TWO OBSERVATIONS CONCERNING THE STONE INSCRIPTION
OF WAT PHRA YÜN, LAMPHUN (C.S. 732)

by
HANS PENTH

I

In his discussion of the royal names mentioned at the beginning of the inscription, M.C. Chand states¹ that according to the photograph of the inscription in Prachum silājāriik,² the reading of the third name “is 100-per cent Kam Bhu (ก้านบุ้ห)”. He writes that after a look at the stone in Wat Phra Yün, he and an epigraphist, whose identity he does not disclose, arrived at the conclusion “that the reading is 80 to 90-per cent Kam Bhu”.³

However, after examination of the stone and comparison of the various letters of the inscription among themselves, I am certain that the inscription spells the name กําญญุ (ก้าน fū” in modern pronunciation), as read by Griswold and นำ Nagara.⁴ Kham Fū is still a personal name in northern Thailand.

II

Face II of the slab has at the top a few letters which are nearly obliterated and which so far seem to have gone unnoticed. The letters are preceded and followed by two vertical strokes. The inscription probably reads || สถิร || i.e. สถิรภิกขุ: siddhikāriya (S., P. “fulfilment” + “to be done”). That expression is commonly used to introduce a resolve, its signification here being “may it be successfully accomplished”, “may it come true”. In the case of the Wat Phra Yün inscription, the details of the resolve are not revealed, nor are the circumstances that led to the resolve. Probably, “siddhikāriya” is the beginning and the abbreviation of a chain of ideas, such as: “May it come true. Through the power of merit (puññā) created by promoting the dhamma as is specified in this inscription, I wish to become an arahant under the future Buddha Metteyya.”

A study of the entire complex of introductory and accompanying formulas, ศีร svasti, siri-subham atthu, etc., would be welcome.

². คำนำนายกรัฐมนตรี, ประธานภิเษกพักตร์ ภาคที่ ๕ (นาย ทorrecte, ภิเษกพักตร์วัฒนศิลป์), พระนคร พ.ศ. ๒๕๕๗ ทาน ๑๓-๒๕๕๗.
³. The usual romanization for ทุ้ is either ‘kham phu” (pronunciation) or “gām fū” (spelling).

82 JSS 68.2 (July 1980)