

Memorial stones of Nolamba - Pallava and Rashtrakuta Period in Chitradurga District

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Abstract: Chitradurga has its own pre-historical and historical importance since from ancient times. Every king of the various dynasties who ruled this region has left behind one or the other cultural evidences. Amongst these cultural evidences memorial stones are one of them. Hero stones, Mahasati stones, Nisidi Stones and Cow gift or Gosasan stones are some of the memorial stones. These memorial stones play a vital role in determining and understanding the cultural history of the particular region. This stone portrays the hero. The hero portrayed here is holding a hatchet in his right hand, leaning on the right shoulder. Whereas, the left hand is placed on the lap. The hair is combed and tied on the top of the head as a throne. Further the hero is decorated with earrings on the ears, Bracelets on the hands, garland round the neck and other ornaments. On the right corner of this hero stone there is a single lined inscription scribbled from bottom to top.

Key words: Chitradurga, Dodda Ullarathi, Chikka Maddur, Devasamudra, monuments, sati stones, herostones etc.

Introduction:

Chitradurga has its own pre-historical and historical importance since from ancient times. Every king of the various dynasties who ruled this region has left behind one or the other cultural evidences. Amongst these cultural evidences memorial stones are one of them. Hero stones, Mahasati stones, Nisidi Stones and Cow gift or Gosasan stones are some of the memorial stones. These memorial stones play a vital role in determining and understanding the cultural history of the particular region. In the place of the administrative of Nalamba - Pallava's is one of them. We have to saw our monuments in these fields rarely. Eventhough it was most important one. Even though the memorial stones which was related to Rastrakuta's was most identified one. The memorial stones which was belongs to this period was identified some of the major Gonur, Imangala places such as, Taluku, Dodda Ullarathi, Chikka Maddur,, Devasamudra etc.

Sl. No-1. Place: Sannappajja's Field, Village: Chikka Madhure Taluk: Challekere

This stone portrays the hero. The hero portrayed here is holding a hatchet in his right hand, leaning on the right shoulder. Whereas, the left hand is placed on the lap. The hair is combed and tied on the top of the head as a throne. Further the hero is decorated with earrings on the ears, Bracelets on the hands, garland round the neck and other ornaments. On the right corner of this hero stone there is a single lined inscription scribbled from bottom to top. When this monument is thoroughly observed it appears as if the hero is all set to kill someone.

SI. No-2. Place: Sannappajja's Field Village: Chikka Madhure Taluk: Challekere

The present hero stone also resembles the earlier monument only unlike in the previous monument instead of hatchet the hero is holding the sword upwards and is holding the shield like war equipment in the left hand. Looking at the posture of the hero and weapons in his hands it appears as if he has cut the head of someone and has separated it from the body. To substantiate this we can find a person fallen at the toes of the hero. The limbs of the fallen person are cut. It can be assumed that the hero has killed the enemy by cutting his limbs. There is an inscription surrounding the monument. The above said both monuments are of ancient period of mid 9th CA.D.

SI. No-3. Place: Sannappajja's Field Village: Chikka Madhure Taluk: Challekere

The hero stone comprises of three levels. At the bottom level the Hero is portrayed in the bigger size. Here the hero is portrayed as killing the enemy by pulling him down from his horse. The picture depicts that the hero standing on land attacks the enemy on the horse and kills him. In the second level we find portraits of two Apsaras lifting the departed hero on their shoulders and carrying him to heaven. In the third level the brave hero is seen sitting peacefully on the heavenly chair, besides him we find the slangs and slaves. This monument belongs to 10th century AD.

SI. No-4. Place: Kuldajja Mallappanavar's field Village: Chikka Madure, Taluk: Challekere

The hero stone comprises of only one scene. Here the hero is holding the fan on his right trunk and is holding something in his right hand and something is hanging down. At the corner two of his wives well ornamented are standing. The wives are holding the lemons and mirrors in both the hands and the hands are raised. Here the wives have sacrificed their lives because their husband has died because of some reasons. This monument portrays both husband and wives. The monumental stones of this period are found very rarely. The period of this hero stone is depicted as 10th C A.D.

SI. No-5. Place: In Field, Village: Chikka Madhure, Taluk: Challekere

This monument is partly depilated. This monument comprises of three levels. At the bottom level the departed hero is sitting with both palms joined. To the right side of the hero is a long sword. To the left of the hero a person is standing looking at the hero. When this portrait is observed carefully it appears as a person is sacrificed as bali. In the second level the apsaras are flying carrying the sacrificed hero to the heaven. In the third stage the hero is seen sitting on the Brave seat in the heaven and the fanners and servers are seen standing beside the hero. Overall description of the sacrifice of the hero and attaining the place in heaven is briefly described in the monument. This monument belongs to 10th C AD.

