Nallūr, Vilvāraṇyeśvara temple, no king, no year

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Summary

Possibly one of the foundation inscriptions of the temple. Installation of the image of Turkkai (Sanskrit Durgā) by Vaikāvuṭaiyāṉ Ceṉṉi Nalla Nākavēḷāṉ, probably corresponding to the adjacent niche.

Palaeographic description

Characters seem to be from the 12th century.

Edition

〈1〉 **svasti śrī**

It-turk⌜〈2〉kaiyārai Eḷunt-aruḷavi〈3〉ttān vaikā-v-uṭaiy〈4〉ān ce¡nn!〈ṉṉ〉i nalla nāka⌜〈5〉vēḷāṉ

Translation

〈1〉 Prosperity! Fortune!

〈1–5〉 Vaikāvuṭaiyāṉ Ceṉṉi Nalla Nākavēḷāṉ has installed this Turkkaiyār (*turkkai-y-ār-ai*[1]).

Commentary

In 2024, we noticed that a later cement construction covered the middle portion of the inscription, extending over the inscribed surface and around the Durgā niche. As the image appears to be original, we believe that the inscription may have been conceived in connection with the installation of the image.

Bibliography

Reported in ARIE 1939–43 (ARIE/1939-1943/B/1940-1941/142).

This edition by Renato Dávalos, Emmanuel Francis, and Margherita Trento, based on autopsy (2024 and 2026), photos (E. Francis, 2024, R. Dávalos, 2025-2026), and ASI transcript. ASI transcript consulted in Mysore by Renato Dávalos (September 2025) with the kind permission of the Director of Epigraphy.

Secondary

ARIE 1939–43. *Annual reports on South Indian epigraphy for the years 1939-40 to 1942-43*. Edited by C. R. Krishnamacharlu & N. Laksminarayan Rao. Delhi: Government of India, 1952. Page 91, item 142, appendixes B/1940-1941.

[1] Sanskrit Durgā.