

Nepal

(Continued)

—Sylvain Lévi

XI. Inscription of Dharampur

Dharampur is an old village situated between Kathmandu and Budha Nilkanth (11, 394) facing Thoka which have given me a stela of the same epoch. The stela that bears the inscription is erected in front of a chapel of Ganeca. Only the lower portion exists; the last lines are alone well preserved; there remains the traces of twenty lines, but a great splinter has carried away the greater portion.

The inscribed portion covers a height of about 0m, 60, a width of 0m, 25; the characters measure on an average 0m, 015; the space between the lines 0m, 02. The writing has the ordinary aspect of the inscriptions of Civadeva; the letters are large, clear well cut; the only characteristic difference with Amcuvarman (exception made of the 'h' that is not met with here) consists in the redoubling of the silents after 'r'. It must however be mentioned as an innovation the procedure to note down the consonant as a last syllable; instead of being drawn up on a smaller scale below the line; it is written on the normal level, in normal size, but it is underlined by a curled dash that resembles the Sanscrit 'u' of the Devanāgarī, turned over on its axle.

The chart has a two fold privilege for object (1,13) the details of which are missing; yet one still see that the ingress to the village was always forbidden to the armed force, regular or irregular. The other privilege consists, it appears in a remittance of tax, in connection with the Malakara 'The Malla tax'. The same tax is also mentioned in connection with a remittance of tax in the inscription of Jisnugupta in Thankot (1,24) and in the two passage there is a question of four pana (panacatusya); but the stela of Dharampur emphasises that it concerns copper panas (tamrapana) and expressly add 'according to the custom' (ucita). I have already recalled, in connection with the Mallakara (11,211 sq) the victorious campaign of Manadeva against Mallapuri the town of the Mallas and I have shown the analogy of the Turuska dauda, frequently named in the inscriptions of Govinda Candra of Cange. It is probable that the Mallas, forerunners of Gurkhas, who were to overthrow them one day, exercised at that time, from the western valley wherein they had installed themselves a kind of onerous suzerainty over Nepal.

The formulary of recommendation to future kings is in its greater part identical to

that of the inscriptions of Civadeva; likewise the wording, *iti samajnapana* 'which disappears with Civadeva, to be replaced by *svayan ajna*'. The date confirms all these indications; it is clearly read 500 20.

The elements 5 from 500 is exactly similar to that of the inscription of Khopasi; the sign of the hundred has here instead of the double curve (in the shape of 3) of Khopasi and Bhag. 4, a kind of S turned over on its axis.

The dutaka is the Varta Bhogacandra; I have already discovered upon the personage and the title (1,262). We know nothing of the personage; his name presents the element 'bhoga' which I have already called to attention (11,128).

Text

The first 11 lines are almost entirely obliterated, except the 4th. *tabhatapravecyah sarvakalam a ...* In the 5th line the second character is *si*; in the 7th one sees *basas*; in the 8th *tan na*; in the 9th *purvvapra*; in the 10th *rnnac car*.

12. *bhyac ca Mallakara...*
13. *citatamrapanacustayad urddhva...*

14. - ...*miti prassadvayam samadbikan dattam tad e*
15. *vamvedibhir una kaiccid idam apramanan karyyam*
16. *Ye py asmadurddhvam bhuhhujo bhavitaras tair a*
17. *pi dharmagurubhir ggurukrataprassadanu*
18. *rodhibhir eva bhavyam iti samajnapana*
19. *dutakac catra varttabhogacandraah samvat.*
20 500. 20 magha cukla avadacyam

Translation

(4) Entry prohibited to regulars and irregulars...

(12-13)... of these, the Malla tax ... above four copper panas according to the custom.

(14-18) This important double privilege has been granted to you. Knowing thus nobody must fail to abide by this regulation. And the kings who will come after us, they also by respect for the law, respect and maintain (uphold) this favour. Such is the order.

(19-20) The delegate is here the varta Bhogacandra. Samvat 520, month of magha, clear fortnight, the 12th.

(to be continued)

(Foot Note to page 68; 'Nepal', Vol. III by S. Levi)

1. The word *samajnapana* is missing in the dictionary of Bohtlingk-Roth, and in the Compendium.