Malhār Plates of Śivagupta, undated (presumably year 6)

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Edition

Seal

1. Anuṣṭubh

rājñaḥ śrīharṣaguptasya sūnoḥ sadguṇaśālina〈ḥ〉
śāsanaṁ śivaguptasya sthitam ā bhuvanasthite〈ḥ〉

Plates

〈Page 1r〉

〈Page 1v〉 〈1v1〉 □ svasty aśeṣakṣit¿i?〈ī〉śavidyābhyāsaviśeṣāsāditamahan¿i?〈ī〉yav-inayasa〈1v2〉mpatsa〈ṁ〉pāditasakalavijig¿i?〈ī〉ṣuguṇo guṇavatsam⟦o⟧〈〈ā〉〉śraya〈ḥ〉 prakṛṣṭataraśau〈1v3〉ryyaprajñāprabhāvasa〈ṁ〉bhāvitamahābhyudaya〈ḥ〉 kārt〈t〉ikeya Iva kṛt〈t〉ivāsaso〈1v4〉rājña〈ḥ〉 śr¿i?〈ī〉◯harṣadevasya s¿u?〈ū〉nu〈ḥ〉

somava¡ṅ!<ṁ>śasaṁbhavaḥ paramamāhe<1v5>śvaro mātāpitṛpādānudhyāta<ḥ> śr¿i?<ī>mahāśivaguptarāja<ḥ> kuśal¿i?<ī>□ta<1v6>raḍa¡ṅ!<ṁ>śakabhog¿i?<ī>yakailāsapuragrāme brāhmaṇā<ṁ> sampūjya sapradhā<1v7>nā¡t!<n> prativāsino yathākālādhyāsinas samāharttṛsannidhātṛ¡(su)!<pra><Page 2r><2r1>mukhān adhikāriṇa<ḥ> sakaraṇān anyā¡n!<ṁ>ś cāsmatpādopaj¿i?<ī>vinaḥ sarvvarā<2r2>japuruṣā<n> samājñāpayati

viditam astu bhavatāṁ yathāsmābhir ayaṁ grā<2r3>maḥ sanidhi<ḥ> sopanidhiḥ sadaśāparādhaḥ sarvvakarasametaḥ sarvvapīḍā<2r4>varjjita<ḥ> ◯pratiṣiddhacāṭabhaṭapraveśatayā† taraḍa¡ṅ!<ṁ>śakapratiṣṭhi<2r5>takoradevabh¿o?<ā><r>yyālak¿a?<ā>kāritavihārikānivāsicāturdiśāryyabhi<2r6>kṣusaṅghāya śr¿i?<ī>bhāskaravarmmamātulavijñaptyā tām{v}raśāsanenāca<2r7>ndrārkkasamakāl<opabhogārth>am mātāpittror ātmanaś ca puṇyābhivṛdhaye| Āṣāḍhā<Page 2v><2v1>māvāsyā<ṁ> sūryyagrahoparāge Udakapūrvvaṁ pratipādita Ity

ataṣ ca<2v2>vidheyatayā samucitam bhogabhāgādikam upanayadbhi<r> bhavadbhiḥ sukha<2v3>m prativastavyam iti□ bhāvinaś ca bhūmipālān ud<d>iśyedam abhidhīyate

1. Vasantatilakā

<2v4> bhūmipra◯dā divi lalanti patanti hanta
hṛtvā mah¿i?<ī><ṁ> nṛpatayo<2v5> narake nṛśa¡ṅ!<ṁ>sāT†
Etad <d>vayaṁ parikalayya calāñ ca lakṣmī{ḥ}m
āyus ta<2v6>thā kuruta yad bhavatām abh¿i?<ī>ṣṭaṁ

Api ca

2. Anuṣṭubh

rakṣāpālanayos tāvat ¡p!<ph>alaṁ su<2v7>gatidurggat¿i?<ī>
ko nāma svarggam u¡cchri!<tsṛ>jya narakaṁ pratipadyate|

vyāsagītā<ṁ><Page 3r><3r1>ś cāt{t}ra ślokān udāh¿ā?<a>ranti

3. Indravajrā

Agner apatya<ṁ> prathama<ṁ> suvarṇṇaṁ
bhūr vvaiṣṇa(vī)<3r2> s¿u?<ū>ryyasutāś ca gāva<ḥ>
dattā<s> trayas tena bhavanti lokā
ya<ḥ> kāñcanaṁ gāñ ca ma<3r3>h¿i?<ī>ñ ca dadyāT

4. Anuṣṭubh

ṣaṣṭivarṣasahasrāṇi svargge modati bhūmidaḥ
Ā<3r4>kṣeptā ◯cānumantā ca tāny eva narake vaseT†

5. Anuṣṭubh

bahubhir vvasu〈3r5〉dhā dattā rājabhi〈ḥ〉 sagarādibhi〈ḥ〉
yasya yasya yadā bhūmis tasya tasya ta〈3r6〉dā phalaṁ

6. Anuṣṭubh

svadattā〈ṁ〉 paradattām vā yatnād rakṣa yudhiṣṭhira{ḥ}
mah¿i?〈ī〉〈ṁ〉 mah¿i?〈ī〉matā〈ṁ〉〈3r7〉 śreṣṭha dānāt ¡s!〈ś〉reyo 'nupālana¡m!〈M〉

¡i!〈I〉ti□

Apparatus

Plates

〈1v2〉 °śau〈1v3〉ryya° ◇ *°śau〈1v3〉ryya°* MP; *°śau〈1v3〉〈r〉yya°* AMS.

