NO. 42: MIDNAPORE PLATE SŌMADATTA, YEAR 19

Provenance : Midnapore, Midnapore district, West Bengal.

References : R.C. Majumdar, JASB (Letters), Vol. XI (1945), pp. 3-8 and plate; and S.N. Rajaguru, IO, Vol. I, Pt. 2 (1958), pp. 141 ff.

Language : Sanskrit, in verse, except a portion in the first line.

Metre : Verses 1-11 anuṣṭubh.

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

Date : 19th year, the nineteenth day of the month of Bhādra.

TEXT<1>

(1) [sa\*]mvat 10.9 bhādra di 10.9 [।।\*] viṣṇoḥ pottrāgravikṣepakṣaṇabhā[vitasādhvasāṃ । śeṣā\*]-<2>

(2) śeṣaśiromadhyamadhyāsīna mahātanuṃ ।। [1\*] kāmārātiśirobhraṣṭa[gaṅgaughadhvasta\*]-

(3) kalmaṣāṃ [।\*] śrīśaśāṅke mahīṃ pāti caturjaladhi mekhalāṃ(lām) ।। [2\*] tasya pādana-

[khajyotsnā\*]-

(4) vibhūṣitaśiromaṇau [।\*] śrīsāmantamahārājasomadatte guṇādhike ।। [3\*] sā. . .

(5) gamotsannakāleyadhvāntasaṃhatau [।\*] sahitāmutkaladeśena daṇḍabhuktiṃ praśā[sati ।।\*4]

(6) satyaśauryakṛtāstratvarupavidyādayaḥ pṛthaka [।\*] pāṇḍaveṣu sthitāḥ santi ya[smi]-

(7) nnekattre te guṇāḥ ।। [5\*] amātyo yasya guṇavānprakīrṇṇadāsa iti śrutaḥ [।\*] sādhukāri-

(8) tayā nityaṃ yaḥ pūjyaiḥ pūjyate dvijaiḥ ।। [6\*] āgāmino nṛpānsarvvān jñāpayitvā

(9) praṇamya ca [।\*] prāha tāvirakaṃ sarvvaṃ karaṇaṃ lokasaṅgataṃ ।। [7\*] bhūmergocarmamāttrā[yāḥ]

(10) dāne svargaḥ phalaṃ smṛtaṃ [।\*] parāśarasutasyoccairvvācaṃ śrutveti bhāsitāṃ(tām) ।। [8\*]

tene[daṃ ca]

(11) samāmnāta(taṃ)manuśāstrānuvarttinā [।\*] śrīsāmantena kṛtinā somadatte[na]

(12) dhīmatā ।। [9\*] bhaṭṭeśvarāya guṇine kāśyapādhvaryave [।\*] muhā<3>kumbhārapadrako-

%%p. 202

(13) dattaḥ sarvvamaṇḍalavarjjita[ḥ\*] ।। [10\*] tadyottrāsmatkule jāto mohādanyopi vā [naraḥ ।\*]

(14) pāpaṃ prakurute lobhānmahāpātakavānbhavet ।। [11\*] sukhānāmanvaxxxx

(15) xxsyātyalpadhīmataḥ [।\*] dvijadevasya bhāhetoḥ ślokāḥ xxxxsahitāxx

ABSTRACT

The charter begins with the date of issue, mentioned in the regnal year of the reigning king as samvat 19, the nineteenth day of the month of Bhādrapada. Lines 1-3 describe the illustrious monarch Śaśāṅka, the protector of the earth bounded by the four oceans. Lines 4-9 record that during his rule, his illustrious feudatory sāmanta mahārāja Sōmadatta ruled Daṇḍabhukti along with Utkala, whose excellent minister was Prakīrṇṇadāsa and who, having saluted the brāhmaṇas and informed all the future kings, addressed all the officers of Tāviraka<4> as well as the people associated with the grant. Lines 9-10 record the prevalent popular belief that the gift of even a gōcarma<5> measure of land would lead to the attainment of heaven, which is loudly proclaimed by the son of Parāśara. Lines 11-15 record that the illustrious feudatory, who was a keen follower of the Law code of Manu, declared the grant of the village Mahā Kumbhārapadraka, by making it detached from all territorial divisions, in favour of the meritorious Bhaṭṭēśvara of Kāśyapa (gōtra). Lines 14-15 contain the usual imprecatory verses, but the lines are greatly corroded.

<1. From the facsimile in JASB (Letters), Vol. XI (1945) and plate I.>

<2. A portion of the upper and lower right corners of the plate is broken affecting the first six lines in the upper right corner and lines 13 to 15.>

<3. Read this as mahā-.>

<4. This seems to indicate the office of kāyasthas situated at Tāviraka, which was under the minister for war and peace (sandhivigrahin). The seal attached to the plate contains the legend tāvirādhikaraṇasya (of the officer of Tāvira). The expression seems to indicate that the office was often held by the feudatory rulers, who sometimes acted as ministers of a sovereign.>

<5. This land-measure is generally taken to be equal to 150 cubit-square.>