NO. 38: BALASORE COPPER-PLATE GRANT OF ŚRĪ-BHĀNU, YEAR 5

Provenance : Near Balasore town, Balasore district, Orissa.

References : Haridas Mitra, IHQ, Vol. XI (1935), pp. 611-26 and plate; R.K. Ghoshal, EI, Vol. XXVI (1942), pp. 239 ff.; S.N. Rajaguru, IO, Vol. I, Pt. 2 (1958), pp. 128-30.

Language : Sanskrit, in prose, with the exception of four of the imprecatory and benedictory verses at the end.

Metre : Verses 1-4 anuṣṭubh.

Script : Eastern variety of the north Indian alphabet of about the seventh century A.D.

Date : 5th regnal year, the fourth day of the month of Mārgaśīrṣa.

TEXT<1>

First Side

(1) siddham<2> svasti [।।\*] sagaḍhā<3>vāsakānmahāpratīhāramahārājamahāsāmantaśrībhānuḥ

(2) kuśalī [।\*] sagaḍhāhāraviṣaye samupagatānvarttamānabhaviṣyanmahāsā-

(3) mantamahārājarājaputtrakumārāmātyoparikaviṣayapatitadā-

(4) yuktakadāṇḍavāsika<4>sthānāntarikānanyāṃśca cāṭa bhaṭādi(dī)nmahāmahattaravṛ(bṛ)hat-

(5) bhogikādyadhikaraṇañca yathārhampūjayati vo(bo)dhayati cāstu vo vidita-

(6) metadviṣayasamva(mba)ddha ciraṃkhilaśunya<5> vandīraka <6>grāmosmābhiḥ śrīparama-

(7) bhaṭṭārakapādānāmācandrārkasamakālampuṇyābhivṛddhaye vatsasagotra-

(8) vājasaneyacaraṇebhyaḥ mahāmahattarapriyamittrasvāmivāṭamitra-

(9) svāmidhruvamittrasvāmi āruhamittra<7>svāmināmā(ma)grahārīkṛtya pratipāditaḥ [।\*]

(10) tadeṣāṃ samucitarājadattidānandatvā bhuñjānānāṃ na kenacidvā(dbā) dhā karaṇīyā [।\*]

%%p. 194

Second Side

(11) śrīparamabhaṭṭārakapādānāṃ gauravāccaiṣā dattiḥ paripālayitavyeti [।\*]

(12) samvat 5 mārgga di 4 ।। uktañca dharmmaśāstre [।\*] va(ba)hubhirvvasudhā dattā

(13) rājabhiḥ sagarādibhiḥ [।\*] yasya yasya yadā bhūmiḥ tasya tasya tadā phalaṃ(lam) ।। [1\*]

mā bhū-

(14) daphalaśaṅkā vaḥ [para]datteti pārthivāḥ [।\*] svadānātphalamānantyamparadānā-

(15) nupālanaṃ (nam) ।। [2\*] ṣaṣṭimva<8>rṣasahasrāṇi svargge modati bhūmi[daḥ\*।]

(16) ākṣeptā cānumantā ca tānyeva narakaṃ(ke) vaset ।। [3\*] pūrvvadattāṃ dvijātibhyaḥ

(17) yattnādrakṣa yudhiṣṭhiraḥ<9> [।\*] mahīṃ mahīva(ma)tāṃ śreṣṭha dānācchreyonupālanaṃ(nam) ।। [4\*]

(18) likhitansānddhi<10>vigrahikenāruṇadattena tāpitaṃ peḍāpālaka<11>pratiṣṭhitacandreṇeti<12> [।।]

ABSTRACT

The charter begins with the symbol for siddham and the word svasti. Line 1 states that the reigning king Śrī-Bhānu, who had the titles of mahāpratihāra, mahārāja and mahāsāmanta, issued the order from his residence at Sagaḍhā. Lines 2-9 record that the royal order was addressed to the present and future rulers and officers. These included mahāsāmanta, mahārāja, rājaputra, kumārāmātya, uparika, viṣayapati, tadāyuktaka, dāṇḍapāśika, sthānāntarika and other officers such as the cāṭas and bhaṭas, mahāmahattara and bṛhadbhōgin and their assistants, assembled in the village of Vandīraka, situated in the viṣaya of Sagaḍhāhāra. The said village, which remained previously uncultivated, was granted to four brāhmaṇas, by the reigning king, after obtaining permission from his overlord. The gift village was made a permanent agrahāra. The names of the four brāhmaṇas are the mahattara Priyamitrasvāmin, Vāṭamitrasvāmin, Dhruvamitrasvāmin and Āruhamitrasvāmin (or Āruṅgamitrasvāmin). The purpose of the grant was to obtain religious merit. Lines 10-11 refer to the donor’s instruction to the donees to pay the usual royal dues and enjoy the gift. Line 12 states the date of the grant mentioned in the regnal year of the king as samvat 5, the fourth day of the month of Mārgaśīrṣa. Lines 12-17 quote four of the usual imprecatory and benedictory verses. Line 18 refers to the writer of the charter Aruṇadatta, the sandhivigrahin and Pratiṣṭhitacandra, the pēḍāpālaka, who heated the plate.

<1. From the facsimile in IHQ, Vol. XI (1935), pp. 611 and 612.>

<2. Expressed by a symbol.>

<3. R.K. Ghoshal suggests sarepha, but the letter pha is quite different from ḍha in this charter written in lines 13 and 14.>

<4. Read dāṇḍapāśika.>

<5. Mitra reads ciraṃkhila jonyavandīrakagrāma and interprets it as “the village the other minor (plots of land) (anyavandīraka) which was long fallow”.>

<6. R.K. Ghoshal suggests the name of the village as nandīraṭa.>

<7. This may also be read as āruṅgamitra as suggested by Ghoshal.>

<8. Read ṣaṣṭiṃ varṣa.>

<9. The visarga is superfluous.>

<10. Read likhitaṃ sānddhi-.>

<11. Mitra reads pīḍāpālaka and interprets it as an apprentice. This is the official designation of the “keeper of the records” and found in many of the early medieval copper-plate records of Orissa.>

<12. Mitra takes the name to be of two different persons pratiṣṭhita— and candra.>