

## A Note on the Biswanath Pillar Inscription

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The Biswanath Pillar inscription was found on 24th February, 2001, Saturday. It stands behind the Biswanath Temple at about 25 meters distance under a grove of *Bhaluka* bamboo. The Pillar is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  meter in height and 92 centimeter in width. There are 9 (nine) lines of letters on the Pillar. It is written in Assamese-Bengali script, the letters of the inscription measure 6 centimetre in average. There are a total of 47 letters in the inscription. The first line contains 6 (six) letters as *SRI SRI SWARGA NARA*; the second line contains four letters as *YANA BHUPA*; the third line also contains four letters *DINE GARH* – fourth line contains six letters *BANDHILEKA' SAKA*; the fifth line begins with the year as 1542 *RAJA RAI*, with eight letters. Sixth line contains *GYAT BHANDARI GOHAIN* also with eight letters; seventh line with three letters; and two parallel lines reads as *BANDHILE II*, eight line with *PARBAT JORA* contains five letters; and the last line, i.e. ninth line with four letters *YE BANDHILE II* and two parallel lines. The letters of the inscription covers 1 meter from top to bottom of the Pillar while it cover 85 centimeters in width with the letters. The other side of the pillar is decorated with a trident or “*Trishula*” from top to bottom of the pillar.

Now the question arises as to why this pillar inscription was set here just behind the Biswanath temple on the bank of the Burigang or Briddhaganga river on the confluence of the Brahmaputra and the Burigang rivers. Other two rock and pillar inscriptions of Swargadew Pratap Singha were set up at Chamdhara and Bhomoraguri. These two pillar and rock inscriptions were also engraved under the supervision of ‘Bhandari Gohain’ in the year 1538 Saka with the words “Samar Bijayina” and “Haruni Darunilo Garh” in the year 1538. The Pillar inscription with the rock inscription contains the lines - “*AGE JABANAKA NIPATA KARI, PACHE PARBAT TAATI GARH SRI BHANDARI GOSAIN KARILENTA II SAKA II 1538 II*”. Therefore Bhandari Gossain or Gohain, we may take as an expert engineer in constructing dykes and ramparts. In this Biswanath Pillar inscription also *SAKA 1542 RAJAYAGYATA BHANDARI GOHAIN BANDHILE II PARBAT JORAIYE BANDHILE II* is mentioned. The

Chamdhara pillar said that the dyke or rampart was constructed upto the Daffala Hills *HARUNI DARUNILOI* along with the western bank of Jiabhoroli river parallelly.

The Biswanath Pillar inscription also runs parallelly along the Burigang or Briddhaganga river on its western bank from the confluence at Brahmaputra at Biswanathghat upto the Dafflagarh hill which still exists as roadways for the common people. This Biswanath Pillar inscription was engraved and posted just after four years of "Bhorarir Yuddha" or the battle of Bhoreli.

The full of the inscription is as follows-

- (I) *SRI SRI SWARGA NARA*
- (II) *YANA BHUPA*
- (III) *DINE GARH*
- (IV) *BANDHILEKA SAKA*
- (V) *1542 RAJA RAI*
- (VI) *GYAT BHANDARI GOHAIN*
- (VII) *BANDHILE II*
- (VIII) *PARBAT JORA*
- (IX) *YE BANDHILE II*

The English translation will run as follows-

"In the days of King Swarganarayana a rampart was constructed under the royal order connecting the hills by Bhandari Gohain in the year 1542 Saka"

Therefore this newly find object of medieval Assam should be discussed thoroughly by the students of History, so that some new light can be thrown on the "Gaon Maran" or ransacking the villages of the North bank of the Brahmaputra, by the Dafflas and the Akas in those far flung days with the couplet-

*UTTARKUL BHAGILE  
AKAKOI DAFFLA  
DAKHINKUL  
BHAGILE MAAN..*

English meaning stands thus-North Bank has been ransacked by Akas and Daffalas, South Bank has been ransacked by the Maan..

### *Notes and References*

This pillar inscription came to my notice while I accompanied Dr. S. Ravishankar, Director Epigraphic society of India to obtain some stampages of the copper plate issued by Swargadew Gaurinath Sinha in the Murhadul village of Jamugurihat in Shri Saniram Bora's house with the help of Sri Tilak Borthakur, retired Headmaster, North Jamuguri High School and Shri Prafulla Hazarika, Mathematics Teacher of the same school along with the copper plate inscription of Nandikeswar Devalaya of Jamuguri Hat issued by Swargadew Rudra Sinha; after procuring stampages of these two copper plates we proceeded to Biswanath Charali and there picked up Tarun Das, a journalist and an interested student of Archaeology. At Biswanath we met the borthakur of the Biswanath Temple Shri Borthakur and he very kindly showed us the copper plates issued by Swargadew Gadadhar Singha and the Etlas issued to their family by the East India Company; we took stampages of the copper plate written in Tai language but the other copper plate in Assamese had not been shown to us by Shri Borthakur. He said that it had been taken away by one of his relatives of Charali. While Ravishankar was busy in taking stampages and photographs of the copper plate and the Etlas I, along with Shri Tarun Das while coming to the back side of the 'Bordol' saw a stone pillar of one and a half metres in height and ninety two centimeter in width; out of curiosity I rubbed the pillar with some bamboo leaves and found letters inscribed on it. Later on we cleaned the pillar by pouring water and rubbing with jutes and the whole inscription came to the light. Stampages and photographs of the pillar were taken and as a result this small article is presented before the learned assembly.

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