

CONQUESTS OF ŚĪLĀDITYA IN THE SOUTH

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Mayūra, supposed to be the father-in-law of Bāṇa, the biographer of Harṣa Śīlāditya, is credited with the following stanza eulogising Śrī Harṣa:-

*Bhùpālāh Śaśibhaskarānvayabhuvah ken am nāsāditāh |
Bhartāram punar ekameva hi bhuvastvām deva manyā mahe |
Yenāṅgam parimrṣya Kuntalamathākṛṣya vyudasyā yatam |
Colam prāpya ca madhyadeśamadhunā Kāncyām karah pātitaḥ | |*

Here reference is made to southern conquests of Harṣa – Kuntala, Cola and Madhyadeśa and Kāñcī. On the supposition that Pulakesin II effectively repulsed the advance of Harsa, this was regarded as “praise in the conventional exaggerated style of a poet given to punning and without any reference to historical accuracy”. Curiously, however, in the Gaddemane Inscription Notes in the *Mysore Archaeological Report* for 1923 (p. 83) we come across the following, in characters of seventh century:-

1. *Svasti śrī Śīla-ādityan diśām-bharggan ākevālan aggaḷakaṅṭakan –*
2. *Pērālke vare Pettāṇi Satyāṅkan aṭṭuḷvabhaṭan bedare mahēndran –*
3. *Bēdara-rāyara Malappara kālegaduḷe viṛudu svarggālaya –*
4. *Khāridan beḷeya māla kādon kalyāṅnam akke aḷivon pafīcha-ma....*

It records the death of one Pettāṇi Satyāṅka fighting against Beda chiefs when Harṣa came conquering and Mahendra fled in fear. This Mahendra is evidently Mahendrarman, predecessor of Narasimhavarman Pallava, constantly at war with Pulakesin, who had defeated him about the year A. D. 609 – 610.

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