Mahābalipuram, Ādivarāha, time of Nandibodhuvarman, year 65

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Summary

A slab inscription recording the land-sale of pasture-land for calves.

Palaeographic description

The *puḷḷi* is used, apparently consistently, but the visual documentation in Krishna Sastri 1926 is not clear enough to spot all its occurrences. Lockwood *et al.* 2001, p. 290, p. 1 admit interpolating *puḷḷi*s in the delineation. Note the Grantha *v*, distinct from Tamil *v* (lines 1, 2) and the Grantha *ṇ* used in the Tamil portion (lines 6, 7). Note the parallel use of conjunct and non-conjunct forms of *kk* (lines 16, 18).

Edition

〈1〉 **svasti śrī**

palla〈va〉-va**ṁsasya** na(n=ti)〈2〉**bodhu**va**rmmaku rā(jy)ā**(vi)**(bh)i(r)ddh(ya)**〈3〉ñ (ce)¡l!〈ll〉ā-niṉṟatu Āṟupatt(u)〈4〉 ¿A?〈Ai〉nt-āvatu

māmallap(u)〈5〉rattu nakarattār Iṭaivala(ñ)〈6〉cāṉ kaṇṭaṉ kaṉṟu-mē〈y〉-(kaḷa)〈7〉¡n!〈ṉ〉i-y-āka koṇṭa nilam

(Ā)〈8〉mūr-nāṭṭu kuṉṟattūr i[ṭai]〈9〉vāḻum(·) kuṉṟat(·)tūr-(ki)[ḻā]〈10〉r Iḷa-naṭuvuṇār makaṉ [ca. 2+]〈11〉 ṉ kaṇṭa¡n!〈ṉ〉 iṭ(ai) kaṉṟu-mē〈y〉-ka(ḷa)¡n!〈ṉ〉i〈12〉-y-āka viṟṟu-〈k〉-koṇṭa nilat(tu)〈13〉〈k〉k' ellai

- maḻiṉai nal(lu)〈14〉ḻār tōṭṭa〈t〉ti(ṉ) mē¿l?〈ṟ〉kum
- (teṉ)〈15〉pāl Ellai kō¡n!〈ṉ〉-ē〈16〉[ri]-(I)ṉ vaṭak=kum
- mēl-pāl〈17〉[e]llai mān(·)tai talaiva〈18〉[ṉ ē]rikkum· peru-vaḻi-Iṉ·〈19〉 [kiḻak]kum·
- vaṭa-pāl-el〈l〉ai pa〈20〉[ca. 1+]nappāṭi-e〈l〉lai-I(ṉ te)〈21〉[ṟku]m

[¡I-ṉ!〈In-n〉]āṉk' ellai〈22〉 [A]ka-〈p〉-paṭṭa nilamum kaṇṭa(n)〈23〉 [I]ṭai viṟṟu-〈k〉-koṇ·ṭu po〈24〉(ṉ) kaṉṟu-mē〈y〉-kaḷa¡n!〈ṉ〉i{y}〈25〉(kku) peyitāṉ

Itu A〈26〉(ḻi)yāmai kāttā¡n!〈ṉ〉 aṭi E〈27〉[ṉ] ṟal(ai) mēlatu

Apparatus

〈1〉 -va**ṁsasya** ◇ *-vaṁs¿as?〈ā〉ya* KS • This emendation by KS is unnecessary. — 〈1〉 na(n=ti) ◇ *na¿(nti)?〈ndi〉* KS; ***na(ṁdi)*** L • The reading ***nandi*** is also possible.

〈2〉 **bodhu**va**rmmaku** ◇ *¿bodhuvarmmaku?〈pōtavarmaṟku〉* KS; ***¿bodhu?〈pōta〉varm-maku*** L. — 〈2〉 **rā(jy)ā**(vi)**(bh)i(r)ddh(ya)**〈3〉ñ ◇ *rā(jy)ā¿vibhi?〈bhivṛ〉ddhya〈3〉ñ* KS; *rā(jy)ā¿vibhi?〈bhivṛ〉ddya〈3〉ñ* M; ***rā(jy)ā¿vibhi?〈bhivṛ〉d(dhya)***〈3〉ñ· L.

〈3〉 (ce)¡l!〈ll〉ā-niṉṟatu ◇ *ce¿lān?〈llāṉ〉iṉṟatu* KS; *celāniṉṟatu* L.

〈10〉 -naṭuvuṇār ◇ *paṭuvuṇār* KS; *naṭuvuṇār* L. — 〈10〉 [ca. 2+]〈11〉 ṉ ◇ *[ca. 2+]〈11〉 ṉ* KS L • KS suggests restoring *kōṉ*.

〈11〉 -ka(ḷa)¡n!〈ṉ〉i〈12〉-y-āka ◇ *ka(ḷa)〈12〉(ni)yāka* KS; *ka[ḷani]〈12〉yāka* L.

〈12〉 viṟṟu-〈k〉-koṇṭa ◇ *viṟṟukkoṇṭa* KS L; *viṟṟukkoṇṭa* M.

〈14〉 (teṉ)〈15〉pāl Ellai ◇ *(te)〈15〉(ṉ)pāl-e¿l?〈ll〉ai* KS; *[teṉ]〈15〉pāl Ellai* L.

