NO. 25: TERASINGHA PLATES OF TUṢṬIKĀRA

Provenance : Terasingha, Kalahandi district.

References : S.N. Rajaguru, JKHRS, Vol. II, Nos. 2-3 (1947), pp. 107 ff. and plates; idem, IO, Vol. I, Pt. 2 (1958), pp. 81-85; and D.C. Sircar, EI, Vol. XXX (1954), pp. 274-78 and plate.

Language : Sanskrit, in prose, except six of the usual imprecatory and benedictory verses at the end.

Metre : Verses 1-6 anuṣṭubh.

Script : Kaliṅga variety of the southern alphabet of about the sixth century A.D. The obverse of the first plate is written in the ‘box-headed’ type of the central Indian alphabet.

Date : Not dated.

TEXT<1>

First Plate: First Side

(1) svi(sva)sti [।\*]<2> parvvatadvārakādbhaga<3>vatyā stasbheniryyā<4>pādabha[kta]-

(2) śrīso(śo)bhoṅnārājajananyā kastubhasayyā<5> dāyajvarola[kā]-

(3) di<6>bhogakakṣetra(traṃ) kāśyapasyagātra<7> bra(brā)hmaṇadroṇasvā[mi]-

(4) nasya<8> ācandrārkkakālāya dattayi(mi)ti ।।<9>

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First Plate: Second Side<10>

(1) svasti [।\*] tarabhramarakāt stambheśvarīpādabhaktaḥ mātāpitṛpādānudhyātaḥ śrī[ma]-

(2) hārājatuṣṭikāraḥ prastaravāṭakavāsinaḥ sarvvasamavetānkuṭumbinaḥ sa[mā]-

(3) jñāpayati astyeṣa vāṭakosmābhiḥ puṇyāyurbbalayaśovivṛddhaye<11>

(4) [ā]candratārakārkkapratiṣṭhamaggre<12>(gra)hāraṃ kṛtvā kāśyapasagottra(ttrā)ya āryyadroṇa-

Second Plate: First Side

(5) śamma(rmma)ṇe saṃpradattaḥ [।\*] tadevaṃ jñātvā bhavadbhiḥ pūvvo(rvvo)citamaryyādopa[sthā]naṃ katta(rtta)vya[m] [।\*]

(6) api cātra vyāsagītāḥ ślokā bhavanti ।।<13> bhaviṣyataśca rājño vijñāpayati [।\*] yasya<14>

(7) yasya yasya yadā bhūmistasya [tasya\*] tadā phalam<15> [।।\*] svadattāṃ paradattāṃ vā yatna(tnā) dra-

(8)kṣa yudhiṣṭhiraḥ(ra) [।\*] mahī[m\*]mahimatāṃ śreṣṭha dānācchreyonupālana[m] [।।\*1]ṣaṣṭimvaṣṣa<16>-

Second Plate: Second Side

(9) sahasrāṇi svargge vasati [bhūmidaḥ ।\*] ācchai(cche)ttā cānumantā ca tānyeva narake vaset [।।\*2] svada-

(10) ttā(ttāṃ) paradattāmvā(ttāṃ vā) yo hareta vasundharā[m] [।\*] sa viṣṭhāyāṃ kṛmirbhūtvā pitṛbhissa-

(11) ha pacyate<17> [।।\*3] va(ba)hubhirvvasudhā dattā rājabhissagara(rā)dibhi(bhiḥ) [।\*] yasya yasya yadā bhūmi-

(12) stasya tasya tadā phalaṃ(lam) [।।\*4] agniṣṭommasthibhiyyajñaiḥ<18> vahubhirvvipuladakṣaṇeḥ<19> [।\*]

Third Plate: First Side

(13) yaṣṭo(ṣṭā) bhavati ra(rā)jendraḥ ya(yo) dadāti vasundharām [।।\*5] ādityo vasā(sa)vo rudrāḥ

