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) स्वस्ति [।।\*] पुष्कर्य्याः महेश्वरमहासेनातिसृष्टराज्यविभ[व\*]ः त्रिपत(ता)-

(2) काध्वजः नलनृपतिकुलान्वयः श्रीमहाराजार्त्थपतिभट्टारकः

(3) केसलकग्रामे ब्राह्मर्नेत्तरा<2>न्कुटुम्बिनश्शीर्षकञ्चाज्ञापय[ति\*]

Second Plate: First Side

(4) यूयमस्माभि[ः] कौत्ससगोत्राय दुर्ग्ग(र्ग्गा)र्य्याय रविरार्य्याय<3 > रविदत्तार्य्याय<4>पू(पु)त्रपौत्रिक[म्\*]

(5) अर्त्थपतिभट(ट्टा)रकस्य(स्या)नुग्रहार्त्थ (र्थ)[म्\*] उदकपूर्व्व[म्\*] दत आचन्द्रतारकमभटप्रवेश[:\*] सर्व्वकर-

(6) विसर्ज्जितः अवहः [।\*] न केनचि[त्] किञ्च[ञ्चि] द्वक्तव्याः [।\*] यतः भवद्भि[श्च\*]

Second Plate: Second Side

(7) ध्रुवकर्म्मान्तारम्भेः(म्भैः) सुनिर्वृतविश्वस्तैर्व्वस्तव्य(व्यं) विषयोचितश्च शुश्रूशा(षाः)

(8) कर्त्तव्या हिरण्यादयश्च प्रत्याय(या) देयाः [।\*] ततश्च भटा(ट्टा)रकराजस्य(स्या)-

(9) प्यायन[म् ।\*] अस्माभिः परितुष्ट(ष्टै)र्दत्त[:।\*] यः कश्चित् व्यपेतधर्म्मा

Third Plate: First Side

(10) रागा[द्\*] द्रोहात्प्रला(लो) भाद्वा ग्रामे किञ्चित्प्रलोपयेत् [।\*] स महापातक-

(11) युक्तः<5> पञ्चभिन्न(र्न्न)रकं व्रजेत [।।\*१] उक्तञ्च [।\*] षष्टी(ष्टिं) वर्षसहस्राणि

(12) स(स्व)र्ग्गे नन्दति भूमिदः [।\*] आक्षेप्ता च(चा)नुमन्ता च तान्येव नरके वसवति<6>

Third Plate: Second Side

(13) संव्व<7> ७ मार्ग्गशीर्षमास(सि) अमावास्याम् लिखित(तं) स्वमुहा<8>-

(14) ज्ञाप्तेन रहस्याधिकृतेन चुल्लेन ।।<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

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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. ब्राह्मणोत्तरान्.>

<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 पातकैर्युक्तः.>

<6. Read वसेत् [।।\*२] इति.>

<7. Read संवत्.>

<8. Read स्वमुखा; 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).>