Sirpur Plates of Sudevarāja, Year 7

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Edition

Seal

1. Anuṣṭubh

prasannatanayasyedaṁ vikkramākrāntavidviṣaḥ
śrīmato jayarājasya śāsanaṁ ripuśāsanam

Plates

〈Page 1r〉

〈Page 1v〉 〈1v1〉 □ svasti śarabhapurād vikkramopanatasāmantama[kuṭacūḍā-maṇi]〈1v2〉prabhāprasekāmbudhautapādayugalo ripuvilāsi[nīsīmantoddharaṇa]〈1v3〉hetur vvasuva◯sudhāgopradaḥ paramabhāga[vato mātāpitṛpādā]〈1v4〉nuddhyātaś śrī◯mahādurgarājaḥ cu[9+]〈1v5〉vake prativāsikuṭumbinas samājñā[payati]

[viditam astu vo]〈1v6〉 yathāsmābir ayaṁ grāmas ¡tṛ!〈tri〉daśapatisa[danasukhapratiṣṭhākaro]〈Page 2r〉 〈2r1〉 yāvad raviśaśitārākiraṇapratihataghorāndhakāraṁ jagad avatiṣṭha〈2r2〉te tāvad upabhogyas sanidhis sopanidhir acāṭabhaṭaprāveśyas sarvvaka〈2r3〉ravisarjjita〈ḥ〉 ◯pūrvvaṁ nannapādais taittirīyapārāśarasagotrabrāhma〈2r4〉ṇakāraṇika◯kansippasvāmin¿o?〈e〉 datta Idānīm apy asmābhir api〈2r5〉 mahādevīrājakulānāṁ vijñāpyās tā¡mbra!〈mra〉śāsanīkṛtaḥ

te yūyam e〈2r6〉vam upalabhyāsyājñāśravaṇavidheyā bhūtvā yathocitaṁ bhogabhāga〈Page 2v〉〈2v1〉m upanayantas sukhaṁ prativatsyatha bhaviṣyataś ca bhūmipān anu〈2v2〉darśayati~

1. Vasantatilakā

dānād viśiṣṭam anupālanajaṁ purāṇā
dharmmeṣu niścita〈2v3〉dhiyaḥ pravadanti ◯dharmmaṁ~
tasmā〈d〉 dvijāya suviśuddhakulaśrutāya
dattāṁ〈2v4〉 bhuvaṁ bhavatu ◯vo matir eva goptu〈ṁ〉=

tad bhavadbhir apy eṣā dattir anu〈2v5〉pālay¿ī?〈i〉tavyā vyāsagītāṁś cātra ślokān udāharanti

2. Indravajrā

Agner apatyaṁ pra〈2v6〉thamaṁ suvarṇṇaṁ
bhūr vvaiṣṇavī sūryyasutāś ca gāvaḥ
dattās trayas te〈Page 3r〉〈3r1〉na bhavanti lokā{ḥ}
yaḥ kāñcanaṁ gāṁ ca mahī〈ṁ〉 ca dadyāT

3. Anuṣṭubh

ṣaṣṭivarṣasa〈3r2〉hasrāṇi svargge modati bhūmidaḥ
Ācchettā cānumantā ca tāny e〈3r3〉va narake vaseT

4. Anuṣṭubh

bahubhir vvasudhā dattā rājabhis sagarādibhiḥ
yasya〈3r4〉 yasya yadā ◯bhūmi¡ḥ!〈s〉 tasya tasya tadā phalaṁ

5. Anuṣṭubh

svadattāṁ paradattāṁ vā〈3r5〉 yatnād rakṣa yudhiṣṭhira
mahī¡t!〈ṁ〉 mah¿i?〈ī〉matāñ ¡cch!〈ch〉reṣṭha dānāc chreyo 'nupāla〈3r6〉na¡m!〈M〉

¡i!〈I〉ti

svamukhājñayā pravarddhamānav¿ī?〈i〉jaya¡savva!〈saṁva〉〈t〉 7 dvibhādra di 10〈Page 3v〉 〈3v1〉 U¡kt!〈tk〉īrṇṇaṁ droṇasiṅghe¡ṇ!〈n〉a=

Apparatus

Plates

〈1v2〉 °dhauta° ◇ *°dhauta°* LPP; *°dhota°* SLK; *°dhauta°* AMS • The shape of the vowel marker for *au* is slightly irregular, but is the same as in other copperplate charters of the kings of Śarabhapura.

〈1v4〉 cu° ◇ *va°* LPP; *vu°* SLK; *cu°* AMS.

〈2v5〉 pālay¿ī?〈i〉tavyā ◇ *pālayitavyā* LPP; *pālayitavyā* SLK; *pālay¿ī?〈i〉tavyā* AMS.

