Po Dam slab (C. 246), 631 Śaka

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Palaeographic description

The lettering is characteristic of the eighth century CE.

Edition

〈1〉 (s)vasti

1. Anuṣṭubh

kṣoṇī-bahni-rasāṅkite
śa(ka)-(va)r(ṣ)ārāmāśrite †
trige〈2〉 phālguṇyasya site
sa śu〈〈kra〉〉divase 〈'〉(tha)

Apparatus

〈1〉 -(va)r(ṣ)ārāmāśrite • This reading is unmetrical and very uncertain also for other reasons. The second *akṣara* looks more like *rtha* or *rthā*; the first would seem to bear a *repha* or vowel marker (*ā* or *ī*).

Translation

When the Śaka year had reached a halt (ārāma?) in (1) earth, (3) fires, (6) flavors, in the waxing fortnight of Phalguṇa, on the third, a Friday.

Commentary

The inscription seems to form one almost complete stanza in the Anuṣṭubh meter, the last syllable being entirely lost or never written. It comprises only or almost exlusively a dating formula, of which I so far understand only the chronogam (kṣoṇi-bahni-rasa 'earth-fires-flavors' = 1-3-6, so 631 Śaka) and the indication of the month and fortnight (phālguṇyasya site 'in the waxing fortnight of Phālguṇa'). Presumably trige indicates the quanitième as 'third', in which case we land on Thursday, February 6, 710 CE, one day off from the indication śukradivase (Thursday) in the text.