

The maṅgalācaraṇam of the Mānasollāsa

Bhārgava

A conversation with a friend brought my mind back to the Mānasollāsa, the encyclopedia of the great Cālukya emperor Someśvara-deva. Below is the maṅgalācaraṇam of that work. The last verse is where the author announces himself. There are the following caveats: 1) The text as I have it is unclear in parts and this seems to arise both from the printing and the underlying manuscripts that were used. In the unclear parts I have taken the readings most obvious to me. 2) The translation appended to verses is approximate and the reader should look at the original.

अभीष्ट-फलदं सिद्धि-सिद्धमन्त्रं गणेश्वरम् ।
कर्ण-तालानिलोद्धृत-विघ्न-तूल-लवं नुमः॥

We salute the Gaṇeśvara, the giver of desired fruits and the success-granting mantra, who blows away the cotton-tangles of obstacles with the draft from the beating of his ears.

संवित्-सखी जयत्य् एका का ऽपि शुद्धा सरस्वती ।
यया स्वतः प्रबुद्धानां प्रकाशोऽतिप्रकाशयते ॥

The friend of consciousness conquers, who else is that one but the pure Sarasvatī, by whose self the luster of the enlightened ones is caused to exceedingly shine forth.

वन्दे भव-लता-बीजं लिङ्गरूपं महेश्वरम्।
सो ऽव्यक्तम् अपि सुव्यक्तं यस्यान्तः सचराचरम् ॥

I salute Maheśvara, the seed of the creeper of existence, in the form of a liṅga, he who is unmanifest and also well-manifest and the [cause of] the end of [that manifestation] with all living and non-living bodies.

कृष्ण कृष्ण हरे रक्ष मां विभो मां रमारमण मा विभुं कुरु ।
ते हरे नरहरे नमोऽस्तु मे देहि देव पदम् अच्युताच्युतम् ॥

O Kṛṣṇa! Kṛṣṇa! O Hari! protect me!
Me O mighty one! O delighter of Ramā make me powerful.
O Man-lion! Hari! my obeisance is for you, O god Acyuta!
confer on me the state from which one never falls.

नौमि वेद-ध्वनि-वरं देवं धत्ते सदैव हि ।
नाभि-पद्मोदरे विष्णोः क्वणद्-भ्रमर-विभ्रमम् ॥

I salute the god of the excellent chants of the Veda.
Indeed, I always place myself in
the humming of the buzzing bees,
in the womb of Viṣṇu's navel-lotus.

तं नमस् कुर्महे शक्रं देवानाम् अपि दैवतम् ।
यो लोचन-सहस्रेण विश्वकार्याणि पश्यति ॥

I make my obeisance to him, Śakra who is the god of the very gods,
who with his thousand eyes beholds all the happenings of the universe.

यः सन्ततं तत् तमः पटलं विदीर्य सावित्रिकं करशतैर् वहति प्रकाशम् ।
तं विश्व-रक्षण-पटुं परमेकम् आद्यम् आदित्यम् अद्भुत-विलासविधिं नमामि॥

Continually rending that screen of darkness,
the impeller, who with his hundred rays bears light,
I salute him, the foremost one, skilled in protecting the world,
the primal Āditya manifesting in a marvelous manner.

स्थाणुर् यस्येच्छया जातः शरीरार्ध-भृत-प्रियः ।
अरिक्त-शक्तये तस्मै नमः कुसुम-धन्वने ॥

By whose wish Sthāṇu came to share half his body with his wife,

Obeisance is for him of no mean power, the wielder of the flowery bow.

चालुक्य-वंश-तिलकः श्री-सोमेश्वर-भूपतिः ।

कुरुते मानसोल्लासं शास्त्रं विश्वोपकारकम् ॥

The forehead-mark of the Cālukya-s, the king śrī Someshvara, has composed the encyclopedia Mānasollāsa for the benefit of the world.