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) There translation appended to verses is approximate and the reader should look at the original.

अभीshaw-फलद बिच-सिद्धमन्त्रं गणेशरम् ।
कर्ण-तालानित्रवूत-विग्रह-तूल-लबं 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.

संवित-सखी जयत् एका का अपि शुद्धा सरस्वती ।
यया स्वतः प्रवुधानां प्रकाशोपदितप्रकाशयते ॥

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 उत्तमम् अपि सुव्यक्तं यस्यानं: 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 रामारमण मा विभुं कुरु ।
ते हरे नरहे नमोजस्तु मे देहि देव पदमु 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-ध्यनि-वरं देवं धनं सदेव हि ।
नाभि-पद्योरे विष्णोऽणं-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 नमस्कु महे शं देवानाम् अपि देवतम् ।
यो तोचन-सहस्रं विश्वकार्यां धर्मं पशयति ॥

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.

यं सन्तातं ततं तमं पटलं विदीर्यं सावित्रिकं करशतेऽवहति प्रकाशः ।
तं विश्व-रक्षणं-परं परमेकम् आद्यम् आदित्यम् अद्वृत-विलासविधि 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.

स्थाणुः यस्येच्छुत्या जातेष्वायं-भृत-प्रियः ।
अरितं-शक्तं तस्मै नमं कुसुम-धनवने ॥

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.

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