Gunung Tua Lokanātha Statue

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Edition

〈1〉 ◦ svasti śaka-varṣātīta 961 caitra-māsa, tithi tritiya sukla, śukra-vāra, tatkāla juru pā⌜〈2〉ṇḍai suryya barbvat· bhaṭāra lokanātha ◦

Imāni kuśala-¿mulāṇi?〈mūlāni〉 sarbvasatva-sā□dh¿a?〈ā〉r¿ā?〈a〉ṇaṁ kṛ〈3〉tvā Anuttarāyāṁ samyaksambodhau pari¿n?〈ṇ〉āma□y¿a?〈ā〉mi (◦)

Apparatus

〈1〉 ◦ • There is a liminal sign at the opening of the text, apparently in the form of a small circle. Previous scholars have ignored it. It occurs again, less clearly, in the middle of line 2 and at the end of the text in line 3. — 〈1〉 961 D • Read *946* by Brandes and Kern. See Damais 1955, pp. 207–208, n. 2: “Brandes et Kern lisaient 946 et le fac-similé des *KVG* justifie quelque peu cette interprétation. Mais les chiffres de l’inscription elle-même que nous avons pu examiner en 1946-1947 en diffèrent totalement (cf. notre

Tableau comparatif). Par ailleurs l'étiquette du Musée de Djakarta porte 761 śaka. C'est ici le chiffre des centaines qui est mal interprété."

〈2〉 -sā□dh¿a?〈ā〉r¿ā?〈a〉ṇaṁ kṛ〈3〉tvā • Kern needlessly 'corrected' this to -*sādhāraṇīkṛtvā*. See the Buddhist scriptural evidence cited in Griffiths 2014, p. 218.

〈3〉 pari¿n?〈ṇ〉āma□¿a?〈ā〉mi • Kern edited *pariṇāmaṁyāmi*, apparently intending *pariṇāmaṁ yāmi*.

Translation

Prosperity! Elapsed Śaka year 961, third *tithi* of the waxing 〈fortnight〉 of the month of Caitra, a Friday. At that time the master smith Sūrya manufactured Lord (*bhaṭāra*) Lokanātha. (He expressed his intention by citing scripture:) "These roots of what is good do I share with all beings and turn over to the unsurpassed, perfect enlightenment!".

Commentary

The presence of the spaces in lines 2 and 3 seems to have a technical reason, for they correspond to vertical bands on the bronze perhaps representing traces of welding.

In normalized form, the Sanskrit would run: *imāni kuśalamūlāni sarvasattvasādhāraṇaṁ kṛtvā anuttarāyāṁ samyaksambodhau pariṇāmayāmi*.

Bibliography

First read, translated and discussed by Brandes (1887); reading of the Sanskrit portion completed by Brandes (1888); Sanskrit part corrected and elucidated by Kern (1889, 1890); Kern's contributions reprinted with added notes and a tracing (1917); Old Malay part read anew and dating formula analyzed by Damais (1955: 207–208); re-edited and translated by Griffiths (2014). This digital edition by Arlo Griffiths (2025), using new photographs.

Primary

[B] NBG 1887. *Notulen van de Algemeene en Bestuurs-vergaderingen van het Bataviaasch Genootschap van Kunsten en Wetenschappen: Deel XXV — 1887*. Batavia: Albrecht & Co., 1888. Pages 176–178.

[B] NBG 1888. *Notulen van de Algemeene en Bestuurs-vergaderingen van het Bataviaasch Genootschap van Kunsten en Wetenschappen: Deel XXVI — 1888*. Batavia: Albrecht & Rusche, 1888. Pages 130–131.

[K] NBG 1889. *Notulen van de Algemeene en Bestuurs-vergaderingen van het Bataviaasch Genootschap van Kunsten en Wetenschappen: Deel XXVII — 1889*. Batavia: Albrecht & Rusche, 1890. Pages 15–16.

[K] NBG 1890. *Notulen van de Algemeene en Bestuurs-vergaderingen van het Bataviaasch Genootschap van Kunsten en Wetenschappen: Deel XXVIII — 1890*. Batavia: Albrecht & Rusche, 1891. Page 16.

[K] Kern, Johan Hendrik Caspar. 1917. "Inscriptie op een Lokanātha-beeldje uit Gunung Tua (Oost-Tapanuli)." In: *Verspreide geschriften, zevende deel: inscripties van den Indischen archipel, slot; de Nāgarakṛtāgama, eerste gedeelte*. 's-Gravenhage: Nijhoff, pp. 142–144.

[D] Damais, Louis-Charles. 1955. "Études d'épigraphie indonésienne, IV : Discussion de la date des inscriptions." BEFEO 47, pp. 7–290. DOI: 10.3406/befeo.1955.5406. [URL]. Pages 207–208.

[G] Griffiths, Arlo. 2014. "Inscriptions of Sumatra, III: The Padang Lawas corpus studied along with inscriptions from Sorik Merapi (North Sumatra) and from Muara Takus (Riau)." In: *History of Padang Lawas, North Sumatra, II: Societies of Padang Lawas (Mid-Ninth - Thirteenth Century CE)*. Edited by Daniel Perret. Cahier d'Archipel 43. Paris: Association Archipel, pp. 211–253. [URL]. Pages 217–219.

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