NO. 26: KESARIBEDA PLATES OF NALA ARTHAPATI-BHAṬṬĀRAKA, YEAR 7

Provenance : Kesaribeda, Koraput district, Orissa.

References : G. Ramadas, JBORS, Vol. XXXIV (1943), pp. 33-42; and D.C. Sircar, EI, Vol. XXVIII (1949-50), pp. 12-16 and plates.

Language : Sanskrit, in prose, except two of the usual imprecatory verse at the end.

Metre : Verses 1 and 2 anuṣṭubh.

Scrript : Southern variety of the ‘box-headed’ script of about the sixth century A.D.

Date : Year 7, the new moon day of the month of Mārgaśīrṣa.

TEXT<1>

First Plate

(1) svasti [।।\*] puṣkaryyāḥ maheśvaramahāsenātisṛṣṭarājyavibha[va\*]ḥ tripata(tā)-

(2) kādhvajaḥ nalanṛpatikulānvayaḥ śrīmahārājārtthapatibhaṭṭārakaḥ

(3) kesalakagrāme brāhmarnettarā<2>nkuṭumbinaśśīrṣakañcājñāpaya[ti\*]

Second Plate: First Side

(4) yūyamasmābhi[ḥ] kautsasagotrāya durgga(rggā)ryyāya ravirāryyāya<3 > ravidattāryyāya<4>pū(pu)trapautrika[m\*]

(5) artthapatibhaṭa(ṭṭā)rakasya(syā)nugrahārttha (rtha)[m\*] udakapūrvva[m\*] data ācandratārakamabhaṭapraveśa[:\*] sarvvakara-

(6) visarjjitaḥ avahaḥ [।\*] na kenaci[t] kiñca[ñci] dvaktavyāḥ [।\*] yataḥ bhavadbhi[śca\*]

Second Plate: Second Side

(7) dhruvakarmmāntārambheḥ(mbhaiḥ) sunirvṛtaviśvastairvvastavya(vyaṃ) viṣayocitaśca śuśrūśā(ṣāḥ)

(8) karttavyā hiraṇyādayaśca pratyāya(yā) deyāḥ [।\*] tataśca bhaṭā(ṭṭā)rakarājasya(syā)-

(9) pyāyana[m ।\*] asmābhiḥ parituṣṭa(ṣṭai)rdatta[:।\*] yaḥ kaścit vyapetadharmmā

Third Plate: First Side

(10) rāgā[d\*] drohātpralā(lo) bhādvā grāme kiñcitpralopayet [।\*] sa mahāpātaka-

(11) yuktaḥ<5> pañcabhinna(rnna)rakaṃ vrajeta [।।\*1] uktañca [।\*] ṣaṣṭī(ṣṭiṃ) varṣasahasrāṇi

(12) sa(sva)rgge nandati bhūmidaḥ [।\*] ākṣeptā ca(cā)numantā ca tānyeva narake vasavati<6>

Third Plate: Second Side

(13) saṃvva<7> 7 mārggaśīrṣamāsa(si) amāvāsyām likhita(taṃ) svamuhā<8>-

(14) jñāptena rahasyādhikṛtena cullena ।।<9>

ABSTRACT

The charter begins with the word svasti. Lines 1-6 record that the reigning king Mahārāja Arthapati-bhaṭṭāraka of the Nala family, who has been described as one who dedicated his kingdom and wealth to god Śiva and Mahāsēna<10> (Skanda) and who had the royal banner of tri-patāka, issued the order from Puṣkarī relating to the grant of village Kēśalaka in favour of the brāhmaṇas named Durgārya, Ravirārya and Ravidattārya of the Kautsa gōtra. The royal order was addressed to the agriculturist house-holders, headed by brāhmaṇas, as well as to the village headman. The donated village was exempted from the entrance of the bhaṭas and made permanent and free from all taxes. The donees are stated as not being disturbed by anybody. Lines 7-10 record that the villagers were asked to be careful about their obligations to the donees in accordance with the customs prevalent in the district and to regularly pay the usual hiraṇya (rent in metallic money) and other dues (share of the produce). The record further states that the fulfilment of these conditions would lead to the

%%p. 158

satisfaction of bhaṭṭāraka-rāja, the reigning king. This is followed by two of the usual imprecatory verses. Line 13 states the date of the grant as the 7th regnal year of the donor and the new moon day of the month of Mārgaśīrṣa. Lines 13-14 state that the charter was drafted on the verbal order of the donor, by Culla, the rahasyādhikṛta.

<1. From the facsimile in EI, Vol. XXVIII (1949-50), pp. 16 and 17.>

<2. brāhmaṇottarān.>

<3. The third letter rā has a sign above it resembling the superscript r and along with it a sign for ā.>

<4. A letter resembling ca seems to have been erased after engraving.>

<5. Read pātakairyuktaḥ.>

<6. Read vaset [।।\*2] iti.>

<7. Read saṃvat.>

<8. Read svamukhā; it indicates the influence of the Prakrit dialect.>

<9. A horizontal line is incised after the punctuation indicating the end of the charter.>

<10. The expression mahēśvara-mahāsēn-ātisṛṣṭa-rājya-vibhava has also been explained as “to have obtained royal fortune through the grace of Mahēśvara (Śiva) and Mahāsēna” (Skanda-Kārttikeya).>