

# A Tale of Two Courts: Records of Kachavāhā Mahārājas in Digambar Jaina Memorials

Tillo Detige

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# Self-Representation and Presentation of Others in Indic Epigraphical Writing

Edited by Dániel Balogh and Annette Schmiedchen

Asien- und Afrika-Studien 63 der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

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# A Tale of Two Courts: Records of Kachavāhā mahārājas in Digambara Jaina memorials

## Tillo Detige

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### 1. Introduction

Throughout most of the second millennium, the Digambara Jaina mendicant traditions were led by lineages of bhattārakas. The bhattārakas of Western India were venerated as ideal, paramount renouncers by ascetic and lay Digambara communities, but also carried important socio-political functions. They developed and maintained links with rulers on behalf of merchant communities, often setting up their own seats in royal and imperial capitals. In this chapter, I focus on the inscriptions of ten mid-17th-to-19th-century Digambara memorial stones commemorating bhattārakas and lay panditas related to what I call the Dhūndhādaśākhā, the Mūlasangha Balātkāragana ascetic lineage which was active in the Dhūndhāda region of present-day Rajasthan (Figure 1 in section 5 below). These inscriptions consistently and elegantly defer to the reigning Kachavāhā dynasty mahārājas of Amer (Āmera) and Jaipur (Jayapura). A mere few other examples are found of such references to local rulers in Digambara memorial inscriptions from other parts of Western India. This idiosyncratic epigraphic practice in Dhūndhāda speaks of a particularly close alignment between the local bhattāraka lineage and the Kachavāhā court. Ritualised legitimisation and economic transactions between both polities are also evident from other aspects of Dhūndhādaśākhā commemoration practices.

## 2. Bhaṭṭārakas: Digambara renouncers

From the latter half of the Sultanate period (1206–1526), throughout the Mughal era (1526–1857), and up to the early 20th century, Digambara Jaina mendicant lineages were led by renouncers with the *bhaṭṭāraka* rank. While the Digambara

ascetic ideal is that of the naked, itinerant and possessionless, male muni, bhaṭṭārakas from at least the 16–17th centuries onwards were clothed and mostly sedentary. Bhaṭṭāraka seats (gaddī) continue to function and flourish in South India today, but the bhaṭṭāraka lineages of Western and Central India were all discontinued by the 19th and 20th centuries. As munis reappeared in increasing numbers in the first half of the 20th century, they came to stand at the centre of Digambara devotion. At the same time, the autocratic, courtly style of leadership which characterised the bhaṭṭāraka traditions fell from grace as lay communities came to prefer representative and bureaucratised modes of governance and administration, and modern organisations and institutes. When laypeople retracted their support for the bhaṭṭārakas, the "old regime" bhaṭṭāraka polities collapsed.

Scholarship long conceived of the pre-20th-century Digambara bhattārakas as administrators, "clerics", ritual specialists, or at most "semi-renouncers". Digambara munis were often taken to have disappeared all at once in the Sultanate period due to the harassment of naked renouncers by Islamic rulers and to have been replaced by clothed bhattarakas. Bhattarakas were thought to have had only celibate but not fully-initiated renouncers (brahmacārin) and lay scholars and ritual specialists (paṇḍita) among their pupils. It is now clear, however, (1) that in the medieval period (8th-13th cent.) the bhattāraka rank was inserted on top of the prior Digambara ascetic hierarchy, above the muni and the ācārya ranks; (2) that in the early modern period (c. 14th-18th cent.) the bhattārakas of Western and Central India were regarded and venerated as ideal renouncers by the lay and ascetic communities which supported them (Detige 2019a); and (3) that bhattārakas' ascetic communities (saṅaha) included munis up to the 17th century and ācāryas up to the 18th century (Detige 2020). Prosopographical studies of manuscript colophons (Detige 2018) and memorials (Detige forthcoming) allow us to reconstruct the evolution of the bhattaraka circles. Up to the 17th century, these were sometimes substantial sanghas including renouncers of a broad spectrum of lower ascetic ranks, both male (mandalācārya, ācārya, muni, brahmacārin) and female (āryikā, brahmacārinī, ksullikā). In the 18th century we see constellations of bhattārakas, ācāryas, and panditas, and from the late 18th to the early 20th century, bhattarakas operated with networks of associated panditas.

<sup>1</sup> The rituals for the veneration of living pre-20th-century bhaṭṭārakas (pūjā, āratī) are also performed for contemporary Digambara renouncers (Detige 2024).

