Nākappaṭṭiṉam, bronze label

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Summary

Label on a Buddhist bronze.

Edition

〈1〉 Āḷ-uṭaiya n̲ā〈2〉yakar ⇝

Translation by Ramachandran 1954

〈1–2〉 The Nāyakar (i.e., Lord Buddha) who was the Lord of people.

Translation

〈1–2〉 The Lord, Lord of men.

Commentary

Ramachandran 1954 comments thus: “In this votive offering the Buddha is appropriately praised as the Lord of men in the spiritual sense.”

The terms *āḷ-uṭaiyāṉ* / *āḷ-uṭaiyaṉ* and *āḷ-uṭaiya*, respectively a nominal and a adjectival form, literally mean ”who owns/possesses men/servants/devotees”. See MTL, s.v. *āḷ-uṭaiyāṉ*: “n. 1. One who has accepted a person as servant; 2. Lord, Supreme Being.” In the present case, it is not clear, but not relevant for the meaning, if we have to read *āḷ-uṭaiyaṉāyakar* (*āḷ-uṭaiyaṉ* + *nāyakar*) or *āḷ-uṭaiya ¡ṉ!⟨n⟩āyakar*.

Compare Tamil Nadu 320.

The Śaiva saints and poets of the *Tēvāram*, Appar, Cuntarar, and Campantar, are respectively known in epigraphical sources as *āḷ-uṭaiya v-aracu*, *āḷ-uṭaiya nampi*, and *āḷ-uṭaiya piḷḷaiyār* / *āḷ-uṭaiya tēvar*.

Bibliography

Edited in Ramachandran 1954, with a facsimile.

Edited and translated here by Emmanuel Francis (2024), based on Ramachandran 1954 and the facsimile therein.

Primary

[R1] Ramachandran, T. N. 1954. *The Nāgapaṭṭiṇam and other Buddhist bronzes in the Chennai Museum*. Bulletin of the Madras Government Museum, New series, General section 7.1. Madras: Government Press. Page p. 62, plates XXVII, no. 75.

[R2] Ramachandran, T. N. 2005. *The Nāgapaṭṭiṇam and other Buddhist bronzes in the Chennai Museum*. Revised edition. Chennai: Government of Tamilnadu. Page 74, plates VI, no. 75.