〈3r6〉 °v¿ī?〈i〉jaya° ◇ *°vijaya°* LPP; *°v¿ī?〈i〉jaya°* SLK; *°v¿ī?〈i〉jaya°* AMS.

〈3v1〉 droṇasiṅghe¡ṇ!〈n〉a ◇ *droṇasiṅgheṇa* LPP; *droṇasiṅghe¡ṇ!〈n〉a* SLK; *droṇasiṅghena* AMS.

Translation

Seal

The enemy-chastising charter belongs to the illustrious Jayarāja, who was the son of Prasanna and whose enemies were overcome by his valour.

Plates

〈1v1–1v5〉 Success! Hail! From Śarabhapura, the illustrious great Sudevarāja whose feet are washed by the sprinkling water that is the brilliance of the crest-jewels on the crests of his feudatories who have been brought into submission by his prowess, who made the women of his enemies tear out their parted hair, who is a giver of riches, land, and cattle, who is entirely devoted to Viṣṇu, and favoured by his father and mother, issues 〈the following command〉 to the landholders settled in 〈the village of〉 [12+]:

〈1v5–2r5〉 Let it be known to you that 〈the grant of〉 this village, which was granted previously by the respected Nanna to the Brahmin and *kāraṇika* Kansippasvāmin, belonging to the Pārāśara *gotra* and to the Taittirīya 〈school〉, is now confirmed by us as well by means of 〈this〉 copperplate charter at the request of the chief queen and the royal family. 〈The grant of the village〉, which leads to happiness and fame in

the abode of the lord of the gods (i.e., Indra's heaven), is to be enjoyed as long as the world will endure, ⟨the world⟩ of which the darkness of the night is removed by the rays of the sun, moon and stars; ⟨comes along with the right to⟩ hidden treasures and deposits; is not to be entered by irregular or regular troops; and is exempt from all taxes.

⟨2r5–2v2⟩ Having taken note of that, you should be obedient to the command received from him (i.e., the donee) and render the ⟨proper shares of⟩ periodical offerings and produce, while living happily ⟨in this village⟩. And ⟨the king⟩ instructs the future rulers:

2v2–2v4.

The ancients, reflecting on virtue, proclaim that the religious merit arising from the protection ⟨of a grant⟩ is more excellent than ⟨that which arises⟩ from the giving ⟨itself⟩; therefore, your intent should indeed be to protect the earth that has been granted to a Brahmin of perfectly pure family and religious learning.

⟨2v4–2v5⟩ This gift is to be protected by you as well! And in this respect they quote the ⟨following⟩ stanzas sung by Vyāsa:

2v5–3r1.

Gold is the first child of Agni, land is born of Viṣṇu, and cows are the offspring of Sūrya: ⟨Therefore⟩, whoever would give gold, a cow, and land would give the three worlds.

3r1–3r3.

A giver of land rejoices in heaven for sixty thousand years; he who confiscates it or allows ⟨another to confiscate it⟩ will dwell for the same period in hell!

3r3–3r4.

The earth has been granted by many kings, beginning with Sagara; whoever possesses the land at any time, to him belong the fruits at that time!

3r4–3r6.

O Yudhiṣṭhira, zealously protect the land which was given by yourself or by others! O best of kings, protection is superior to giving!

⟨3r6–3v1⟩ By the order from the king's own mouth, ⟨the copperplate charter⟩ has been engraved by Droṇasiṅgha ⟨on⟩ the day 10 ⟨of⟩ the month of the second Bhādra ⟨in⟩ the increasingly victorious year 7 ⟨of Sudevarāja's reign⟩.

Commentary

The copperplates of this charter of Sudevarāja were attached to the seal of his predecessor Jayarāja, either by accident or for some unknown reason.

Part of the first plate in this set is broken off and, due to which a number of characters are missing at the end of each line. Most of the missing text can be reconstructed based on parallel passages from other copperplate charters of the same king, except for the name and district of the granted village. The phrase referring to these names starts with *cu* and ends with *vake*, with nine characters missing in between. Shastri 1976suggests reconstructing the phrase as *cullādasīmabhogīyakeśavake*: the village of Keśavaka situated in the Cullādasīma *bhoga*. The same village and district are mentioned in a copperplate charter of Sudevarāja's predecessor Narendra (Dk00002). In that record it is stated that Keśavaka was originally granted by the Paramabhaṭṭāraka, whereas the present charter mentions a certain Nanna as the original donor.

Bibliography

First edited by Pandeya 1934 from the original plates; published again by Katare 1955–1956 and Shastri 1995, pp. 35–38; re-edited here by Natasja Bosma based on the published photographs (edition of the seal based on Pandeya).

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[LPP] Pandeya, L.P. 1934. "Damaged Śrīpur plates." IHQ 10, pp. 100–103.

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