### 3. Bhaṭṭārakas: Digambara lords

One of the bhattarakas' functions which scholarship has always stressed, yet never fully explored, is their interaction with rulers on behalf of lay communities. While regarded as venerable renouncers, the bhaṭṭārakas of Western India also carried considerable political and socio-economic clout, functioning as the kingpin of devotional and financial networks constituted by ascetic and lay communities. Digambara communities consisted of wealthy merchant castes whose elites included chief donors (saṅghapati) and, at least in the Dhūndhāda region, ministers (dīvān) and courtiers at the royal court, lower-level officials, and financiers. Following ideas of Inden (1990, 22-33), as recently applied by Hatcher (2020, esp. 73-100), I conceive of the bhattaraka circles as renouncercentred polities operating within a hierarchical, poly-centric "scale of forms". Polities can be conceived of as partially self-governing groups with a collective identity constituting an identifiable political entity, organised through institutionalised social relations, capable of mobilising resources, and led by a sovereign lord (after Ferguson and Mansbach 1996, 33-40). The scale of forms refers to a range of polities with overlapping realms of authority and graduated power. This model captures worldly rulers and religious leaders within a single analysis, highlighting forms of governance and ritual practices common to both.

The 17th-to-19th-century Þhūṇḍhāḍaśākhā bhaṭṭāraka polity specifically inscribed itself into that of the regional rulers (mahārāja) of the Kachavāhā dynasty, and these were in turn subordinated to and closely allied to the paramount polity of the Mughal emperors. Local Digambara caste councils (pañca), in the Þhūṇḍhāḍa region predominantly of the Khaṇḍelavāla caste, family patriarchs, and possibly paṇḍitas operating in mandiras and towns away from the bhaṭṭāraka seat can be seen as standing at the centres of polities subservient to the bhaṭṭāraka seat. Other regional religious traditions constituted polities parallel to that of the Þhūṇḍhāḍaśākhā, regularly standing in conflict or competition. Among these were both Hindu and other Jaina traditions, and the latter included both the Śvetāmbara tradition and the Digambara Terāpantha which opposed the bhaṭṭārakas of the Bīsapantha tradition and introduced ritual reforms.

The connections between the three polities go back to the early 16th century, as shown by a large consecration festival held in Mauzamabad in VS 1664, at which the Þhūṇḍhāḍa-śākhā Bhaṭṭāraka Devendrakīrti consecrated a mandira and thousands of temple icons (subsequently distributed throughout northern India), with some, possibly nominal cooperation by the Mughal emperor Akbar and the Kachavāhā Mahārāja Māna Sinha (Kāsalīvāla 1989, 151).

Lordship was articulated in largely similar ways in bhattāraka polities and at royal courts, with an epistemic continuity in conceptions of authority, legitimacy, and governance. The bhattārakas styled themselves in royal fashion, surrounded with regal paraphernalia like parasols, sitting on thrones, travelling in palanguins, and installed on the seat with anointment rituals parallel to royal consecrations (Detige 2019b). The practice of erecting bhattarakas' memorial pavilions, 'stone umbrellas' (chatrī, see next), was itself also shared with the Kachavāhā and other Rajput courts, whose commemorative practices constituted a performance of kingship, political authority, and legitimacy and in turn referred to the Indo-Islamic tomb tradition (Belli Bose 2015, esp. 9-14, 33-92). The ethical virtues, intellectual qualities, and literary practices embodied and claimed by the bhattarakas and the rituals of their glorification also matched with elements of the courtly culture of royal and imperial polities (Ali 2006, esp. 69-96). Such alignments formed a lingua franca which facilitated ritualised interaction between hierarchically differentiated but structurally similar polities. Religious lords like the bhaṭṭārakas drew authority from their association with rulers. And in ceremonially honouring the mastery of such gurus, mahārājas acknowledged the wealthy lay communities associated with them and integrated them into their realms. In the present chapter, I begin to study the interactions of bhattāraka lineages with secular courts based on evidence from the inscriptions of Digambara memorials.3

## 4. Digambara memorial inscriptions

Digambara memorials are typically pavilions (*chatrī*), often erected on hilltops, sheltering a foot icon ( $p\bar{a}duk\bar{a}$ ) representing the commemorated individual or a pillar with carvings depicting him (far less frequently, her). Often referred to as  $nasiy\bar{a}$  ( $nasiy\bar{a}m$ ,  $nasiy\bar{a}$ , and other variants), commemoration sites sometimes grew into necropolises with a substantial number of memorials. In a survey mostly conducted in Western India but also including a smaller number of find-spots in Central India, I documented some two hundred Digambara memorials

The close interaction between Jaina mendicant leaders and Indian rulers long predates the current case. Famous examples from the Śvetāmbara tradition are the association of Ācārya Hemacandra with the Caulukya rulers in 12th-century Gujarat (Cort 1998, esp. 96-97, see also p. 105) and the Kharataragaccha Jinaprabhasūri's (c. 1261–1333) close association with Sultan Muhammed bin Tughluq (r. 1325–51) (Vose 2022, esp. 4-6).

