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JAINISM IN THE RULLING PERIOD OF RATTAS' OF SAUNDATTI

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INTRODUCTION

Savadatti Rattas were very famous who ruled Belgaum region among ruler lineage. 20 rulers have ruled among these. Many ministers, Commanders-in-Chief have given encouragement for Jaina religion.

Savadatti village is, situated towards the Eastern direction, about 98 kms away from Belgaum. In the inscription it is described as '*Sugandhavarti Mailapateertha*'. Mailaladevi was the wife of Kanna of Savadatti Rattas, so the name was found in applied as Mailateertha and also mailapa Sangha descriptions are there in the Jaina religion. Savadatti was known as 'Savanadatti', earlier. The Jain sages were called as Savan, Shravan, and Shraman. The donations of the Shramanas, the name Savanadatti is converted to Savadatti.

JAINISM IN THE SAUNDATTI REGION

Many rulers of ratta of saundatti are given great patronage to Jainism and those records are mentioned in the some of their inscriptions.

Prithwivarma built a basati in around 870 A.D., also donated 18 nivarthana land to his teacher Indrakirti. Kartaveery-II and his wife Bhagaladevi had donated 18 nivarthana lands for this basati.

At the end of the Savadatti inscription it is described as '*Veera Permadi Devasya Jinalayam*'. So, the '*Veerapermadi*' honoured Krishnaraj Dev of Rashtrakutas had built a basati in about 876 A.D.

Shantivarma, the grandson of Prithvirama of Savadatti Rattas had built a basadi in Savadatti in 980 A.D. His mother Neejiyabbarasi and father Pittiga had donated land to the basati. Shantivarma had donated land to Bahubali Bhattarak for the renovation of the basati in 980 A.D.

Sen-I of Rattas was built a basati in Savadatti is described in the Savadatti inscription of 980 A.D. The Kalasen had built a basati in Savadatti, in 1098 A.D. is described in another Savadatti inscription. A basati is situated towards the North direction, in Jain Street of Savadatti village. It is with Sanctorum and Portico. About three feet height, Chandraprabha Teertankar Siddasana statue had established in the Sanctorum. These statues are seems from the sculpture that it is about 10th Century.

Two Jain inscriptions are in the Portico of the basati, they are about 4½ feet height. Jain image, the Moon, the Sun and Nandi are carved at the middle. Black stoned, about three feet height an ancient Teertankar statue is found towards the Western direction of the compound wall. Shelter is on the head. From both the sides Yaksha-Yakshi statues are separated. The foot base is totally ruined. It is known that the sculpture was found in 9th Century.

The temple of Yallamma Hill is safe today. It is facing towards the Eastern direction artful and beautiful with Sanctorum, Sukanasi, Navarang and Portico. Light pillars at around the four directions. The Sanctorum is in star style. Lotus had carved over. About three feet height Yallamma statue had established in the Sanctorum. It would be decorated form different items. Only the oil lamp would be on while offering the pooja, remaining all the lamps would be off. It was found in the statue of Yakshi Padmavati. The peak of the Sanctorum is in Nagar style of Kadambas. Many small statues are positioned at the behind and on the peak. Lotus had carved at all around the four directions of the Sukanasi. Some evidence was found that, earlier it was a basati. Two Teertankaras small statues are positioned at the left side and at the back side of the main temple. A Teertankar statue is positioned at the inner side of the room, now it is covered with Lord Ganesh of Alluminium. The Jain statue is identified at the earlier clicked photocopy. Now also a photo is in the meeting hall of Trust Committe of the temple. It is clear that, earlier the temple was a basati.

The compound wall is built around the temple. Entrance is towards the Southern direction and West directions. The Jain monuments are laying somewhere at the premises. A piece of 24th Teertankar statue is found in a broken Bhairava temple, in just hundred feet distance. A just half feet nice peak is on the shelter. There are six Siddasana statues are positioned. So, it seems this piece of statue is related to Chavveesa Teertankar statue. This stone is with green mixed brown coloured. It was found in about three feet height. It stated that, the present Yallamma temple was Padmavati basati, so the piece of statue is Parshwanath. Just little distance towards the South direction, facing towards the North direction, about ½ feet height, two feet are found. They are straight and reflect Teertankaras standing position at foot base had ruined. The foot base is with green mixed brown coloured. It stated that this foot base is of Teertankar. The other parts of the statues are broken.

There are no any evidence are found that, who had built the present basati. The Goddess Yallamma Hill itself was a Jaina image about three-four hundred years. In Same place itself the Rattas Jinalaya was also situated. It would be cleared that, the Yallamma temple itself was the Jinalaya of Rattas. Earlier it was the capital of Shantivarma of Savadatti Rattas.

The donation descriptions are at the beginning of the inscription. So, the temple was found inbuilt before 980 A.D. The basati, which Prithwivarma of Rattashad built in around 870 A.D. is found in today's Yallamma temple.

Conclusion

The detailed information given throughout this paper is based on the authentic evidences present in the inscriptions and these are the strong proofs which tell us about the existence of Jainism in Savadatti region during the Rattas' rule.

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