Nallūr, Vilvāraṇyeśvara temple, time of Kulottuṅga Cōḻa, 9th year

Renato Dávalos, Emmanuel Francis and Margherita Trento

Authors of digital edition: Renato Dávalos, Emmanuel Francis, Margherita Trento

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Summary

Sale of rights to the *tēvaraṭiyār* Mātumai, alias Kōvaṇavarkulā, to sing the first song (*mutal pāṭṭu*) of the *Tiruvempāvai*, carry out the hunting festival (*tiruveṭṭai*) and climbing up the processional car (*tiruttēr*).

Palaeographic description

Consonants aligned horizontally rather than vertically in Grantha ligature *sva*. No distinction between Tamil *e* and *ē*, *o* and *ō*.

Edition

〈1〉 **(sva)st(i) śr[ī]**

t(i)r(i)-puvaṉa-c-cakkara〈2〉vaṛtikaḷ **śrī**-k¡o!〈u〉lōttuṅka-[cō]〈3〉ḷa-tēvarkku yāṇṭu 9-Āvatu

(U)〈4〉ṭaiyār nalla-nāya¡n!〈n̲〉ār kō(y)i〈5〉[l] t(ē)(var-A)ṭ[i]yāḷ mātu[m](ai) [1+] (m/ṭi)〈6〉-Āṉa kōvaṇavarkulāvukku t¿a?〈i〉ruv¿a?〈e〉m〈7〉pāvai mutal-pāṭṭun 〈pāṭavum〉[1] tiru-vēṭṭai〈8〉 mu¡nn!〈n̲n̲〉ēṛavum tiru-t-tēr mu¡n!〈n̲n̲〉ēṛavu〈9〉m

I〈vai〉 Āṇṭu māṛi-c ce(m)[2]

Apparatus

〈5〉 mātu[m](ai) [1+] (m/ṭi) ◇ *mātu(mai)* ARIE.

〈9〉 Āṇṭu māṛi-c ce(m) • The inscription appears to stop short here. The intended, but never inscribed text is probably similar to that found in ll. 11-12 of inscription INSTamilNadu00029: *Ivai Āṇṭu māṛi cempāti cey āṭavarkaḷ.*

Translation

〈1〉 (Prosperity! Fortune!)

〈2–3〉 This is the 9th year of king Kulottuṅga Cōḻa III.

〈3–9〉 For Kōvaṇavarkulā, alias Mātumai, a *tēvaraṭiyāḷ* from the temple of Lord Nalla Nāyaṉār, 〈so that she would sing〉 the first song (*mutal-pāṭṭu*) of the *Tiruvempāvai*, carry out the hunting festival (*tiruvēṭṭai*), and lead the sacred car (*tiruttēr muṉṉēṛavum*).

〈9〉 These 〈duties〉 [shall be carried out] in alternating years.

Bibliography

Reported in ARIE 1939–43 (ARIE/1939-1943/B/1940-1941/144).

This edition by Renato Dávalos, Emmanuel Francis, and Margherita Trento, based on autopsy, photos (E. Francis, 2024), and ASI transcript.

ASI transcript consulted in Mysore by Renato Dávalos (September 2025) with the kind permission of the Director of Epigraphy.

[1] 〈pāṭavum〉 is supplied on the basis of the parallel passage in INSTamilNadu00047.
[2] Inscription stops short.

Secondary

[ARIE] 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 92, item 144, appendixes B/1940-1941.