of the 11th to 20th centuries, the majority from the 16th to the 19th centuries.<sup>4</sup> These memorials commemorate bhattārakas, lower-ranking male and female renouncers, and lav panditas. As the paramount renouncers, bhattārakas were often commemorated with the grandest monuments. These memorials are important sources to study the early modern bhattārakas' venerability, the composition of their sanahas, the geographic distribution of the various lineages, and the frequent shifts of their seats within specific regions. The inscriptions of the small number of late medieval memorials discovered are short, recording but sparse information, a date, and the name of the commemorated renouncer. In the early modern period and into the 19th and 20th centuries, when the Digambara mendicant lineages themselves had also become more formalised, their memorial inscriptions became longer and somewhat standardised. A memorial inscription's date can either be that of the commemorated individual's death or that of the memorial's consecration, and mostly we do not know which type of date is recorded. Only rarely do the inscriptions explicate this or include both dates (e.g. 5.1), although sometimes other sources help us to interpret the dates.

The memorial inscriptions of the bhaṭṭāraka traditions are almost entirely composed of information on the commemorated individuals and their lineage, featuring little eulogy other than honorific markers. Typically included are the name of the commemorated individual, the appellations of the ascetic tradition (saṅgha, gana, gaccha) to which he or she was affiliated (in the inscriptions discussed here, the Mūlasangha Balātkāragana), and the names of a few successive lineage incumbents (bhattārakas, mandalācāryas, sometimes ācāryas) leading up to the incumbent flourishing at the time of the memorial's consecration, who often performed the consecration. These successions help us determine the specific lineage attested (here, the Dhūndhādaśākhā, my nomenclature). Bhattārakas consecrated the memorials of their direct predecessor (5.1) or of earlier predecessors (5.2) and of lower-ranking renouncers, who are often though not always explicitly identified as their pupils. In the 19th and 20th centuries, panditas also consecrated memorials of their pandita gurus (5.3). Occasionally, further renouncers, panditas, or other laypeople are mentioned as pupils or devotees of the commemorated or commemorating individual or as involved in the memorial's erection. The inscriptions usually conclude with the consecrating agent(s) offering eternal salutations to the commemorated

<sup>4</sup> Detige (2023; *forthcoming*). I did not survey memorials of renouncers of the 20th-to-21st-century *muni saṅghas*, which developed independent from the *bhaṭṭāraka* traditions.

individual<sup>5</sup> and a blessing for prosperity.<sup>6</sup> As such, and although many specimens do not include all these categories of information, the structure and contents of Digambara memorial inscriptions largely overlap with those of the inscriptions of Digambara temple icons (*mūrtilekha*) and Digambara manuscript colophons.<sup>7</sup> However, names and genealogies of lay donors are commonly included in the latter two kinds of sources while rarely appearing in memorial inscriptions. Likewise, references to rulers are fairly standard in colophons but exceptional in memorial inscriptions and *mūrtilekha*s.

## 5. Þhūṇḍhāḍaśākhā memorial inscriptions attesting Kachavāhā rulers

Within a corpus of some two hundred Digambara memorial inscriptions, only thirteen contain a reference to a ruler (in two cases incomplete). Ten of these inscriptions, dating from the mid-17th to the second half of the 19th century, defer to the Kachavāhā mahārāja reigning at the time of the memorial's consecration. These belong to memorials of bhattarakas (Figure 1) and panditas related to the Dhūndhādaśākhā, and are found in Jaipur and towns in its immediate surrounding. A late-19th-century memorial of a pandita related to the Dhūndhādaśākhā but deferring to a ruler of Ajmer is found in Bundī, further south in the Hādautī region. Two examples stem from the Vāgadā region on the Rajasthan-Gujarat borderland. They relate to one of the Balātkāragana lineages operating there and date to the early 16th century and the first half of the 19th century (6). The preponderance of such attestations from the Dhūndhādaśākhā and the Dhūndhāda region and the elegant deference given suggest a close association between this bhattāraka lineage and the Kachavāhā court. The relative silence about the Jainas in the documents of the royal court 9 would indicate that this may mostly express a desire of the Digambaras to present themselves as closely allied to the Kachavāhās. Other elements of the bhattāraka tradition's consecration, commemoration, and building practices, however, confirm actual interactions between both polities, including Kachavāhā recognition and legitimisation of the bhattārakas, and land grants to them (5.1, 5.2).

<sup>5</sup> E.g. nityam praṇamati, nityam praṇamanti, "he/they bow eternally."

<sup>6</sup> E.g. śrīr astu, śubham bhavatu, kalyāṇam astu, etc., "may there be prosperity."

<sup>7</sup> On Digambara manuscript colophons, see Detige (2018).

<sup>8</sup> mahārājādhirāja-mahārāja-śrī-savāī-[X]-simha-rājya-pravarttamāne, and variations.

