ-

(23) त्य म(अ)स्माभिः कौशिकगोत्त्राय वाजसनेयचरणाय वासुदे-

(24) वस्वामिने ३ गोलस्वामिने १ आदित्यदेव(वाय) १ यज्ञस्व(स्वा)मी(मिने) १ छरम्पस्व(स्वा)मि[ ने\* ] १

(25) शिव [ स्वा ] मि [ ने ] १ अपरछरम्पस्वामि[ ने\* ] १ गोपेन्द्रस्वामि [ ने\* ] २ कयारस्वामि[ ने\* ] २

Third Plate: First Side

5<16>

(26) कारायणस्वामि<17>[ ने\* ] १ भा [ भो ]यिस्वामि[ ने\* ] १ जयस्वामि[ ने\* ] १ अपरः(र)जयस्वा-

(27) मि[ ने\* ] १ रविचोणस्वामि [ ने\* ] १ एभ्यो द्विजोत्तमेभ्यः नानागोत्त्रचरणेभ्यः

(28) सलिलधारापुरस्सरेण विधिना । राज्ञी क्षत्त्रिदेवी कैवर्त्तदेवी

(29) राजपुत्त्रि(त्त्री)मेघावलीदेवी आभ्यो नृपतिलव्ध(ब्ध)प्रसादानु-

(30) ज्ञेभ्यो देव्यः<18> परलोकगमनपाथेयस्वस्वर्गगमनसोपान-

(31) मालाधिगतये प्रतिपादितः [ ।\* ] तद्भवभु(द्भिः) तासामक्षयाय(यै) पुण्याभि-

(32) वृद्धि(द्धये) ताम्रपट्टदर्शनात् यथाकालफल(लं) स्वीकृत्योपः (प)<19>-

Third Plate: Second Side

6<20>

(33) [ भु ]ञ्जानेभ्यः नृपगौरवात् धर्मानुरोधाच्च चं(च)न्द्रार्कक्षिति-

(34) समकालः(लं) न कैश्चिद्विघातः करणीय[ः ] । ऊ(उ)क्तं च धर्मे(र्म) शास्त्रे [ ।\* ] मा भू-

(35) दफलशङ्का वः परदत्तेति पार्थिवाः [ ।\* ] स्वदानात् फलमानन्त्यं प-

(36) रदत्तानुपालने । [ ।\*२ ] षष्टिम्ब(ष्टिं व)र्ष सह<21> सहस्राणि स्वगे(र्गे) मोदति भू-

(37) मिदः [ ।\* ] आक्षेप्ता [ चा\* ]नुमन्ता च तान्येव नरके वसेत् [ ।।\*३ ] इति कमलदला-

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(38) म्वु(म्बु)विन्द(न्दु)लोलां श्रियमनुचिन्त्य मनुष्यजीवितं च [ ।\* ] सकलमिदमु[ दा\* ]हृतं च वु(बु)-

(39) ध्वा( द्ध्वा ) न हि पुरुषैः परकीर्तयो विलोप्या[ः\*] ।। [ ४\* ] संवत् षट्(ड्)विंशतिमे राज्ये लिखित(तं)

(40) वन्द्य्देव<22>भद्रेण [ ।\* ]<23> उत्कीरित<24> धार भोगिकेन [ ।।\* ]

ABSTRACT

The charter begins with the symbol for siddham and the word svasti. This is followed by a verse in adoration of the god Śiva (lines 1-2). Lines 2-8 describe the victorious camp named Vārāḍḍā from where the charter was issued. The place is said to have been endowed with gardens and bowers attached to certain temples. The people of the locality have been described as totally contented and the place free from fights, thieves, famine and disease. The place is further described as beautified by trees watered by many springs which produced flowers and fruits of various kinds in great abundance. Lines 8-17 describe the reigning king, Neṭṭabhañja, who is compared to mighty epic kings like Raghu, Nahuṣa and Māndhātṛ. He is described as a devout worshipper of lord Śiva and who respected the brāhmaṇas. He is said to have been born into the family of Drumarāja and was the inheritor of the fortune of ninety-nine past generations of kings. Lines 18-20 refer to the king’s order issued to the royal officers, to the present and future adhikaraṇas and other dependants present in the Kāmvērāla viṣaya. The officials and subordinates included the sāmanta, mahāsāmanta, rājan, rājanaka, rājaputra, antaraṅga, kumārāmātya, uparika and tadāyuktaka. Lines 20-22 refer to the grant of the village of Vaṇḍutaṅga, by the reigning king, as a free gift in favour of the following brāhmaṇas of the Kauśika gōtra and the Vājasanēya caraṇa, whose shares of the holding have been specified in lines 23-27: Vāsudēvasvāmin, 3 shares; Gōlasvāmin, 1; Ādityadēva, 1; Yajñasvāmin, 1; Charampasvāmin, 1; Śivasvāmin, 1; other Charampasvāmin, 1: Gōpēndrasvāmin, 2; Kayārasvāmin, 2; Nārāyaṇasvāmin, 1; Bhōyisvāmin, 1; Jayasvāmin, 1; other Jayasvāmin, 1; Ravicōṇasvāmin, 1. Lines 28-32 mention that the grant was actually made on behalf of the queens Kṣatridēvī and Kaivartadēvī, and the princess Mēghāvalīdēvī, for their easy access to heaven. This is followed by the usual entreaties (lines 32-39) to the future rulers for the preservation of the grant and the usual imprecatory and benedictory verses. The date of the charter is given in line 39 as the king’s 26th regnal year. Line 40 refers to the name of the writer as Vandya-Dēvabhadra and the engraver as Dhāra-bhōgika.

<1. From the original plates which are now preserved in the Orissa State Museum, Bhubaneswar.>

<2. This numerical figure indicates the serial number of the inscribed face and is incised in the left margin slightly below the beginning of the first line of the text.>

<3. Expressed by a symbol.>

<4. This numerical sign is engraved in the left margin below line 8, indicating the number of the inscribed face of the plate.>

<5. Read विनिःसृत.>

<6. The intended reading seems to be प्रच्युत.>

<7. Read शुरोऽनेक.>

<8. The intended reading is बलीवर्द्द.>

<9. The letter is superfluous; there is a circular sign below the letter indicating that the scribe deleted it.>

<10. This numerical symbol for 3 is incised in the left margin line 13, indicating the number of the inscribed face of the plate.>

<11. There is a sign like a full stop, perhaps indicating the end of the line.>

<12. There is a mark like that indicating a stop at the end of the line.>

<13. This numerical symbol for 4 is incised in the left margin below line 20.>

<14. D.C. Sircar reads चण्डूतुङ्ग, but the letter व is clear. The village may be identified with the present Banatumba, about four miles from the town of Russelkonda in Ganjam district.>

<15. The visarga sign has been indicated by two small horizontal strokes.>

<16. This numerical symbol for 5 is incised in the left margin, slightly above line 27.>

<17. The intended reading seems to be नारायणस्वामि[ ने\* ].>

<18. Sircar suggests आसां नृपतिलब्धप्रसादानुज्ञानं देवीनाम्.>

<19. There is a horizontal line at the end.>

<20. This figure for 6 is slightly visible in the left margin near the beginning of the line.>

<21. There two letters are superfluous.>

<22. भ is written below the lines.>

<23. Some space has been left between the names of the writer and the engraver.>

<24. Read उत्कीर्ण्णं.>