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) siddham<3> svasti [ ।\* ] । jaṭādharaḥ khaṇḍaśaśāṅkaśekharaḥ kapālamālā(laḥ) sitabhasmadhūsaraḥ [ ।\* ]

(2) sphuranmahāpannagava(ba)ddhakaṃkanaḥ(ṇaḥ) sadā śivamvo(vaṃ vo) vidadhātu śaṅkaraḥ [ ।।\*1 ] dviradavara-

(3) turagapadātipadoddhṛtava(ba)haladhavaladhūlīvitānīkṛtaṃ(ta)nabhastalāt

(4) jājvalyamānavividharucirapraharaṇāvaraṇāt devodyānava-

(5) naṣaṇḍamaṇḍapopaśobhitāt hṛṣṭatuṣṭapramuditajanakolāhalāt

(6) kalikalahaḍimva(mba)ḍaṃma(ba)rataskaradurbhikṣarogāpagatāt prasravaṇa-

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First Plate: Second Side

2<4>

(7) jalagambhīrakandarāntaravinisṛta<5>vicitra puṣpaphalapādopetāt

(8) śrīmadvārāḍḍāvāsitavijayaskandhāvārāt kularupaśrutaguṇavi-

(9) staraprabhāvaḥ svabhujava(ba)laparākramākrāntasakalārātipakṣavikṣobhi-

(10) tāpratihataprabhāvaprasaraḥ drumarājakulasambhūtaḥ navanavatipu-

(11) ruṣāntarapracūrśa<6>rājyasantatiḥ pradānaśūra' aneka<7>śatasahasragovadalī<8>-

(12) dhanapradāyī anekatāmrapaṭṭakāṅkitadvijakarasamarpitabhuvanatalaḥ pa<9>

Second Plate: First Side

3<10>

(13) paralokasaṃkrāmitadhana[ni]cayaḥ sākṣā[d\*] dharma iva ācāryya iva śiṣya<11> [iva\*]

(14) kṛtayuga iva vinaya iva piteva ca anukampamāna[ḥ\*] prajānāmupakārapra-

(15) vṛttaḥ pūrṇṇenduvatsaumya[ḥ\*] tejasvī śaradarkavat sāgara iva gambhīra[ḥ\*] sthiradharmā

(16) sumeruvat raghunaghu(hu)ṣamānddhāta(tṛ)kalpaḥ paramavra(bra)hmaṇyaparama-

(17) māheśvaro mātāpitṛpādānudhyātaḥ prakaṭābhidhānaḥ śrīneṭṭabhañjadevaḥ

(18) kuśalī [ ।\* ] kāmverālaviṣaye śrīsāmantamahāsa(sā)mantarājarājanakarājaputrānta-

(19) raṅgakumārāmātyoparikatadāyuktakamva(va)rttamāna bhaviṣyadadhikaraṇā<12>-

Second Plate: Second Side

4<13>

(20) nanyāṃśca rājapādopajīvikānyathārhaṃ satkṛtya samājñāpayati vidi-

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(21) tamastu bhavatāṃ(tām) etadviṣayasamva(mba)dha(ddha)vaṇḍūtuṅgannāma<14>grāmaḥ<15> catuḥ-

(22) sīmāparikṣiptaḥ karādānavarjitaḥ sarvāvā(bā)dhaparihṛtaḥ akarīkṛ-

(23) tya ma(a)smābhiḥ kauśikagottrāya vājasaneyacaraṇāya vāsude-

(24) vasvāmine 3 golasvāmine 1 ādityadeva(vāya) 1 yajñasva(svā)mī(mine) 1 charampasva(svā)mi[ ne\* ] 1

(25) śiva [ svā ] mi [ ne ] 1 aparacharampasvāmi[ ne\* ] 1 gopendrasvāmi [ ne\* ] 2 kayārasvāmi[ ne\* ] 2

Third Plate: First Side

5<16>

(26) kārāyaṇasvāmi<17>[ ne\* ] 1 bhā [ bho ]yisvāmi[ ne\* ] 1 jayasvāmi[ ne\* ] 1 aparaḥ(ra)jayasvā-

(27) mi[ ne\* ] 1 ravicoṇasvāmi [ ne\* ] 1 ebhyo dvijottamebhyaḥ nānāgottracaraṇebhyaḥ

(28) saliladhārāpurassareṇa vidhinā । rājñī kṣattridevī kaivarttadevī

(29) rājaputtri(ttrī)meghāvalīdevī ābhyo nṛpatilavdha(bdha)prasādānu-

(30) jñebhyo devyaḥ<18> paralokagamanapātheyasvasvargagamanasopāna-

(31) mālādhigataye pratipāditaḥ [ ।\* ] tadbhavabhu(dbhiḥ) tāsāmakṣayāya(yai) puṇyābhi-

(32) vṛddhi(ddhaye) tāmrapaṭṭadarśanāt yathākālaphala(laṃ) svīkṛtyopaḥ (pa)<19>-

Third Plate: Second Side

6<20>

(33) [ bhu ]ñjānebhyaḥ nṛpagauravāt dharmānurodhācca caṃ(ca)ndrārkakṣiti-

(34) samakālaḥ(laṃ) na kaiścidvighātaḥ karaṇīya[ḥ ] । ū(u)ktaṃ ca dharme(rma) śāstre [ ।\* ] mā bhū-

(35) daphalaśaṅkā vaḥ paradatteti pārthivāḥ [ ।\* ] svadānāt phalamānantyaṃ pa-

(36) radattānupālane । [ ।\*2 ] ṣaṣṭimba(ṣṭiṃ va)rṣa saha<21> sahasrāṇi svage(rge) modati bhū-

(37) midaḥ [ ।\* ] ākṣeptā [ cā\* ]numantā ca tānyeva narake vaset [ ।।\*3 ] iti kamaladalā-

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(38) mvu(mbu)vinda(ndu)lolāṃ śriyamanucintya manuṣyajīvitaṃ ca [ ।\* ] sakalamidamu[ dā\* ]hṛtaṃ ca vu(bu)-

(39) dhvā( ddhvā ) na hi puruṣaiḥ parakīrtayo vilopyā[ḥ\*] ।। [ 4\* ] saṃvat ṣaṭ(ḍ)viṃśatime rājye likhita(taṃ)

(40) vandydeva<22>bhadreṇa [ ।\* ]<23> utkīrita<24> dhāra bhogikena [ ।।\* ]

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 viniḥsṛta.>

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

<7. Read śuro'neka.>

<8. The intended reading is balīvardda.>

<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 caṇḍūtuṅga, but the letter va 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 nārāyaṇasvāmi[ ne\* ].>

<18. Sircar suggests āsāṃ nṛpatilabdhaprasādānujñānaṃ devīnām.>

<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. bha is written below the lines.>

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

<24. Read utkīrṇṇaṃ.>