Mēlappaḻuvūr, Agastyeśvara temple, time of Rājakesarivarman, year 22

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Identifier: DHARMA_INSMelKil00014

Repository: Mēlappaḻuvūr & Kīḻappaḻuvūr (tfa-melappaluvur-kilappaluvur-epigraphy)

File path: DHARMA_INSMelKil00014.xml

Language: Tamil [Grantha, Tamil]

Commit: 2026-09-29 11:09 (3c1804e), last modified 2026-09-29 11:09 (3c1804e)

Summary

AIM, southern shrine; on the easternmost wall section of the southern façade of the *ardha-maṇḍapa*, upper inscription; 22nd regnal year of Kōvirājakesarivarman = probably Āditya I (*circa* 893 A.D.); SII identifies the king with Rājarāja I; h) the *puḷḷi*s (the dots added above the letter to signify that the vowel is dropped) are marked, which would confirm a date in the 9th century.

Palaeographic description

The *puḷḷi* is used. Notable also above duplicated consonant Grantha ligatures.

Edition

〈1〉 **svasti śrī**

kovi**rājakesariparm{·}ma**t·ku yāṇ·ṭu y-irupat(·)t’ iraṇ(·)ṭāvatu

kuṉ·ṛa-k·-kuṟ·ṛat·tu〈2〉 A**ma**ni-**ka**n=ta〈r〉**(v·v/p·p)a-Īśvara-kara**t·tu **mahāde**vaṟ·ku poy·kaik·kuṟuviṭat·tu vēṭ·ṭak·kuṭāṉ〈3〉 vaṭukaṉ· m¿a?〈ā〉tavaṉ· paḷuvēṭ·ṭaraiyaṉ· kumaraṉ· maṟavaṉ· **prasā{hā}**〈4〉**da**tt¿a?〈i〉ṉāl aruḷic·ceyya It·taḷi-t· tēvatāṉam· Ūkaṉ·kuṭi **Apoha**naṅ kiṭan·〈5〉ta **bhūmi**yaik· kal·li Iraṇ·ṭu pūvum· viḷaiya macak·ki-k kuṭut·ta n¡i!〈ī〉r-nilam Eṭṭu mā

Ip〈6〉pūmiyil· pōṉ·ta pōkaṅ· koṇ·ṭu Iraṇ·ṭu taḷiIlum· Orō na**ndā**-viḷakku Ira〈7〉vum· pakalum· Erippōm āṉōm It·taḷip· paṭṭuṭaiyōm· Ēḻuvōm·

Iv·viḷak·ku〈8〉 **rakṣi**p·pār Amani-kan=ta〈r〉**pa{·}pura**t·tu nakarat(·)tār aṭi y-eṉ(·) ṟalai mēlaṉa |||ൟ

Apparatus

〈1〉 °**pam{·}ma**t·ku ◇ *°parmma〈r〉ku* SII; *°panmmatku* VG.

〈5〉 **bhūmi**yaik SII ◇ *bhumiyaik* VG.

〈8〉 Amanikan=ta〈r〉**pa{·}pura**t·tu ◇ *Amani**ka**n=ta**rvapura**ttu* SII; *Amanikanta**papura**ttu* VG.

Translation by Gillet 2024

Fortune! Prosperity! 〈This is〉 the 22nd year of Kōvirājakesarivarman. To Mahādeva of the temple (*karattu*, that is, *gṛhattu*) of the Lord (*īśvara*) 〈of〉 Amanikantavva/ppa (*amani*, that is, *avani*) of Kuṉṟakkūṟṟam, Vēṭṭakkuṭāṉ Vaṭukaṉ Mātavaṉ (*mataṿaṉ*, that is, *mātavaṉ*) of Poykaikkuṟuviṭam, by the grace of (*prasāhāttaṉāl*, that is, *prasādattiṉāl*) Paḷuvēṭṭaraiyaṉ Kumaraṉ Kaṇṭaṉ who graciously ordered (*aruḷicceyya*[1]) 〈the following〉: having worked the soil (*kalli*) of the land (*bhūmiyai*) which was lying (*kiṭanta*) without enjoyment (*apohanan*) in Ūkaṉkuṭi, a *devadāna* of this temple (*ittaḷi*), having prepared the land (*macakki*) so that two crops (*iraṇṭu pūvum*) grow (*viḷaiya*), 〈Vēṭṭakkuṭāṉ Vaṭukaṉ Mātavaṉ〉 gave (*kuṭutta*) eight *mā*s of wet land (*nīrnilam*); with (*koṇṭu*) the produce (*pōkaṅ*) which came (*poṉṭa*) out of this land (*ippūmiyil*), we, the Paṭṭuṭaiyārs of this temple (*ittaḷi*), we the Seven (*ēḻuvōm*), will burn (*erippōmāṉōm*) night and day a perpetual lamp respectively (*orō nandāviḷakku*, that is, *nontāviḷakku*) in the two temples (*iraṇṭu taḷiilum*). The Nagarattārs of Amanikantapapuram will protect (*rakṣippār*) this lamp (*ivviḷakku*). May their feet be on my head (*aṭi-y-eṉ-talai mēlaṉa*).

[1]Literally: graciously made.

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Edited in Srinivasa Rao 1952 (SII 13.298). Edited and translated in Gillet 2024, based on autopsy and photographs (Valérie Gillet, 2016-2018).

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