# Kanheri Cave 86 Back Wall Inscription

Kelsey Martini and Vincent Tournier

Authors of digital edition: Kelsey Martini, Vincent Tournier

Contributor: Kelsey Martini

Identifier: DHARMA_INSKanheri00046

Repository: Early Western Deccan (tfb-earlywesterndeccan-epigraphy)

File path: xml/DHARMA_INSKanheri00046.xml

Language: Middle Indo-Aryan [Script (unspecified)]

Commit: 2026-09-17 08:03 (159f390), last modified 2026-09-17 05:29 (3d6ac09)

---

## Edition

〈1〉 □s(o)pāraya(ka)sa manikarasa (go)pāl(i)tasa saparivārasa leṇaṁ deyadhamaṁ□

## Apparatus

〈1〉 s(o)pāraya(ka)sa ◇ *〈sidhaṃ〉(sop)ārayakasa* B&B; *〈sidhaṃ〉(sop)ārayakasa* G • There is no room for a *sidhaṃ* — 〈1〉 (go)pāl(i)tasa ◇ *nāgapalitasa* B&B; *nāgapalitasa* G • It is difficult to determine the reading of the beginning of this name. On the eye-copy it appears to be a single akṣara while the photographs suggest that there is space for two akṣaras, however the first possible akṣara is entirely illegible and may rather be a space (presumably due a fault in the stone).

## Translation

A cave, the meritorious gift of (Go)pālita, a jeweler of Sopāra, together with his retinue.

## Commentary

The svastikas at the beginning and end of the inscription are unacknowledged by G and B+B.

## Bibliography

### Primary

**[B&B]** Burgess, James & Georg Bühler. 1883. *Report on the Elura cave temples and the Brahmanical and Jaina caves in Western India: Completing the results of the fifth, sixth, and seventh seasons' operations of the Archaeological survey, 1877–78, 1878–79, 1879–80*. Vol. 5. Archaeological Survey of Western India. London: Trübner & Co. Page 82, item 20.

**[G]** Gokhale, Shobhana. 1991. *Kanheri inscriptions*. Pune: Deccan College Post Graduate and Research Institute. Page 102, item 46.

### Secondary

Stein, Otto. 1933. "Formal Elements in Indian Inscriptions." *Indian Historical Quarterly* 9, pp. 215–226. Page 226 fn. 30.

Naik, A. V. 1948. "Inscriptions of the Deccan: an epigraphical survey (Circa 300 B.C.-1300 A.D.)" BDCRI 9 (1/2), pp. 1–160. [URL]. Pages 19, 21–23.

Lamotte, Etienne. 1958. *Histoire du bouddhisme indien: des origines à l'ère Śaka*. Bibliothèque du Muséon 43. Louvain: Université catholique de Louvain, Institut Orientaliste. Page 568.

Hettiarachchy, Jayadevanandasara. 1973. "Buddhism in the Northern Deccan under the Śātavāhana Rulers (c. 30 B.C. - 225 A.D.)" Doctoral Thesis, University of London. London. Pages 192, 250.

Ray, Himanshu Prabha. 1987. "Early Historical Urbanization: The Case of the Western Deccan." *World Archaeology* 19 (1), pp. 94–104. [URL]. Page 98.

Habib, Irfan & Faiz Habib. 1990. "A Map of India, B.C. 200 -- A.D. 300, Based on Epigraphic Evidence." *Proceedings of the Indian History Congress* 51, pp. 103–114. [URL]. Page 112.