SI. No-6. Place: Outskirt of the village, Village: Dodda Ullarathi, Taluk: Challekere

At the bottom level of the monumental stones the hero and enemy are portrayed fighting with spear and daggers. Amongst the enemies there is an appearance of only one person. The hero has four to five associates. In the second

stage the Apsaras are carrying on their shoulders the departed brave hero to the heaven. In the third the important hero is largely portrayed sitting in leisure posture. Adjacent to this at equal height two other hero's associates are seen sitting in leisure posture. Beside them are fanners standing in tri- posture. To the right corner of the monument there is a small portrait of the lady sitting with closed palms. It is assumed this lady is the wife of the departed hero. Further to the right of the monument there is a portrait of a disciple standing with the folded hands. This monument is of 10th Century AD.

Sl. No-7. Place: Outskirt of the Village: Village: Dodda Ullarti, Taluk: Challekere

At the bottom part of the hero we can see the portrait of the hero and the enemies fighting to each other holding bow and arrows. We can see the dead bodies of the associates of both hero and enemy at the toes of both hero and enemy. Behind the hero the cattle are seen running of fear. Therefore it can be clearly said that this is Gograhana stone. In the second stage the Apsaras are carrying on their shoulders the departed brave hero to the heaven. In the third stage the hero seen sitting on the heavenly seat in leisure posture. Adjacent to this we can see the fanners standing in tri-posture. Further beside the hero there is a portrait of the dwarf person. This monument is of Rashtrakuta period.

Sl. No-8. Place: Outskirt of the Village Village: Dodda Ullarti, Taluk: Challekere

Amongst the four hero stones available at the present region two hero stones are identical. In the first hero stone there is a portrait of the hero sitting on the horse and fighting against the enemy sitting on the elephant. Further there is a portrait of servant holding an umbrella for the hero. There are two elephants belonging to enemy troops over each of the elephants there are four to five peoples sitting. This portrait reveals us the size of the elephant. The wounded. horse of the hero with the arrows pierced on the face is seen leaning on elephant. The dead bodies of the enemies are seen lying below the horse and elephant. In the second stage the Apsaras are carrying on their shoulders the departed brave hero to the heaven. In the third stage the hero seen sitting on the heavenly seat in leisure posture. Adjacent to him apsaras seen standing.

The second hero stone has also similar portraits. The bottom part is somewhat bigger in size in these two hero stones. The second and third stages are bit smaller. It appears as if they are carved using stones. This hero stone belongs to 10th Century A.D.

Sl. No-9. Place: Outskirt of the Village, Village: Mahadevapura, Taluk: Challekere

The present bravery stone comprises of three levels. The bottom level portrays the picture of the hero with the land army, Horse riding army fighting with the enemy troop. Generally, the hero is shown riding the horse. It is assumed that even the enemy is of great personality. The portraits the tough fight between the two strong and brave fighters. In the second stage the Apsaras are leading the brave hero to the heaven. In the third stage the hero seen sitting on the heavenly seat and adjacent to him fanners are standing with the fans in their hands. This hero stone is of Rastrakuta period.

Sl. No-10. Place: In Field, Village: Bhairapura, Taluk: Molakaalmuru

The present legendary or hero stone is of rare kind and is also of great importance. To the left of the stone the hero is portrayed with his both hands lifted up holding something. It assumed that he is holding either rope or long

stick in his hands. To the left there a scene of two pillars in between them there is a fireplace with flames of fire. On this fire flames the hero is portrayed swinging sitting on the swinger. It can depicted from the portrait that the hero has sacrificed his life falling into the fire. On the top of this scene the hero is seen sitting on the heavenly chair and adjacent to him fanners are standing with the fans.

This is the demonstration of sacrifice of life falling into the fire. This type of sacrifices is rare and is of great importance.

Sl. No-11. Place: Kalmeshwar Temple Campus, Village: Godabanahal, Taluk: Chitradurga

The hero stone comprises of three levels. At the lower level there is a portrait of the hero sitting on the horse and fighting with the land army. He is holding spear in his hands. Even the land army of the enemies are holding the spears in their hands. The hero is portrayed as if he is driving the horse on the fallen enemies. In the second stage four apsaras carrying the departed hero on their shoulders are portrayed. In the third level the hero is seen sitting on the heavenly chair in the easy posture. On his adjacent sides four Apsaras are portrayed. These apsaras are holding pitcher in one hand and in the other hand is placed on the trunk. On the upper portion of the hero stone there is pitcher. There is an inscription on the frame of the bravery stone. This is one of the Gograhana stone belonging to Rashtrakuta period.

