

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

by

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## I

In his discussion of the royal names mentioned at the beginning of the inscription, *M.C. Chand* states<sup>1</sup> that according to the photograph of the inscription in *Prachum silājārūk*,<sup>2</sup> the reading of the third name “is 100-per cent Kam Bhu (คำฟู)”. He writes that after a look at the stone in Wat Phra Yūn, 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”.<sup>3</sup>

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 คำฟู: *gām fū* (“*kham fū*” in modern pronunciation), as read by Griswold and ṇa Nagara.<sup>4</sup> *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 || สธิการ || i.e. สธิการิยะ: *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 Yūn 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 (*puñña*) 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, *śrī svasti, siri-subham athu*, etc., would be welcome.

1. *M.C. Chand Chirayu Rajani*, “Remarks on ‘The Lion Prince’”, *JSS* (65.1), 1977, p. 291.
2. สำนักนายกรัฐมนตรี, ประชุมศิลาจารึก ภาคที่ ๓ (หน้า ทองคำวรรณ, ศิลาจารึกวัดพระยืน), พระนคร พ.ศ. ๒๕๐๘ หน้า ๑๓๖-๑๔๔.
3. The usual romanization for คำฟู is either ‘*kham phū*’ (pronunciation) or ‘*gām bū*’ (spelling).
4. Alexander B. Griswold & Prasert ṇa Nagara, “The inscription of Wat Phra Yūn”, *JSS* (62.1), 1974, p. 127. *M.C. Chand* (*op. cit.*, p. 289) wrongly quotes the authors as reading คำฟู: *gām fū*; that reading is found in *Prachum silājārūk*, III, p. 136 (see footnote 2).