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Summary

This inscription is dated in the 9th year of the reign of **Parakēsarivarman**, *alias* **Rājēndra-Chōḷadēva**. It records that certain shepherds of **Mēṟpāḍi** pledged themselves to supply ghee for a lamp in the **Aṟiñjīśvara** temple. This declaration was made before **Lakuḷīśvara-Paṇḍita**, the head of a *Maṭha* connected with the temple. The name Lakuḷīśvara is interesting, because it suggests that the *Maṭha* at Mēṟpāḍi was a branch establishment of the **Lakulīśa-Pāśupatas** of **Kārōhaṇa** in Gujarāt, who are referred to in the Cintra *praśasti*.[1] The inscription ends with the signature of a local merchant, who may have been the donor of the lamp.

[1] *Ep. Ind.* Vol. I. p. 273 ff.

Edition

〈1〉 **svasti śrī** [||] tiru maṉṉi vaḷara Irunilamaṭan=taiyum poṛcayappāvaiyum c¿i?〈i〉rt-taniccelviyu〈2〉n=tan pe(ru)n=teviyarāki(yi)ṉpuṟa neṭ¿i?〈u〉t¿u?〈i〉y¿i?〈a〉lūḻiyuḷ Iṭ(ai)tuṟaināṭun=tu(ṭa)rvanavelippa〈3〉ṭar vanavāciyum culḷi〈c〉cūḻmatiṭkoḷḷi(p)pākk(ai)yum naṇṇaṟkaruma〈4〉raṇ maṇṇaikkaṭakka(mu)m po(ru)kaṭal¿i?〈ī〉ḻattaraiyar tamuṭiyumā(ṅ)kavar〈5〉 teviyaroṅkeḻil muṭiyumuṉṉavar 〈pa〉kkaltteṉṉavar v(ai)tta〈6〉 cun=taramuṭiyumin=tiranāra¿ḻa?〈mu〉n=teṇṭirai Īḻama〈7〉ṇṭala(mu)ḻu-vatumeṟipaṭaik=keraḷan (mu)〈8〉ṟaimaiyil cūṭuṅkulatanamākiya palar puka〈9〉ḻ muṭiyuñceṅkatirmālaiyuñcaṅkatir ve〈10〉laittol peruṅkāval palapaḻa¿n=ti?〈ntī〉vuñce(ru)〈11〉viṟci-navil Irupattorukālaraicukaḷai kaṭṭa parac¿i?〈u〉rāman〈12〉 mevaruñc(ā)n=timatt¿i?〈ī〉varaṇ karuti Iruttiya cemp(oṟ)ṟiru〈13〉ttaku muṭiyum payaṅkoṭu paḻi mika (mu)ca(ṅ)kiyil (mu)tukiṭṭoḷitta〈14〉 cayaciṅkaṉ Aḷapperum pukaḻoṭu (pī)ṭi Ilaṭṭapāṭi Eḻarai Ilak=kamuna(va)〈15〉neti(k)ku(la)ppe(ru)malaikaḷumāpp(eru)n=taṇ(ṭā)ṟkoṇ(ṭa) kopparake**sari**(pa)〈16〉**nma**rā〈ṉa〉 **śrī**(rā)**jentra**coḻa**de**varkku yāṇṭu 9tāvatu **ja**yaṅkoṇṭac(o)〈17〉ḻamaṇṭala(t)tu perumpāṇappāṭittūynāṭṭu meṟpāṭiyāna rāj(ā)**śra〈ya〉**〈18〉purattu tiru(va)ṟiñc¿i?〈ī〉**śva**¿ra?〈ra〉mmuṭaiya **mah¿a?〈ā〉de**var maṭamuṭaiya Ilakuḷ¿i?〈i〉**(śva)**〈19〉rapaṇṭitar ka**nmi**kaḷuk=ku Ittevarāṭu toṇṇūṟu kaiykk(o)ṇ(ṭu)〈20〉 tirunan=tāviḷakku Onṟinukku Erikka neyyaṭṭu-vatāka (Iv)vūriruk=kumi(ṭ)ai〈21〉(ya)n Eṟaṉ cātta(nu)k=ku Ivvūrirukkum Iṭaiyan kalli kuṭṭeṟanum pu〈22〉ṉṉai ciṅkanum Eṇi kaṅkātaranum vāṇan co(m)ā(ta)〈ṉu〉n=taṇṭanāṉai(yu)〈23〉m nampi cātevanu〈m〉 Ayiti kāṭāṭi〈yu〉m nampi tiṇaiyanum nampi paṉṟiyu〈24〉m vāṇan puḻiya(nu)〈m〉 Āka Iv-vaṉaivomoṭṭippuṇaippaṭṭa paricāvatu [|] I〈25〉ṭaiyaneṟaṉ cāttaṉaikkoṇṭu tirunan=tāviḷak=koṉṟinukku rā(ca)ke〈26〉cariyāl nicatam Uḻakku n(e)yyaṭ(ṭu)vip-patākavum [|] (I)vaṉ cāvilum (po)ki〈27〉lum ciṟai taḷai caṅkili pukilum Iv-vaṉaivo(mu)ṉpu (ni)ṉṟome ca〈28〉n=tirātittavaṟ ti(ru)viḷak=kerik=ka neyaṭṭuvatāka puṇaippaṭṭom Ivvaṉaivom [|]〈29〉 Ivarka(ḷ) veṇṭa(v)eḻutineṉ I〈n〉nakarakkaraṇattān poṉṉāli (A)ṟu〈30〉pattiruvaneṉ Eḻuttu ||~ rācā**śra**(ya)purattu viyāpāri Am(mu)ri (I)ḷa(m)peru〈31〉n=ti **[||]**