<sup>9</sup> As pointed out to me by John Cort, with reference to the work of Monika Horstmann (2009; 2013).

An early example found in a mid-17th-century bhattāraka memorial in Amer dates from the time when the connection between the Dhūndhādaśākhā and the Kachavāhā polities was being forged (5.1). The Dhūndhādaśākhā practice of deferring to the reigning Kachavāhā monarch in memorial inscriptions became standardised from the late 18th century onwards. The chronologically next specimen is a collective bhattaraka memorial found at the same site in Amer as the latter memorial. This VS 1845 pillar stood as the axis around which Kachavāhā legitimisation of Dhūndhādaśākhā incumbents was ritually enacted (5.1). At the very end of the 18th century, a new Dhūndhādaśākhā commemoration site was inaugurated in Jaipur at a plot of land donated by the Kachavāhā court. Late-18th-to-early-19th-century Dhūndhādaśākhā bhattāraka memorials at this site (VS 1853 [3] and VS 1881) and in the nearby town of Cākasū (VS 1886) uniformly and relatively lengthily defer to the reigning Kachavāhā mahārājas (5.2). Similar references are also included in the inscriptions of memorials of three 19th-century panditas related to the Dhūndhādaśākhā, found in Jaipur (VS 1880) and in two nearby towns, Caurū (VS 1888) and Phāgī (VS 1924) (5.3). In the following subsections, I discuss these ten Dhūndhādaśākhā memorials attesting Kachavāhā rulers and their inscriptions one by one. An edition of the inscriptions is given in the concluding section (8).<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup> I occasionally refer to other memorial inscriptions, both from the same findspots and from elsewhere. I do not, however, offer a full edition of these, nor of the three memorials attesting local rulers found in other regions.

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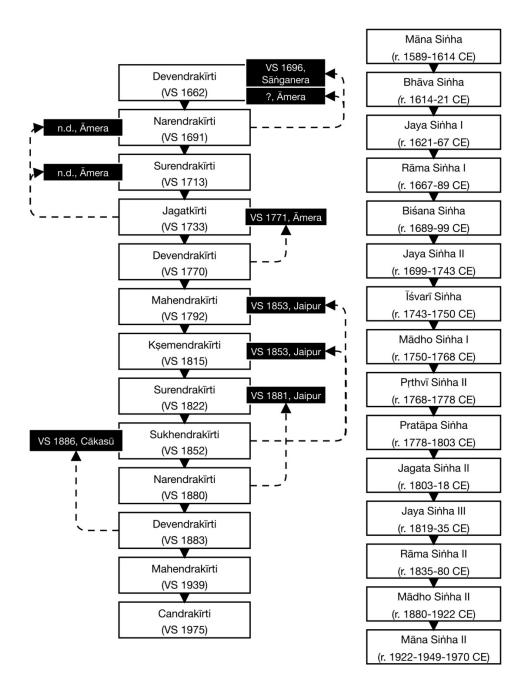


Figure 1. Succession of Kachavāhā rulers (right) and Þhūṇḍhāḍaśākhā bhaṭṭārakas (left) with discovered memorials, incl. indication of year of consecration (VS), town of provenience, and consecrating bhaṭṭāraka (dashed arrows)

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### 5.1. Amer (VS 1691-1722, VS 1845)

The earliest memorial from the Dhūndhāda region to record the ruling Kachavāhā mahārāja is found at the Kīrtistambha Nasiyām, a Dhūndhādaśākhā commemoration site in Amer named after a communal memorial pillar (kīrtistambha) from VS 1845 discussed below (this section). Here, a single raised platform supports four carana-chatris with pādukās installed in small shrines (Figure 2, Figure 3). The latter set-up is almost entirely unique to this site; the only other example found in Western India is a single chatrī in Bundī (Figure 10 L). The oldest memorial at the site in Amer commemorates Bhattaraka Devendrakīrti and was consecrated by his successor Narendrakīrti (Figure 2). The pādukā inscription records the reign of Mahārāja Savāī Jaya Sinha (I)<sup>11</sup> (r. 1621-67) and, calling for long-lasting veneration, informs that the memorial was built by the brahmacārin Keśava out of guru-bhakti. The date in the inscription is effaced, but internal and external evidence places the memorial in the mid-17th century. Devendrakīrti was on the seat from VS 1662 to VS 1691, his successor Narendrakīrti from VS 1691 to VS 1722 (Hoernle 1891, 355; 1892, 83). Devendrakīrti's death in 1634 (VS 1691), as recorded in the inscription of another pādukā of his found in Sāngānera (see next), is a terminus post quem for his memorial in Amer. The roughly coterminous end of Narendrakīrti's incumbency in 1665 (VS 1722) and of Java Sinha's rule in August 1667 (VS 1724) a terminus ante quem. It is most probable that Narendrakīrti consecrated the memorial earlier in his incumbency, especially since he also consecrated another memorial of Devendrakīrti in Sāṅgānera in VS 1696.