Sl. No-12. Place: Kalmeshwar Temple Campus, Village: Godabanahal, Taluk: Chitradurga

The statute comprises of three levels. At the lower level the hero is portrayed fighting with the enemies with the bow and arrows. Here the hero is pictured as if he is stepping on the enemy and emerging forward. In the second level four Apsaras are pictured carrying the departed hero on their shoulders to the heaven. All the Apsaras are carrying pitcher in one of their hands. In the third stage the hero is seen sitting on the heavenly chair in the comfortable posture. The fanners are seen beside the hero. Above the stone there is picture resembling the model of a plane. At the middle stage we can find the inscription. This hero stone belongs to Rastrakuta period and is depicted as one of the Gograhana stone.

Sl. No-13, Place: Kalmeshwar Temple Campus, Village: Godabanahal, Taluk: Chitradurga

This hero stone also comprises of three levels. At the lower level there is a portrait of the hero sitting on the horse and fighting with the land army enemy soldiers. The hero is holding the vain of the horse in the left hand and is holding the sword in the right hand. An enemy soldier is found dead at the foot of the horse. Amongst the enemy troops three soldiers are seen ready for the attack with the spears in their hands.. In the second level four Apsaras are pictured carrying the departed hero on their shoulders to the heaven. On the upper part the hero is seen sitting on the heavenly chair. Adjacent to him we can see the portraits of Apsaras and Fanners. There is a inscription on the frame of the hero stone. This stone is of Rashtrakuta period.

Sl. No-14, Place: Kalmeshwar Temple Campus Village: Godabanahal, Taluk: Chitradurga

This monument consists of three stages. At the bottom the hero is portrayed with the long Bow and Arrow. The Arrow held by the hero is seen piercing the belly of the enemy. The enemy is portrayed in small size. There is a portrait of cattle behind the hero. This depicts that the hero has sacrificed his life fighting with the enemies for the

protection of the cattle. In the second stage it is seen that the Apsaras are carrying the departed hero to the heaven. The third stage being of heaven is depilated.

Sl. No-15, Place: Near Village Well Village: Kunubevu, Taluk: Chitradurga

This hero stone consists of three stages. At the bottom level the hero is seen fighting with the soldiers holding the sword and shield in his hands. Amongst the enemy troops there are few land army soldiers and few are horse infantry troops. Hero is singular whilst the enemies are large in numbers and are found enthusiastic and emerging to fight. In the second stage the fanners are seen carrying the departed hero on their shoulders to the heaven. Further with them at lady holding the pitcher is also portrayed. On the upper stage hero is seen sitting on the heavenly chair and besides them Apsaras are seen standing. The costumes of the hero look very attractive and impressive.

Sl. No-16, Place: Near Village Well Village: Kunubevu, Taluk: Chitradurga

The hero stone is of three levels. At the bottom level it is seen that the here both hero and enemies against each other with the bow and arrows in their hands. The length of the bow and arrows are longer than their body height and are large in size. Further it is seen that the arrows aimed at the hero by the enemy troops have pierced all over the body of the hero. In the second level it is seen that two fanners and two ladies with the pictures in their hands are carrying the departed hero on their shoulders towards heaven. All of them are portrayed in flying posture. The third level being special there is a portrait of a large aeroplane in which both husband and wife are seated on the heavenly chair. Fanners are seen beside them. There are dancers all around the plane. The representation of the dancers in the heaven or representation of husband and wife in the plane are not usually monuments of that period. Therefore it can be assumed that this monument belongs to late Rashtrakuta period. The surroundings of the plane are decorated by creepers.

Though two other hero /legendary stones belonging to the same period are found in this village they are completely depilated.

Sl. No-17. Place: Outskirts of the Vilalge, Village: Jaanakonda, Taluk: Chitradurga

The hero stone is of single slab. Here the hero is seen riding the horse with the vain in the left hand and a long spear in the right hand. A large umbrella is portrayed on the head of the hero. This depicts that the hero was a prominent personality. Cattles are portrayed in front the horse. Above the cattle another person is portrayed with the sword in the right hand and the long spear in the left hand. Behind him a dog is also portrayed. It is understand that during those days at the time of hunting or during any disputes the dog used to assist his master. Likewise the dog which has assisted the master during the fight is also portrayed in the hero stone. This is one of the Gograhana stone.

