

Piṅgalāmata introduction

Manuscripts used:

A British Library OR 2279. Newari on palm leaf, dated Nepal saṃvat 313 (1193CE), in reign of Śrīlakṣmīkāmadeva. 7 lines to a side.

B NAK 3.376. NGMPP reel number A42/2. Palm leaf, 42.5x6cm. 125 folios. Newari. 7 lines to a side. Dated Nepal saṃvat 294 (1173/4CE), in reign of Rudradeva.

C NAK 5-1929. NGMPP reel number A166/5. Material not specified, 35x15.5cm. 70 folios. Devanāgarī. 13 lines to a side.

Relationship between B and C:

B and C show a close relationship, for example between verses 6.175 and 176, both B and C insert 176a and 175b-d:

caturbhāgātmakaṃ madhye mūlaliṅgānugaṃ ca yat
tasmād bhāgāntaraṃ kṛtvā bhāgair jagatikā bhavet

At B, there is a page turn after mūla which may explain the error: The scribe skipping from the mūla in 175b to that in 176b as he changed page. That C has the same error indicates that C is a descendent of B.

I have left C in the apparatus, as it periodically corrects what it reads at B to produce something of interest.

A has some independence from B and C, as seen, for example, in the lack of 6.309a-310b, 7.131 and 137-138b, 8.239c-241a, 10.24ab at A only.

Contents

Chapter 6, verses 1-107b:

- 1-2b Piṅgalā's request
- 2c-3b Bhairava's answer
- 3c-24 examination of the soil
 - 7 examination of colour
 - 8ab examination of smell
 - 8c-9b examination of grass
 - 9c-10 characteristics to avoid
 - 11ab uses of auspicious and inauspicious soils

- 11c-12 testing soil by digging and refilling a hole
- 13 results of different qualities of soil
- 14-17 testing soil by sowing it with seed
- 18-24 testing soil with lit lamps
- 25-63 the selection of the ground
 - 25cd sighting of birds
 - 26 beneficent nakṣatras
 - 28c-29b beneficent tithis
 - 29c-30b beneficent zodiacal signs
 - 30c-33 beneficent conjunctions
 - 34-42b examination of the course of the sun
 - 42c-46b examination of the course of the moon
 - 46c-50 the dhvajādi āyas
 - 51-60 making a foundation
 - 61-63 discerning and removing śalyas
- 64-107b the installation of the stones (śilānyāsa)

Chapter 8: on the vāstu

- 1-4 qualities of the string
- 5-9 laying out the vāstu square
- 10-12 nāḍīs
- 13-14b vaṃśās
- 14c-18b rajjus
- 18c-29 marmans
- 30-41b effects of encroachment on marmans
- 41c-91b the origin and character of the vāstu, including (at 73-85) a description of the lay-out of the deities in the 8x8 square vāstu
- 91c-102 the 8x8 vāstu for particular temple types
- 103-110 the round vāstu for round temples
- 111-112a 8x8 vāstus for temples to Indra and Agni
- 112b-115b the yoni-shaped vāstu for a temple to Śakti
- 115c-119b the half-moon vāstu of a temple for an image of Yama's daṇḍa
- 119c-123b the 3-cornered vāstu of a temple for an image of Rāvaṇa's khaḍga
- 123c-124b the round vāstu of a temple for an image of Varuṇa's pāśa
- 124c-128 the 6-cornered vāstu of a temple for an image of Vāyu's dhvaja
- 129-131 the padma-shaped vāstu of a temple for an image of Kubera's gadā

132-136	the 8-cornered vāstu of a temple for an image of Śiva's śūla
137	the vāstu of a temple for an image of Viṣṇu's cakra
138	the vāstu of a temple for an image of Brahmā's padma
139-142	temple proportions
143-151b	the 10x10 vāstu for the building of a city (nagara)
151c-154b	positioning of liṅgas
154c-157	positioning of temples
158-167	the 33x33 vāstu for a district (deśa)
168-184	the 100x100 vāstu for a province (maṇḍala)
185-196	the 12x12 vāstu for a town (pattana)
197-206b	the 11x11 vāstu for a hamlet (kheṭa)
206c-211	the 11x11 vāstu for a village (grāma)
212-235	the 10x10 vāstu for a fortress with watchtower
(koṭṭāṭṭālakasaṃyuta)	
236-247	the 5x5 rudrātmaka vāstu
248-257	the 5x5 funerary (citi) vāstu

Chapter 9: the vāstu for a house

1-2	Piṅgalā asks about the gṛhavāstu
2-6	nāḍīs
7-20	installation of the deities in the vāstu
21	vaṃśas
22-53	the position of the vāstudeha and the marmans therein
54-61	marmans
62-105	extraction of śalyas
106-138	bali offerings to the deities of the vāstu
139-150b	mantras, pūjā worship and bali offering procedure for the deities of the vāstu, guardians of the directions, hosts of beings (bhūtagaṇa), and mothers of the directions (dīnāmāṭṛ).
150c-156b	bali offerings to the occupants of the vāstu for the planets (graha)
156c-159	bali offerings and mantras to the occupants of the funerary (citi) vāstu
160-162	Ensuring the correct procedure for the construction of a temple / palace (prāsāda) or house