<sup>11 8.1:</sup> mahārājādhirāja-jayasimha-rājya-pravarttamāne.



Figure 2. Caraṇa-chatrī of Bhaṭṭāraka Devendrakīrti (TL., Hindu chatrī in the background) with pādukā (BL) installed in small shrine (R), no legible date, mid-17th century. Kīrtistambha Nasiyāṁ, Amer, February 2013.

At the Nasiyā in Sāṅgānera, a town south of Amer and Jaipur, a second memorial stone of Devendrakīrti was found. The  $p\bar{a}duk\bar{a}$  was stored in a small, modern-day shrine, but its inscription refers to Narendrakīrti building a *chatrī* in VS 1696. This original *chatrī* may have become ruined, or removed to make space for a big temple building project underway at the site at the time of my visit (February 2013). The Sāṅgānera  $p\bar{a}duk\bar{a}$ 's inscription does not feature a reference to the Kachavāhā ruler, but includes other information rarely found on early modern Digambara memorial stones, concerning Devendrakīrti's death and succession and the consecration of his memorial. Devendrakīrti accordingly passed on the *bhaṭṭāraka* seat ( $paṭṭa dīy\bar{a}$ ) to Narendrakīrti on the 15th day of the dark half of the month of Kārttika in VS 1691 (22nd October 1634). Devendra-

<sup>12</sup> The inscription on Narendrakīrti's own pādukā in Amer records his ascension to the seat in Sāṅgānera a day earlier, on the 14th day of the dark half of the month of Kārttika VS 1691. Paṭṭāvalīs (lineage succession texts) situate it a few days earlier again, on the 8th

kīrti died a few days later, on the 5th day of the bright half of the month of Kārttika (27th October 1634), and Narendrakīrti built his chatrī and consecrated his pādukā five years later, in VS 1696, possibly on the 3rd day of the bright half of Phālguna (25th February 1640). Devendrakīrti was consecrated to the seat in Cākasū (A. Nyāyatīrtha 1985, 421) but is also said to have spent his incumbency in Sāngānera (Hoernle 1892, 83), and the memorial found here thus likely represents his actual place of residence, demise, and cremation. Narendrakīrti on the other hand was consecrated in Sāngānera (A. Nyāyatīrtha 1985, 421) but probably moved the Dhūndhādaśākhā seat to the flourishing Kachavāhā capital Amer, and may have erected a secondary memorial of his predecessor Devendrakīrti there in an attempt to formally moor his lineage in its new hometown. The then uncommon, explicit reference to Mahārāja Savāī Jaya Sinha (I) may well express Narendrakīrti's intent to insert his polity into that of the Kachavāhās. Narendrakīrti no doubt anticipated the larger platform on which he built Devendrakīrti's carana-chatrī to be used for the erection of further memorials. This indicates that he had good hopes for the Dhūndhādaśākhā seat to flourish in the Kachavāhā hub.

Three further Dhūndhādaśākhā bhattārakas were commemorated at the Kīrtistambha Nasiyām (Figure 3): Narendrakīrti himself, and his successors Surendrakīrti and Jagatkīrti, all of whom are known to have resided in Amer (Hoernle 1892, 83). Their pādukās' inscriptions follow the example of Devendrakīrti's Sāngānera pādukā in recording dates for the successions. According to these, Narendrakīrti was, as we already saw, consecrated in VS 1691, and died in Amer in VS 1722. Surendrakīrti both passed the seat to his successor Jagatkīrti and died in Śrāvaṇa VS 1733. The inscriptions of these two memorial stones do not record when they were consecrated, but they are installed under a twin chatri, a combined memorial for both (Figure 3 right), and the inscription of Narendrakīrti's pādukā explicitly records that it was consecrated by Bhaṭṭāraka Jagatkīrti, who occupied the seat from VS 1733 to 1770. The inscription on Jagatkīrti's own pādukā, installed in a separate chatrī, records that Jagatkīrti died on the 5th day of the dark half of the month of Māgha in VS 1770, that his successor was consecrated six days later (badi 11), and that the memorial was consecrated some ten months later, in Mārgaśīrṣa (sudi 2) VS 1771. The latter inscription also

<sup>(</sup>Hoernle 1891, 355; 1892, 83) or the 11th (Hoernle 1892, 83). Further cases are known of *bhaṭṭāraka*s abdicating from the seat and consecrating their own successors while still alive. Yet it was probably more common for new incumbents to be consecrated by the community after the demise of the previous *bhaṭṭāraka*. Sometimes a gap of a few months or years fell before a new incumbent was consecrated, possibly indicating that it took time for a suitable candidate to be identified or agreed upon.

records the name of the artisan (*karigāra*) who built the *chatrī*, and probably its donor, information which is only very infrequently found on Digambara memorial stones. Neither of the inscriptions of these three further *bhaṭṭāraka* memorials at the Kīrtistambha Nasiyām take up the practice of referring to the reigning Kachavāhā *mahārāja*. This became common practice only from the end of the 18th century, in one further memorial at this site (see next), and at other *bhaṭṭāraka* memorials in Jaipur and Cākasū (5.2).



