Prayer for long life of Vijaya (7th c. CE)

Arlo Griffiths

Author of digital edition: Arlo Griffiths

Contributor: Arlo Griffiths

Identifier: DHARMA_INSIDENKBalekambang

Repository: Nusantara Epigraphy (tfc-nusantara-epigraphy)

File path: xml/DHARMA_INSIDENKBalekambang.xml

Language: Sanskrit [Southeast Asian Brāhmī (unspecified)]

Commit: 2026-11-09 08:51 (6580fa0), last modified 2026-09-09 14:27 (72454d8)

Edition

1. Āryā

〈1〉 yaḻ (kh)anati bāhu-vīryya〈2〉s sphaṭika-maṇi-nibha〈3〉(ñ ja)la(ṁ) prathita-bandhyaṁ
〈4〉 tasya (v)i(ja)[yā](gra)-nāmnaḥ〈5〉 jīvitam etac ciraṁ bhavatu

Apparatus

〈1〉 yaḻ khanati ◇ *[A]yam anati-* BKI • The reading proposed in my 2012 article had to resort to supplying an *akṣara A*, required if the meter is *āryā*, even though it does not look as if there ever was (or could have been) any such *akṣara*. My new reading assumes a very rare instance of *jihvāmūlīya* (attested elsewhere only in the Watu Genuk inscription).

〈3〉 prathita-bandhyaṁ ◇ *prathita(vā)n ya(ḥ)* BKI.

〈4〉 (v)i(ja)[yā](gra)-nāmnaḥ ◇ *[.]i [˘–˘]-nāmnaḥ* BKI • The fracture of the stone here has brought about the nearly complete loss of the consonant sign on top of which the *i* marker is still perfectly visible, and with it most of the immediately following *akṣara*s. It is impossible to propose with certainty a restoration for the name that was once written between *tasya* and *-nāmnaḥ*, but it cannot have been the same (Bhānu) as in the Hampran inscription, and Vijaya seems to be the most plausible guess.

Translation

1.

May this life (on earth) be long for the strong-armed 〈king〉, whose excellent name is Vijaya, who digs the crystal-clear water with an extensive construction (of a dam, *bandhya* = *bandha*?)!

Commentary

The inscription is composed in Sanskrit and comprises a stanza in the *āryā* meter, revealing the name of a historical figure not known from any other sources. The name of this Vijaya is reminiscent of that of Sañjaya, the earliest known king of the central segment of Java. The contents of the inscription, concerning the excavation of a water body, is reminiscent of the Tugu inscription of King Pūrṇavarman from the western segment of Java.

Bibliography

First published by Arlo Griffiths (2012) based on the EFEO estampages n. 2039 and 2040. Re-published here with significant improvements, taking into account also the photogrammetries made by Adeline Levivier in March 2023.

Primary

[BKI] Griffiths, Arlo. 2012. “The epigraphical collection of Museum Ranggawarsita in Semarang (Central Java, Indonesia).” BKI 168 (4), pp. 472–496. [URL]. Pages 473–477, section 2, figures 3-4.

Secondary

Sri Soejatmi Satari, Ribut Darmosoetopo, Agung Sukardjo & Soesanto B.A. 1977. *Survai di Kabupaten Pekalongan, Batang dan Kendal*. Berita Penelitian Arkeologi 9. Jakarta: Proyek Pengembangan Media Kebudayaan Departemen P & K. Pages 10 and 32, §B.5.1a, photo 20.

Sofwan Noerwidi. 2007. "Melacak jejak awal Indianisasi di Pantai Utara Jawa Tengah." BA(Y) 27, pp. 40–65. Pages 68, 70.

Agustijanto Indrajaya & Véronique Degroot. 2012. "Prospection archéologique de la côte nord de Java Centre: le district de Batang." BEFEO 99, pp. 351–383. DOI: 10.3406/befeo.2012.6159. [URL]. Pages 356–357.