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) सिद्धम्<2> स्वस्ति [।।\*] सगढा<3>वासकान्महाप्रतीहारमहाराजमहासामन्तश्रीभानुः

(2) कुशली [।\*] सगढाहारविषये समुपगतान्वर्त्तमानभविष्यन्महासा-

(3) मन्तमहाराजराजपुत्त्रकुमारामात्योपरिकविषयपतितदा-

(4) युक्तकदाण्डवासिक<4>स्थानान्तरिकानन्यांश्च चाट भटादि(दी)न्महामहत्तरवृ(बृ)हत्-

(5) भोगिकाद्यधिकरणञ्च यथार्हम्पूजयति वो(बो)धयति चास्तु वो विदित-

(6) मेतद्विषयसम्व(म्ब)द्ध चिरंखिलशुन्य<5> वन्दीरक <6>ग्रामोस्माभिः श्रीपरम-

(7) भट्टारकपादानामाचन्द्रार्कसमकालम्पुण्याभिवृद्धये वत्ससगोत्र-

(8) वाजसनेयचरणेभ्यः महामहत्तरप्रियमित्त्रस्वामिवाटमित्र-

(9) स्वामिध्रुवमित्त्रस्वामि आरुहमित्त्र<7>स्वामिनामा(म)ग्रहारीकृत्य प्रतिपादितः [।\*]

(10) तदेषां समुचितराजदत्तिदानन्दत्वा भुञ्जानानां न केनचिद्वा(द्बा) धा करणीया [।\*]

%%p. 194

Second Side

(11) श्रीपरमभट्टारकपादानां गौरवाच्चैषा दत्तिः परिपालयितव्येति [।\*]

(12) सम्वत् ५ मार्ग्ग दि ४ ।। उक्तञ्च धर्म्मशास्त्रे [।\*] व(ब)हुभिर्व्वसुधा दत्ता

(13) राजभिः सगरादिभिः [।\*] यस्य यस्य यदा भूमिः तस्य तस्य तदा फलं(लम्) ।। [१\*]

मा भू-

(14) दफलशङ्का वः [पर]दत्तेति पार्थिवाः [।\*] स्वदानात्फलमानन्त्यम्परदाना-

(15) नुपालनं (नम्) ।। [२\*] षष्टिम्व<8>र्षसहस्राणि स्वर्ग्गे मोदति भूमि[दः\*।]

(16) आक्षेप्ता चानुमन्ता च तान्येव नरकं(के) वसेत् ।। [३\*] पूर्व्वदत्तां द्विजातिभ्यः

(17) यत्त्नाद्रक्ष युधिष्ठिरः<9> [।\*] महीं महीव(म)तां श्रेष्ठ दानाच्छ्रेयोनुपालनं(नम्) ।। [४\*]

(18) लिखितन्सान्द्धि<10>विग्रहिकेनारुणदत्तेन तापितं पेडापालक<11>प्रतिष्ठितचन्द्रेणेति<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 सरेफ, but the letter फ is quite different from ढ in this charter written in lines 13 and 14.>

<4. Read दाण्डपाशिक.>

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

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

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

<8. Read षष्टिं वर्ष.>

<9. The visarga is superfluous.>

<10. Read लिखितं सान्द्धि-.>

<11. Mitra reads पीडापालक 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 प्रतिष्ठित— and चन्द्र.>