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(14) [hutāśana\*] purogamā [।\*] śūlapāṇiśca bhagavānabhinandanti bhūmidam [।।\*6] rahasi-

(15) kasubandhorvviditaṃ sadgāmakena likhitamiti ।।<20> sunyaghettram<21>

(16) prastha(sta)rakṣetramū(mu)khaṃ(kham) [।\*]<22>

Third Plate: Second Side

(17) siddham [।\*] [svasti । parvatadvārakādbhagavatyā stambheśvaryyāḥ] ….<23>

ABSTRACT

The first side of the first plate contains four lines of an endorsement, which states that it was issued from Parvatadvāraka by the mother of a king who was devoted to goddess Stambhēśvarī. The name of the queen-mother seems to be Śobhōṅnā-Kaustubhēśvarī. It records the grant of a piece of land which was in the possession of some residents of the locality (named Dāya, Jvara and Ulākā) in favour of a brāhmaṇa named Droṇasvāmin of the Kāśyapa gōtra. The grant is stated to have been made a permanent holding as long as the sun and the moon would endure.

Another charter has been recorded on the second side of the first plate which continues till the end of the record on the obverse of the third plate. This charter is stated (lines 1-5) to have been issued from a place called Tarabhramaraka by Mahārāja Tuṣṭikāra, who was devoted to goddess Stambhēśvarī. The royal order relating to the grant of the locality called Prastara-vāṭaka was addressed to the agriculturist householders of the said village. It was granted as a permanent agrahāra to a brāhmaṇa named ārya Drōṇaśarman of the Kāśyapa gōtra, in order to acquire religious merit for the donor. Lines 5-6 refer to the donor’s order to the inhabitants of the village to attend on the done according to established custom. Lines 6-14 quote six of the usual imprecatory and benedictory verses. Lines 14-15 refer to the writer of the charter, named Subandhu, who was known as sadgāmaka and designated as a rahasika.<24> Lines 15-16 seem to indicate that a piece of fallow and rockey land was also granted along with the said village to the above donee. The reverse side of the third plate contains one line of writing, very faintly visible, which is same as the beginning of the first line engraved on the obverse side of the first plate.

<1. From the facsimile in EI, Vol. XXX (1954), pp. 276 and 277.>

<2. A letter looking like pa, originally engraved near rvva, had been erased and incised later near sti.>

<3. The letter ga has not been engraved properly. It resembles ta.>

<4. Read stambheśvaryyāḥ>

<5. Sircar suggests kaustubheśvaryyā, which may be the intended reading.>

<6. Rajaguru reads debhogaka and takes it as the name of a locality. The expressions seem to indicate some tribal personal names.>

<7. Read sagotra.>

<8. Read droṇasvāmine.>

<9. The first of the two daṇḍas is curved towards the left. A conch-shell has been incised after the daṇḍas.>

<10. The text of the main charter granted by the reigning king begins from this reverse side of the plate.>

<11. Read bhivṛddhaye.>

<12. The letter resembles ttra.>

<13. This punctuation mark is represented by two small horizontal strokes.>

<14. The word is redundant.>

<15. This is the second half of the verse. The same verse has been fully quoted below in lines 11 and 12.>

<16. Read ṣaṣṭiṃ varṣa.>

<17. A small dot is incised here.>

<18. Read agniṣṭomādibhiryajñaiḥ; the letter gni looks like tri.>

<19. Read bahubhirbahudakṣiṇaiḥ.>

<20. The punctuation mark is represented by two small horizontal strokes.>

<21. The intended reading may be śūnyakṣetram.>

<22. The first half of this line is left blank.>

<23. The letters of this line are very faintly visible. The engraver had begun to incise the line which is found in first side of the first plate, but erased them after engraving one line.>

<24. This official designation seems to be the same as rahasyādhikṛta or the privy counsellor of many early medieval Indian inscriptions.>