EIAD 65. Square slab from site 29 at Nagarjunakonda — reign of Ābhīra Vasuṣeṇa, year 20

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siddham· ||~〈1〉 namo bhagavato _devaparamadevasya _purāṇapuruṣasya _nārāyaṇasya rajñā _vāseṣṭhīputrasya _Ābhīrasya _vasuṣeṇasya _sa[ṁ]vatsara (20)vāpā 4〈2〉 divase 1mahāgrāmikena _mahātalavar(e)na _mahādaṇḍanāyakana _kauśikasagotrena _peribiḍehāṇaṁ _śivasebenaṁ _saṁjayapur(ī)to _yo rājābhi〈3〉 Āvantakena _śakena _rudradāmena _vānavāsakena ca _viṣṇurudraśivalā-nanda(s)[ā](ta)karṇṇinā _sthā(n)āto pi _na cālito _Eṣa _bha(ga)vāṁ ruṁbarabh(a)vo _Āṣṭaṁjasvāmi〈4〉 se(ḍa)girīya _sthapito _parv(v)atasya ca _prākāro _cināpito _vāpi ca _mahāna(ṁ)dā _sodhitā _taḍāgāni ca 2seḍagiriyaṁ _muḍerāya ca _khāṇitāni talavaṇāni 7〈5〉 ropitāni _yo ca _brāhmaṇārtthe _mitr(ār)tthe ca _prāṇapi _na parikṣati _guṇataś ca _

1. Upajāti

sar(vv)ātithi sa(rvva)sakha (k)ṛtajñaḥ
satyavrata śatrugajavamadri
rujur vvaṭanyāsanapr(e)māti〈6〉vā
yo 〈dhā〉(r)mika sādh[u]〈〈ja〉〉nābhinaṁdi ~

ruṣideśaś cāsya seṁbakavardhamāna (b)[.][1×] _bharad(v)ājasago(tr)[e]ṇa _Amātyena _tiṣyasarm(e)ṇa •bhagavac[cha]k(ty)āḥ _kṛta(ṁ) svasti govrāt(e)bhyaḥ |

Apparatus

〈1〉 siddham· || – ◇ *sīddhaṁ ||* Sircar [1963] 1961–1962; *siddhaṁ ||* Sarma 1970; *si(ddha)ṁ* Salomon 2013. — 〈1〉 rajñā ◇ *rajño* Sircarl eiad-bibl:Salomon2013; *rājñe* Sarma 1970 • Emend *rājño*. — 〈1〉 sa[ṁ]vatsara Sircar [1963] 1961–1962 ◇ *saṁvatsara* Sarma 1970; *savatsara* Salomon 2013. — 〈1〉 (20) Sarma1970 eiad-bibl:Salomon2013 ◇ *(30)* Sircar [1963] 1961–1962. — 〈1〉 vāpā • We expect here *vāpa*. — 〈1〉 4 ◇ *7* Sircar [1963] 1961–1962; *6* Sarma1970 eiad-bibl:Salomon2013.

〈2〉 divase ◇ *(d)ivasa* Sircar [1963] 1961–1962; *divasa* Sarma 1970. — 〈2〉 mahā-daṇḍanāyakana Sircar [1963] 1961–1962 ◇ *mahādaṇḍanāyak(e)na* Sarma 1970; *mahāda(ṁ)ḍanāyakana* Salomon 2013 • Understand *mahādaṇḍanāyakena*. — 〈2〉 peribiḍehāṇaṁ Sarma 1970 ◇ *peribiḍehāṇāṁ* Sircarl eiad-bibl:Salomon2013. — 〈2〉 śivasebenaṁ Salomon 2013 ◇ *śivasebena* Sircar [1963] 1961–1962; *śivasebena* Sarma 1970. — 〈2〉 saṁjayapur(ī)to Salomon 2013 ◇ *saṁjayapur(ī)ṇa* Sircar [1963] 1961–1962; *saṁjayapurīto* Sarma 1970. — 〈2〉 yo rāj(ā)bhi Salomon 2013 ◇ *yorājibhi* Sircar [1963] 1961–1962; *yorājibhiḥ* Sarma 1970. — 〈2〉 sthā(n)āto pi ◇ *(s)th(ā)nāto pi* Sircarl eiad-bibl:Salomon2013; *sthānāto pi* Sarma 1970 • Sircar suggests emending to *sthānato*. One could alternatively read *sthā[[nā]]topi*, which could be emended to *sthāpito*. — 〈2〉 Āṣṭaṁjasvāmi • There is a sign below the *ṣṭa*, as if to insert it. As noted by Sircar, however, it does not have the shape of a *bhu*, but of a *ṭa*. Nevertheless, it seems that one has to emend *Aṣṭabhujasvāmi* (Salomon 2013, p. 398).