〈2r5〉 °bh¿o?〈ā〉〈r〉yyā° ◇ *°bh¿o?〈ā〉ryyā°* MP; *°bhoyyā°* AMS.

〈2r6〉 śr¿i?〈ī〉° ◇ *śrī°* MP; *śr¿i?〈ī〉°* AMS.

〈2r7〉 °pittror ◇ *°pittror* MP; *°pitror* AMS.

〈3r1〉 cāt{t}ra ◇ *cāttra* MP; *cātra* AMS.

〈3r7〉 ¡s!〈ś〉reyo ◇ *¡s!〈ś〉reyo* MP; *śreyo* AMS.

Translation

Seal

The charter of Śivagupta, son of the illustrious king Harṣagupta, who is possessed of good qualities, endures as long as the existence of the earth.

Plates

〈1v1–2r2〉 Success! Hail! The illustrious and great king Śivagupta who has been born in the Lunar Dynasty as the son of a king, the illustrious Harṣadeva, like Kārttikeya is of Kṛttivāsas (i.e., Śiva); who is entirely devoted to Maheśvara; who is favoured by his father and mother; and who is in good health: He has acquired all the qualities of a conqueror through the perfection of praiseworthy discipline, effected in particular by implementing all the "political sciences"; he is a refuge for the virtuous; and his great prosperity has been brought about by his superior valour, intelligence, and

strength! After having saluted the Brahmins in the village of Kailāsapura situated in the Taradaṁśaka *bhoga*, ⟨the king⟩ issues ⟨the following command⟩ to all royal officers who are dedicated to our service, to the governor and other local council, headed by the collector and the receiver, to those who are temporarily posted ⟨in the village⟩, and to the residents ⟨of the village⟩ with their headman:

⟨2r2–2v1⟩ Let it be known to you that by means of ⟨this⟩ copperplate charter and preceded by a libation of water, this village has been granted by us for the increase of religious merit of father, mother, and ourselves, to a community of monks of the four quarters who reside at a small monastery that was constructed in the Taradaṁśaka *bhoga* by Alakā, the wife of Koradeva. ⟨The grant of the village⟩, which is meant to be enjoyed as long as the moon and the sun will endure, ⟨took place⟩ on the occasion of a solar eclipse in the night of the new moon in the month of Āṣāḍha ⟨and⟩ was requested by ⟨our⟩ maternal uncle, the illustrious Bhāskaravarman. ⟨The grant⟩ comes along with ⟨the right to⟩ hidden treasures and deposits; ⟨the right to⟩ punish and realise fines for the ten offences; ⟨the right to collect⟩ all taxes ⟨payable to the king⟩; the exemption from all kinds of unpaid labour; and the exemption from being entered by irregular or regular troops.

⟨2v1–2v3⟩ Therefore, you should render the proper prescribed ⟨shares of⟩ periodical offerings, produce, and the like, while living happily ⟨in this village⟩. And this is said for the instruction of the future kings:

2v4–2v6.

⟨Kings⟩ who donate land sport in heaven, ⟨but⟩ look, kings who have taken land fall into hell for their wickedness. After having taken to heart these two rules and taken hold of Lakṣmī, you should live you life as you wish!

⟨2v6⟩ And also:

2v6–2v7.

Fortune and misfortune are truly the fruit of protecting and not protecting ⟨the land⟩; who then discards heaven and resorts to hell?

⟨2v7–3r1⟩ And in this respect they quote the ⟨following⟩ stanzas sung by Vyāsa:

3r1–3r3.

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

3r3–3r4.

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!

3r4–3r6.

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!

3r6–3r7.

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

Commentary

The charter is undated, but was issued on the same occasion as Dk00031; the solar eclipse of the month of Āṣāḍha in the sixth regnal year of Śivagupta.

The copperplates are all inscribed with seven lines of text, that is to say, the verso side of the first plate, both sides of the second plate, and the recto side of the third plate. The seventh line on the recto side of the third plate is used only half, which means that there was enough space to inscribe a final phrase, specifying the king's regnal year in which the grant was made and, perhaps, mentioning the name of the scribe, on the remainder of this line or the verso side of the copperplate. It is unclear whether this was forgotten, or omitted for some other reason.

Bibliography

First edited by Mirashi and Pandeya 1935–1936 from the original plates; published again by Shastri 1995, pp. 134–137; re-edited here by Natasja Bosma from the original plates.

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Secondary

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