Figure 3. Platform with caraṇa-chatrīs commemorating the bhaṭṭārakas Devendrakīrti (mid-17th cent., left on picture), Narendrakīrti and Surendrakīrti (probably late 17th cent., double chatrī, right), and Jagatkīrti (VS 1771, extreme right). Kīrtistambha Nasiyām, Amer, February 2013.

The Kīrtistambha Nasiyāṁ in Amer is also home to a communal memorial pillar (kīrtistambha) consecrated by another Þhūṇḍhāḍaśākhā Bhaṭṭāraka Surendra-kīrti in May or June 1788 (VS 1845) (Figure 4 L). I found about half a dozen of such "pillars of glory" in Western India, related to various Mūlasaṅgha Balāt-kāragaṇa and Kāṣṭhāsaṅgha Nandītaṭagaccha lineages (Detige forthcoming). Kīrtistambhas are an iconographic format for the commemoration and glorification of an entire mendicant lineage rather than an individual bhaṭṭāraka. They feature a large number of small, generic depictions of renouncers (Figure 4 R), identified as the consecutive incumbents of a specific lineage with inscribed

captions giving their names and often dates of consecration. At approximately four metres, the Amer pillar is taller than other discovered  $k\bar{\imath}$  tistambhas. It was erected in a dedicated chatr $\bar{\imath}$ , which is provided with stone lattices ( $j\bar{a}l\bar{\imath}$ ) between the pillars and as such appears a rather enclosed structure. A longer inscription near the base of the pillar chronicles its consecration but remained unfinished. Space was left blank for the day of the fortnight and the name of the reigning Kachav $\bar{a}h\bar{a}$  monarch. Perhaps the missing data were meant to be inscribed as part of the consecration rituals of the  $k\bar{\imath}$  tistambha. Or, more pragmatically and maybe more likely, they were perhaps originally left open in consideration that the date of consecration might change and the ruler might pass before that time — and ultimately never got added. Yet Mah $\bar{a}r\bar{a}ja$  Sav $\bar{a}r\bar{a}$  Prat $\bar{a}pa$  Siraraaha S



Figure 4. Þhūṇḍhāḍaśākhā kīrtistambha installed in a chatrī (L., VS 1845) with depictions of bhaṭṭārakas (R., left Surendrakīrti, paṭṭa VS 1822; middle Kṣemendrakīrti, paṭṭa VS 1815; right undedicated). Kīrtistambha Nasiyāṁ, Amer, February 2013.

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<sup>13</sup> I here forego an edition of these inscriptions on the Amer pillar, which record the Mūlasaṅgha and Balātkāragaṇa succession from the first century BCE onwards roughly as known from paṭṭāvalīs (Hoernle 1891; 1892).

The inscription also refers to the *darśana* and veneration of the icons of the gurus, <sup>14</sup> and to the rituals and great festivities held for the consecration of the pillar, for which Bhaṭṭāraka Surendrakīrti reportedly gathered masses of laypeople. A part of the proceedings was apparently held in Cākasū (*caṃpāvatī*), a town 40 km south of Jaipur where the Þhūṇḍhāḍaśākhā seems to have been established briefly in the early 17th century, before it relocated to Sāṅgānera and Amer. <sup>15</sup> Involving the community of Cākasū in the erection of this important ritual object probably served to reconfirm the Þhūṇḍhāḍaśākhā's ties to this town. In a section which is difficult to read (8.2, lines 2–3), the inscription seems to record the involvement of "all the *munis*" (*sakala-munibhi*). The latter presumably is a shorthand uncommonly used here to refer to lower-ranking, not fully initiated renouncers like *brahmacārins*, since *munis* are rarely if ever attested in this period.