〈3〉 (s)[ā]([ta])karṇṇinā ◇ *(sāta)karṇṇinā* Sircarl eiad-bibl:Salomon2013; *satakarṇṇinā* Sarma 1970. — 〈3〉 ruṁbarabh(a)vo • The foot of the *bha* has an uncommon curl that makes it look like a *bhu*. But we suppose that *bhava* was intended. On the identification of *ruṁbara* with *uḍumbara*, see Salomon 2013, pp. 416–7.

〈4〉 se(ḍa)giriya ◇ *(seḍa)giriya* Sircarl eiad-bibl:Salomon2013; *sedagirīyaṁ* Sarma 1970. — 〈4〉 sthapito ◇ *sthāpito* Sarma1970 eiad-bibl:Sircarl; *sth(ā)pito* Salomon 2013. — 〈4〉 cināpito ◇ *citāpito* Sarma1970 eiad-bibl:Sircarl eiad-bibl:Salomon2013. — 〈4〉 seḍagiriyaṁ ◇ *śeḍagiriyaṁ* Sircarl eiad-bibl:Salomon2013; *sedagirīyaṁ* Sarma 1970. —

〈4〉 talavaṇāni 7 ◇ *talavaṇāni ca* Sircarl eiad-bibl:Sarma1970 eiad-bibl:Salomon2013 • That the number 7 is intended is made clear by the comparison with EIAD 20, l. 3: *sata 7*.

〈5〉 prāṇapi _ na parikṣati ◇ *prāṇa〈m a〉pi na pari〈tya〉kṣati* Sircar [1963] 1961–1962; *prāṇapi na parīkṣati* Sarma 1970; *prāṇ〈ān〉 api na par(ī)kṣati* Salomon 2013. — 〈5〉 sar(vv)ātithi sa(rvva)sakha (k)ṛtajñaḥ ◇ *(sa)rvvātithi〈ḥ〉 sa(rvva)sakha〈ḥ〉 kṛtajñaḥ* Sircar [1963] 1961–1962; *sarvvātithi〈ḥ〉 sarvvasakha〈ḥ〉 kṛtajñaḥ* Sarma 1970; *sarvvātithi (sarvvasakha) kṛtajñaḥ* Salomon 2013 • Emend *sarvvasakhā kṛtajñaḥ*. — 〈5〉 śatrugajava-madri ◇ *śatruga(ṇā)vamardri* Sircar [1963] 1961–1962; *śatrugaṇāvamardī* Sarma 1970; *śatrugaṇāvamardr(ī)* Salomon 2013 • Sircar emends *-rdī*. We accept this, and emend *śatrugajāvamardī*. — 〈5〉 rujur • Understand *ṚRjur*, with Sircar. — 〈5〉 vvaṭanyāsana- ◇ *(vvaṭa)nyāsana-* Sircarl eiad-bibl:Salomon2013; *vvataṇyāsata* Sarma 1970.

〈5–6〉 -pr(e)mātivā yo 〈dhā〉(r)mika ◇ *pr(e)mani(ṣṭho) yo 〈dhā〉rmika〈ḥ〉* Sircar [1963] 1961–1962; *pr(e)mani(ṣṭho) yo 〈dhā〉rmika〈ḥ〉* Sarma 1970; *pramāni(ta) yo 〈dhā〉rmika* Salomon 2013 • As noted by Sircar, the syllable *pre* does not make position. Although the reading *pr(e)mātivā* is fairly secure, it is unmetrical. We are unable at present to suggest a convincing emendation, and thus tentatively follow the reading — or rather: silent emendation — of Sircar.