Translation by Hultzsch 1899

(Line 1.) Hail ! Prosperity ! In the 9th year (*of the reign*) of king **Parakēsarivarman**, *alias* **Śrī-Rājēndra-Śōḻadēva**, who,—in (*his*) life of high prosperity, while Fortune, having become constant, was increasing, (*and*) while the goddess of the great earth, the goddess of victory in battle, and the matchless goddess of fame rejoiced to have become his great queens,—conquered with (*his*) very great army **Iḍaituṟai-nāḍu; Vanavāśi**, whose

warriors (*were protected by*) walls of continuous forests; **Koḷḷippākkai**, whose walls were surrounded by *śuḷḷi* (trees); the camp of **Maṇṇai**,[2] whose fortifications were unapproachable; the crown of the king of **Īḻam**, (*who was as impetuous as*) the sea in fighting; the exceedingly beautiful crowns of the queens of that (*king*); the crown of **Sundara** and the pearl necklace of **Indra**, which the king of the South (*i.e.* the **Pāṇḍya**) had previously given up to that (*king of* Īḻam); the whole **Īḻa-maṇḍalam** on the transparent sea; the crown praised by many and the garland of the Sun, family-treasures which the arrow-shooting (*king of*) **Kēraḷa** rightfully wore; many ancient islands, whose old and great guard was the sea which resounds with conches; the crown of pure gold, worthy of Lakshmī, which **Paraśurāma**, having considered the fortifications of **Śāndimattīvu** impregnable, had deposited (*there*), when, in anger, (*he*) bound the kings twenty-one times in battle; the seven and a half *lakshas* of **Ilaṭṭa-pāḍi**, (*through the conquest of whose*) throne[3] immeasurable fame arose, (*and which he took from*) **Jayasiṁha**, who, out of fear (*and*) full of vengeance, turned his back at **Muśaṅgi** and hid himself; and the principal great mountains (*which contained*) the nine treasures (*of* Kuvēra);—before the **Pūjāri** (*kaṉmigaḷ*) **Lakuḷīśvara-Paṇḍita**, (*the head*) of the *Maṭha* of (*the god*) **Mahādēva** of the holy **Aṟiñjīśvara** (*temple*) in **Mēṟpāḍi**, *alias* **Rājāśrayapuram**, (*a city*) in **Tūy-nāḍu**, (*a subdivision*) of **Perumbāṇa-pāḍi** in **Jayaṅkoṇḍa-Śōḻa-maṇḍalam**,—we, all the following shepherds of this village: **Kalli Kuṭṭēṟaṉ, Puṉṉai Śiṅgaṉ** (*i.e.* Siṁha), **Ēṇi Gaṅgādharaṉ,**[4] **Vāṇaṉ Śō[m]ā[da]ṉ** (*i.e.* Sōmanātha), **Taṇḍaṉ Āṉai, Nambi Śādēvaṉ** (*i.e.* Sahadēva), **Ayidi Kāḍāḍi, Nambi Tiṇaiyaṉ, Nambi Paṉṟi** and **Vāṇaṉ Puḷiyaṉ**, agreed to become security for **Ēṟaṉ Śāttaṉ**, a shepherd of this village, (*who*) had received ninety ewes of this temple, in order to supply ghee for burning one perpetual lamp.

(L. 24.) (*We*) shall cause the shepherd **Ēṟaṉ Śāttaṉ** to supply daily to one perpetual lamp (one) *uḻakku* of ghee, (*measured*) by the *Rājakēsari*.

(L. 26.) If he dies, absconds, or gets into prison, fetters (*or*) chains, we, all these aforesaid persons, are bound to supply ghee for burning the holy lamp as long as the moon and the sun endure.

(L. 29.) At the desire of these persons, I, the accountant of this city, **Poṉṉāli Aṟubattiruvaṉ**, wrote (*this*). (*This is*) my writing.

(L. 30.) (*The signature of*) **Am[mu]ri [I]ḷa[m]-Perundi**, a merchant (*vyāpārin*) of **Rājāśrayapuram**.

[2] See Mr. Rice's *Epigraphia Carnataca*, Part 1. p. 10 of the Introduction.
[3] *pīṭi* is perhaps the Sanskrit *pīṭhī*.
[4] The same person is mentioned in line 16 of No. 17.

Bibliography

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Primary

[SII] Hultzsch, Eugen Julius Theodor. 1899. *South-Indian inscriptions. Volume III: Miscellaneous inscriptions from the Tamil country. Part I: Inscriptions at Ukkal, Melpadi, Karuvur, Manimangalam and Tiruvallam*. South Indian Inscriptions 3.1. Madras: Government Press. Pages 27–29, item 18.