The Amer *kīrtistambha* seems to have had a double function of both commemorating prior incumbents and legitimising new incumbents. In the original design, a number of additional, generic depictions of renouncers had been carved into the pillar, left void of any inscription (Figure 4 R). Three of these were marked as further Dhūṇḍhāḍaśākhā incumbents after the pillar's consecration by Bhaṭṭāraka Surendrakīrti (*paṭṭa* VS 1822–52): Sukhendrakīrti (*paṭṭa* VS 1852), Narendrakīrti (*paṭṭa* VS 1880), and Devendrakīrti (*paṭṭa* VS 1883). The names of new incumbents were inscribed on the pillar not upon their passing but at the time of their consecration to the seat. At these events, the Kachavāhā court sent a shawl of honour, and a procession took place with much pomp (A. Nyāyatīrtha 1997, 9; Varmā 1998, 20, 28). The *kīrtistambha* thus functioned as a medium of expression for Kachavāhā legitimation of the Dhūṇḍhāḍaśākhā *bhaṭṭāraka*s and for ritualised interaction between both polities. Bhaṭṭāraka Surendrakīrti (*paṭṭa* VS 1822–52), who erected the pillar, was generally particularly active in icon consecrations and temple building and renovation projects,

<sup>14 8.2:</sup> śrī gurunām pratimā-darśanārcana-vamdanā-vidhānām.

<sup>15</sup> Anūpacanda Nyāyatīrtha (1985, 421) ascribed the consecration (paṭṭābiṣeka) of four consecutive, 16th-century incumbents, up to Devendrakīrti, to Cākasū, but these instead seem to have been associated to Cittauṛagaṛha and the Mevāḍa region.

<sup>16 8.2:</sup> śrāvaka-śrāvikā-saṁdoha-kṛta-paramotsava-yuktābhih.

<sup>17</sup> The names of yet two further Þhūṇḍhāḍaśākhā incumbents, Mahendrakīrti (paṭṭa VS 1939, d. VS 1974) and Candrakīrti (paṭṭa VS 1975, d. VS 2026), were not added on the kīrtistambha, perhaps because these later-day bhaṭṭārakas had shifted their activities to Mahāvīrajī, or because the type of ritual pomp connected to the inscription of new incumbents' names on the pillar no longer found sufficient support. Nineteen of the generic images which had been carved on the pillar in anticipation of a longer continued lineage remained unmarked.

travelling widely throughout the region to perform pratisthās (Varmā 1998, 14-15; Cort 2002, 59-60). When he consecrated the kirtistambha, Surendrakirti had been on the Dhūndhādaśākhā seat for over two decades, being succeeded by Sukhendrakīrti seven years later. In the decades before the erection of the Amer kīrtistambha, debates had raged in Jaipur between bhaṭṭāraka-supporting Bīsapantha Digambaras and anti-bhattāraka "reformist" Terāpanthīs. The important Terāpantha author Pandita Todaramala was murdered in VS 1822, possibly in anti-Jaina riots. After this, the Bīsapantha-Terāpantha animosity in Jaipur is said to have decreased. Yet by the time of the pillar's consecration two decades later, Todaramala's son Gumānīrāma was attempting to resuscitate the Terāpantha fervour by starting an even stricter reform movement, the Gumānapantha, also known as Śuddha Terāpantha Āmnāya (Cort 2002, 61-62). It seems almost impossible then not to see Surendrakīrti's conception of the Dhūndhādaśākhā "pillar of glory" as part of an effort to defy Terāpantha influence and materially re-establish the glory of the Bisapantha polity, setting up the pillar as an axis for the ritual enactment of the connection between the Dhūndhādaśākhā Bīsapanthī polity and the Kachavāhā court.

### 5.2. Jaipur (VS 1853, VS 1881) and Cākasū (VS 1886)

In 1727, Mahārāja Savāī Jaya Sinha (II) (r. 1688–1743) founded the city of Jaipur as the new Kachavāhā capital. The city quickly flourished as a crucial trade post for long-distance trade routes. Jaina merchants, administrators, intellectuals, and litterateurs migrated to Jaipur, and among Java Sinha's (II) courtiers were many Digambaras. In 1725 and 1735 respectively, the Pātodī Mandira and the Baṛhā Terāpantha Mandira were constructed close to the royal palace as central temples for the Bisapantha and the Terapantha traditions, expressing the insertion of both separate Digambara polities within the city (Cort 2002, 55), and their proximity to the royal court. Still, in 1735 (VS 1792) the Dhundhadasakha incumbent Mahendrakīrti was consecrated in a Digambara mandira in Jayasinhapurā (A. Nyāyatīrtha 1985, 421). This neighbourhood of Śāhjahānābād, close to Connaught Circle in today's New Delhi, had also been founded by Jaya Sinha (II). Mahendrakīrti also seems to have spent part of his incumbency in Delhi, during the rule of the Mughal Emperor Muhammad Shāh (r. 1719-48). Bhattāraka Mahendrakīrti probably turned towards Delhi thanks to the Kachavāhā connection to the Mughal empire. We here see the lords of three polities in a hierarchical scale setting up court in proximity to each other, the Digambara bhattāraka, the Kachavāhā mahārāja, and the Mughal emperor. The respective connections between the Dhūndhādaśākhā bhattārakas and the Kachavāhā rulers, and between the latter and the Mughals, opened up avenues to the imperial capital for Digambara lay communities. Mahendrakīrti soon left Delhi, no doubt after the Persian Afsharid dynasty ruler of Persia, Nādir Shāh (r. 1736–47), invaded the Mughal Empire and defeated Muḥammad Shāh in battle in 1739. He took control over Delhi but after an uprising sacked the city and took huge booty back to Persia. Mahendrakīrti is subsequently attested firstly in some other, smaller towns in Rajasthan, but ultimately seems to have settled, unsurprisingly, in Jaipur (Detige 2018, 289–92).