〈6〉 sādh[u]〈〈ja〉〉nābhinaṁdi – ◇ *sādhujanābhinaṁdi |〈|〉* Sircar [1963] 1961–1962; *svajanābhinaṅdi* Sarma 1970; *s(ā)dhujanābhinaṁd(ī)* Salomon 2013. — 〈6〉 r(u)ṣide(ś)aś cāsya ◇ *Ul(ekha)gaś cās(y)a* Sircar [1963] 1961–1962; *Ṛṣideśaścasya* Sarma 1970; *(Ulekha)gaś cās(y)a* Salomon 2013 • It is tempting to emend *kṛṣide(ś)aś*. — 〈6〉 -vardhamāna (b)[.][1×] ◇ *-vardhamāna(ko)* Sircarl eiad-bibl:Salomon2013; *-vardhamāna 47* Sarma 1970. — 〈6〉 tiṣyasarm(e)ṇa ◇ *tiṣyasaṁmeṇa* Sircar [1963] 1961–1962; *tiṣyaśarmeṇa* Sarma 1970; *tiṣya(saṁme)ṇa* Salomon 2013 • The *e* is barely visible, while the repha is curiously executed. — 〈6〉 bhagavac(cha)k(ty)āḥ ◇ *bhagava(cchakty)āḥ* Sircar [1963] 1961–1962; *bhagavatcḥaktyāḥ* Sarma 1970; *bhagava(dbhakty)āḥ* Salomon 2013 • Sircar rightly suggests emending *-cchaktyā*. — 〈6〉 govrāt(e)bhyaḥ ◇ *govrāt(ebh)yaḥ* Sircar [1963] 1961–1962; *gobrāhmaṇebhyaḥ* Sarma 1970; *go〈brā〉hmaṇ〈e〉bhyaḥ* • Sircar notes that "the intended reading may be *gobrāhmaṇebhyaḥ*". We are inclined to accept the reading as it is, or to understand *govratebhyaḥ*, as our translation implies.

Translation

〈1–2〉 Success! Homage to the Bhagavant, Nārāyaṇa, the highest god among the gods,

the primeval man (*purāṇapuruṣa*). In the 20th year of the king Vāsiṣṭhīputra Vasuṣeṇa, the Ābhīra, in the 4th fortnight of the rainy season, on the 1st day.

〈3–5〉 The Great Village-chief (*mahāgrāmika*), Great Talavara, Great Commander (*daṇḍanāyaka*) Śivaseba, of the Peribeḍehas and belonging to the Kauśikagotra, who was not removed from (his) very position, (i.e.) from Saṁjayapurī, by (other) kings (such as) the Śaka Rudradāman from Avanta and Viṣṇurudraśivalānanda-Sātakarṇi from Vanavāsa, established this Bhagavant Aṣṭabhujasvāmin made from *uḍumbara* wood in Seṭagiri, and caused the enclosure of the mountain to be embellished, and had the well (*vāpi*) Mahānandā cleared, and had 2 tanks excavated in Seṭagiri and in Muḍerā, (and) had seven groves of Palmyra trees planted.

〈5〉 Who for the sake of Brahmins and for the sake of friends considers not even (his) life and by (his) virtue

1.

(is) a host to all, is a companion to all, is grateful, is devoted to truth, is the killer of the elephants of his enemies, is upright, is devoted to his love for planting fig trees (?), is righteous and rejoices among good people.

〈6〉 Ṛṣideśa (is in ?) his Sembaka-estate. Made by the minister Tiṣyaśarman of the Bharadvājagotra by the power of the Bhagavant. Success to those who practice the cattle vow!

Commentary

〈2〉 saṁjayapurī[1]

〈5–6〉[2]

〈6〉 govrāta[3]

[1]This might be identified with Vijayapurī.

[2]The stanza as it stands is very much altered. Taking into consideration the intended meter a reconstructed, standardised, version of the stanza would read as follows: *sarvātithis sarvasakhā kṛtajñaḥ satyavrataś śatrugajāvamardī | ṛjur vaṭanyāsanapremaniṣṭho yo dhārmikas sādhujanābhinandī ||*.

[3]This may either be an allusion to the Ābhīras as a dynasty of cowherds (see Suryavanshi 1962), or to a Śaiva ascetic practice involving the vow of imitating a bull (see Acharya 2013).

Bibliography

First described and edited by Sircar [1963] 1961–1962; edited again by Sarma 1970 and Salomon 2013. Re-edited here from available documentation and after autopsy of the stone.

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