Tiruveḷḷaṟai's well, gnomic verse

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Identifier: DHARMA_INSPallava00525

Repository: Pallava (tfa-pallava-epigraphy)

File path: DHARMA_INSPallava00525.xml

Language: Tamil [Grantha, Tamil]

Commit: 2026-11-11 17:29 (458e70c), last modified 2026-09-29 11:09 (6edbbfa)

Summary

Gnomic verse.

Palaeographic description

The *puḷḷi* is consistently used, although not for most of duplicated consonants and sometimes unduly.

Edition

〈1〉 **śrī**

1. Āciriyaviruttam

kaṇ·ṭār kāṇā-v ulakattiṟ· kātal-a cey〈·〉tu nillātē{y}
paṇ·ṭē{y} paramaṉ paṭait·ta nāḷ pārttu niṉ·ṟu naiyyātē{y·}
〈2〉 taṇ·ṭ' ār· mūp(·)pu van·t' uṉ·ṉai-t· taḷara-c· cey·tu nillā muṉ·{ṉ}
uṇ·ṭ' ēl{l} uṇ(·)ṭu mik(·)katu Ulakam·{m} aṟiya vaim(·)miṉ{·}ē{y}

Apparatus

〈1〉 kātal-a ◇ *kātal* SII • There is not *puḷḷi* on the final *l*. One could concur with SII and emend *kātala* to *kātal*, or, alternatively, analyse, without emending the original text, this word as *kātal-a*, an adjectival form of *kātal*, “things related to love.”

Translation by Subrahmanya Aiyar 1911–1912

Prosperity!

Without being 〈passionately〉 attached to this world where men seen 〈today〉 are not seen 〈tomorrow〉; without giving 〈yourself〉 up to despair looking for the 〈final〉 day appointed by the Creator; and before your 〈limbs〉 become weak at the appearance of old age with its 〈appendage of a〉 stick; if you have 〈wealth〉 maintain 〈yourself〉 and devote 〈what remains to charity〉 so that 〈all〉 the world may know 〈it〉.

Translation into French

〈1〉 Fortune !

1.

Dans ce monde que ne voient plus ceux qui ont vu, sans t’affairer à l’amour[1],
Sans dépérir à penser[2] sans cesse au jour qu’a jadis fixé le Seigneur suprême,
Avant de succomber[3] à la venue du vieil âge qui ressemble à un bâton[4] et te fera décrépir[5],
Si tu as quelque chose en abondance[6], afin que le monde sache, donne-le !

Commentary

See also inscription Pallava 98.

In two instances, consonants are unduly duplicated at word *sandhi* (*uṇṭ’ēl{l}*, *ulakam{m}*).

The particle *-ē* is consistently appended with a *y* (*nillātē{y}*, *paṇṭē{y}*, *naiyyātē{y}*, *vaim-miṉē{y}*). Subrahmanya Aiyar 1911–1912, p. 157, n. 7 notes: “In these four instances the

[1] Littéralement: sans t’arrêter à faire les choses de l’amour.
[2] Littéralement: à regarder.
[3] Littéralement: ne plus pouvoir tenir debout.
[4] Alternativement: un châtiment.
[5] Littéralement: le vieil âge étant venu … et t’ayant fait décrépir.
[6] Littéralement: ce qui est abondant et existe, s’il en est.

final *y* seems to have been inserted to represent the full sound produced in pronouncing the words."

Bibliography

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[7] Summary only.