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) [स\*]म्वत् १०.९ भाद्र दि १०.९ [।।\*] विष्णोः पोत्त्राग्रविक्षेपक्षणभा[वितसाध्वसां । शेषा\*]-<2>

(2) शेषशिरोमध्यमध्यासीन महातनुं ।। [१\*] कामारातिशिरोभ्रष्ट[गङ्गौघध्वस्त\*]-

(3) कल्मषां [।\*] श्रीशशाङ्के महीं पाति चतुर्जलधि मेखलां(लाम्) ।। [२\*] तस्य पादन-

[खज्योत्स्ना\*]-

(4) विभूषितशिरोमणौ [।\*] श्रीसामन्तमहाराजसोमदत्ते गुणाधिके ।। [३\*] सा. . .

(5) गमोत्सन्नकालेयध्वान्तसंहतौ [।\*] सहितामुत्कलदेशेन दण्डभुक्तिं प्रशा[सति ।।\*४]

(6) सत्यशौर्यकृतास्त्रत्वरुपविद्यादयः पृथक [।\*] पाण्डवेषु स्थिताः सन्ति य[स्मि]-

(7) न्नेकत्त्रे ते गुणाः ।। [५\*] अमात्यो यस्य गुणवान्प्रकीर्ण्णदास इति श्रुतः [।\*] साधुकारि-

(8) तया नित्यं यः पूज्यैः पूज्यते द्विजैः ।। [६\*] आगामिनो नृपान्सर्व्वान् ज्ञापयित्वा

(9) प्रणम्य च [।\*] प्राह ताविरकं सर्व्वं करणं लोकसङ्गतं ।। [७\*] भूमेर्गोचर्ममात्त्रा[याः]

(10) दाने स्वर्गः फलं स्मृतं [।\*] पराशरसुतस्योच्चैर्व्वाचं श्रुत्वेति भासितां(ताम्) ।। [८\*]

तेने[दं च]

(11) समाम्नात(तं)मनुशास्त्रानुवर्त्तिना [।\*] श्रीसामन्तेन कृतिना सोमदत्ते[न]

(12) धीमता ।। [९\*] भट्टेश्वराय गुणिने काश्यपाध्वर्यवे [।\*] मुहा<3>कुम्भारपद्रको-

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(13) दत्तः सर्व्वमण्डलवर्ज्जित[ः\*] ।। [१०\*] तद्योत्त्रास्मत्कुले जातो मोहादन्योपि वा [नरः ।\*]

(14) पापं प्रकुरुते लोभान्महापातकवान्भवेत् ।। [११\*] सुखानामन्वxxxx

(15) xxस्यात्यल्पधीमतः [।\*] द्विजदेवस्य भाहेतोः श्लोकाः xxxxसहिताxx

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 महा-.>

<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.>