Sl. No-18. Place: Outskirts of the village, Village: Dharmapura, Taluk: Chitradurga

This hero stone consists of three stages. The bottom stage depicts the fight between the hero and the enemies. In the second stage it is seen that the departed hero is carried to the heaven by the Apsaras. In the third stage the hero is found sitting on the heavenly chair. Besides him the Apasaras are seen holding the fans in their hands. This hero stone is of 10" Century A.D.

Sl. No-19. Place: In the village, Village: Dharmapura Taluk: Hiriyyur

This hero stone comprises of three stages. The bottom stage comprises the portrait of the hero attacking the enemy troop using bow and arrows. Here the hero is pictured as piercing the spear into the body of the enemy. On the background behind the hero the cattle are pictured in consequent rows. In the middle part there is a portrait of Apsaras carrying the hero to the heaven. Further in the top part the hero is portrayed sitting on the heavenly chair in padmasana posture beside him fanners standing with the pitchers in their hands. The hero stone is surrounded by inscription. It is clear that this monument belongs to Rashtrakuta period and is a Gograhana stone.

Sl. No-20. Place: Outskirts of the village, Village: Dharmapura, Taluk: Chitradurga

This hero stone has three stages. The bottom part of the stone is quite depilated. Here the hero is ferociously attacking the enemies. Some of the infantry soldiers and elephant riding soldiers associating the Hero are also portrayed. In the second part Apsaras are lifting the body of the departed hero to the heaven. Along with two Apsaras there is also a portrait of other lady. In the third part there is a portray of yogi worshipping Shivalinga. Beside this hero is seen sitting with folded hands. This monument is of 11th Century A.D.

Sl. No-21. Place: Kallayya Colony, Village: Hiriyyur, Taluk: Hiriyyur

This is one of the tiger hunting stone. Here the hero is portrayed as jumping on the tiger of his height. Here the tiger seems as if attacking the hero with its front paws on the hero. Further it appears that the tiger has pierced the lap of the hero its right hind leg. The picture depicts that both the hero and tiger are ferociously attacking each other. Generally, these types of tiger hunting stones are found in Rashtrakuta period.

Sl. No-22. Place: Near the temple, Village: Aralikere, Taluk: Hiriyyur

This is a tiger hunting stone. Here the hero is seen fighting against the tiger. Here it seems that the tiger is threatening the hero with its front legs. Here hero is also portrayed as pushing the tiger back. In the second stage the Apsaras are found carrying the hero to the heaven. On the upper stage the hero is seen sitting with folded hands offering prayers to Shivalinga. It is understood from the monument that here the hero has sacrificed his life fighting against the tiger during hunting. In the memory of this hero stone is laid.

Sl. No-23. Place: Outskirts of village Village: Tavandi, Taluk: Hiriyyur

This monument being of three stages is peculiar amongst its category. It is understood that here eight ladies have sacrificed their life (Sati) on the death of their husbands. It is one of the general Mahasati stone/bravery stone wherein there is a portrait of all the eight women sacrificing their life on the death of their husbands. Till now no such monument is identified. The monument comprises of three stages. Here the personalities are seen sitting on three horse troops. Amongst them the first two are Cavalry soldiers of the hero's troop and the other is cavalry soldiers of the enemy troop. Both these troops are faced oppositely. The first cavalry soldiers are holding the spears in their hands and behind them are their assistants. Both the second cavalry soldiers of hero and enemy troops are seen dismounted the horse and are engaged in physical combats. Both the horses are seen standing still. Associate can be seen behind the Horse of the second hero. Here the horse, hero and the horse rarer are richly dressed.

In the second stage seven heroes are seen sitting on the horse. They have raised both hands and seen moving one after the other in line. In front of them there is a portrait of eight women. There is also a picture of Banana tree shoot and to the right of it there is lit fireplace with flames. Beside the flames there is seat and it appears that a woman is jumping into the fire raising both hands. It further appears that other woman is waiting for her turn to jump into fire. Five women are seen placing the hands on the shoulders of women standing to their front as if they are standing in a queue to sacrifice their life falling into the fire. The right hand of the last woman is raised her and left hand is at rest. It is understood that eight women have sacrificed their life jumping into the fire one after the other in front of the seven heroes sitting on the horse.

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