〈15〉 kō¡n!〈ṉ〉-ē〈16〉[ri]-(I)ṉ ◇ *kōnē〈16〉(ri-i)ṉ* KS; *kōnē[ri]〈16〉-(I)ṉ* L • From this line

onwards Lockwood *et al.* 2001 add missing characters at the end of the lines, but the aspect of the stone seems to indicate that the gap is at the beginning of the lines.

〈16〉 mēl-pāl〈17〉[e]llai ◇ *mēlpāl〈17〉l-[e]¿l?〈ll〉ai* KS; *mēlpāl-[e]〈17〉llai* L.

〈17〉 talaiva〈18〉[n̲ ē]rikkum· ◇ *talaiva(n)〈18〉(ē)rikkum* KS; *talaiva[n̲]〈18〉(ēr)ikkum·* L.

〈18〉 -vaḻi-Iṉ·〈19〉 [kiḻak]kum· ◇ *-vaḻi-Iṉ (ki)〈19〉 (ḻak)kum* KS; *-vaḻi Iṉ [ki]〈19〉 [ḻak]kum·* L.

〈19〉 pa〈20〉[ca. 1+]nappāṭi- ◇ *pa〈20〉nappāṭi-* KS L.

〈21〉 ellai〈22〉 [A]ka-〈p〉-paṭṭa ◇ *ellai〈22〉 (A)ka〈p〉paṭṭa* KS; *ellai [A]〈22〉ka-〈p〉-paṭṭa* L.

〈22〉 kaṇṭa(n)〈23〉 [I]ṭai ◇ *kaṇṭa(n)〈23〉 [I]ṭai* KS; *kaṇṭa(n)(i)〈23〉 ṭai* L.

〈24〉 -kaḻa¡n!〈n̲〉i{y}〈25〉(kku) ◇ *-kaḻaniy〈25〉(kku)* KS; *-kaḻaniya〈25〉[kku]* L.

〈26〉 kāttā¡n!〈n̲〉 ◇ *kāttā(n)* KS; *kāttāṉ* L.

〈27〉 r̲al(ai) ◇ *ra¿ll?〈l〉ai* KS; *r̲allai* L • The *-ai* in *lai* looks like a duplicted *-ai*.

Translation

〈1〉 Prosperity! Fortune!

〈1–4〉 Sixty-fifth year of current (*cellā niṉr̲atu*) prosperous reign of Nandibodhuvarman[1] of the Pallava lineage.

〈4–7〉 〈This is about〉 the land that Iṭaivalañcāṉ Kaṇṭaṉ 〈among〉 the *nakarattār*s of Māmallapuram got[2] as pasture-land for calves (*kaṉr̲u-mēy-kaḻaṉi-y-āka*).

〈7–21〉 The boundaries to the land purchased as pasture-land for calves from (*iṭai*) Kōṉ Kaṇṭaṉ, son of Iḷa-naṭuvuṇār, the lord of Kuṉr̲attūr, who resides in Kuṉr̲attūr in the Āmūr-nāṭu 〈are as follows:〉

- 〈the boundary on the eastern side〉 is west of the garden of Maḻiṉai Nalluḻār;
- the boundary on the southern side is north of the royal tank;
- the boundary on the western side is east of the tank of the chief of Māntai and of the great road;
- the boundary on the northern side is south of the boundary of Panappāṭi.

[1]That is, Nantipōtavarman, that is the Pallava king Nandivarman.
[2]That is, purchased.

〈21–25〉 The land comprised within these four boundaries, he[3] bought 〈it〉 from Kaṇṭaṉ, 〈with〉 gold, and made the libation (*peytāṉ*)[4] 〈so as to enjoy it〉 for pasture-land for calves.

〈25–27〉 The feet 〈of〉 he who protects this[5] without destroying 〈it〉 are on my head.

Commentary

According to Krishna Sastri 1926, p. 10 the inscription records the gift after purchase of a pasture-land. The record however deals only with the purchase transaction and does not explicitly mentions any donee, not the fact that the purchased land was given.

On the akward description of boundaries and missing mention of the boundary on the eastern side. See Krishna Sastri 1926, p. 11, n. 2.

Bibliography

Reported in ARIE 1922–23 (ARIE/1922-1923/B/1922/666).

Edited and translated in Krishna Sastri 1926. Text and summary in Mahalingam 1988 (IP 92). Edited with substantial corrections by Lockwood *et al.* 2001.

This revised edition by Emmanuel Francis, based on published visual documentation.

Primary

[KS] Krishna Sastri, H. 1926. *Two statues of Pallava kings and five Pallava inscriptions in a rock-temple at Mahabalipuram*. MASI 26. Calcutta: ASI. Pages 10–11, plate IB.

[M] Mahalingam, T. V. 1988. *Inscriptions of the Pallavas*. New Delhi; Delhi: Indian Council of Historical Research; Agam Prakashan. Pages 323–324, item 92.

[L] Lockwood, Michael, Vishnu Bhat A, Gift Siromoney & Dayanandan P. 2001. *Pallava art*. Madras, Tambaram: Tambaram Research Associates. Pages 290–291.[6]

[3] That is, Iṭaivalañcāṉ Kaṇṭaṉ.
[4] Literally: poured 〈water〉.
[5] That is, the present transaction.
[6] With a delineation.

Secondary

ARIE 1922–23. *Annual report on South-Indian epigraphy for the year ending 31st March 1923*. Edited by G. Venkoba Rao. Madras: Government Press, 1924. Page 45, appendix B/1922, item 666.

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[7] Summary only.