The consecration of Mahendrakīrti's successor Ksemendrakīrti (patta VS 1815-22) was organised at the Pātodī Mandira in Jaipur. His successor Surendrakīrti (patta VS 1822–52) was not only consecrated in the Pātodī temple but shortly after also moved the Dhūndhādaśākhā seat there. 18 At the very end of the 18th century, less than a decade after Surendrakīrti had erected the Dhūndhādaśākhā kīrtistambha in Amer, his successor Sukhendrakīrti initiated a new commemoration site south of Jaipur, still referred to as the Bhattārakīva Nasiyām (Figure 5). The plot of land on which it was built had been donated to Bhatṭāraka Mahendrakīrti by the royal court in 1744 (VS 1801) (Varmā 1998, 13-14), early in the reign of Mahārāja Savāī Īśvarī Sinha (r. 1743–50). In the 18th and early 19th century, the Rāmabhāga royal palace was developed on an adjacent plot of land. Mandiras found at early modern Digambara commemoration sites often postdate the memorials. At the Bhattarakīya Nasiyām however, a mandira was built under Bhattāraka Surendrakīrti in 1769 (VS 1826), predating four memorials later consecrated at the site. Among these are three particularly elegant bhaṭṭāraka caraṇa-chatrīs raised on a shared, pillared platform. The octagonal, eight-pillared chatris are richly decorated with floral and geometric motives on the plinths, pillars, and lintels, inside the domes, and on the drums of the cupolas. The pādukās installed in them (Figure 6 R) are intricately carved, octagonal stones with plentiful floral decorations and large depictions of the ascetics' paraphernalia: kamandalu (water pitcher), picchī (whisk), and mālā (rosary). The stylistic development of the Dhūndhādaśākhā memorials parallels that of Kachavāhā memorial architecture, from its earlier specimens in Amer, erected in local, grey stone, and with smooth domes and plain pillars, to the Makrana marble, more sumptuous ornamentation, and more bulbous, externally segmented domes of the chatris at Getora, the new royal commemoration site in Jaipur (Belli Bose 2015, 52).

<sup>18</sup> Joharāpurakara (1958, 111–12); Joharāpurakara and Kāsalīvāla (1975, 261); Jaina (1978, 44); Cort (2002, 59).



Figure 5. Platform with three bhaṭṭāraka caraṇa-chatrīs, VS 1853 (right and middle) and VS 1881 (left), Bhaṭṭārakīya Nasiyāṁ, Jaipur, February 2013.

Two of the chatris at the Jaipur Bhattarakiya Nasiyam commemorate the consecutive bhattārakas Mahendrakīrti (patta VS 1792, Figure 6 R) and Ksemendrakīrti (patta VS 1815), who as we saw were the first Dhūndhādaśākhā incumbents to be active in Jaipur. Their names had already been inscribed on the Amer kīrtistambha, presumably at the time of their consecration (5.1). Their dedicated chatrīs, however, were consecrated only in early February 1797 (Māgha śukla 5 VS 1853) by Bhattāraka Sukhendrakīrti, their successor to the second and third degree, a little more than a year after his own consecration to the seat in early January 1796 (Mārgaśīrsa kṛṣna 9 VS 1852) (Hoernle 1892, 83). The delay in the erection of these memorials may have been related to the Terāpantha polemics raging at the time. Like Narendrakīrti at the Kīrtistambha Nasiyām in Amer about a century and a half earlier, Sukhendrakīrti may also have undertaken a grand commemoration project to establish his lineage in his new hometown, the new Kachavāhā capital, similarly erecting these memorials on a larger chatrī platform. A third pādukā is installed on a waist-high pillar in open air next to the platform. According to its inscription, it was consecrated by Sukhendrakīrti on the same day as the two chatrīs' pādukās, the 1st of February 1797. The inscription, oddly, does not name whom the memorial commemorates. Carvings of ascetic paraphernalia next to the feet indicate that it was intended as a renouncer's memorial. The pādukā is more weathered than those installed in the chatris and is of a different, somewhat less refined design, and its inscription also differs in phrasing and orthography. The idea comes to mind that the  $p\bar{a}duk\bar{a}$  may have been a prototype that was disapproved but later nonetheless installed on a simple pedestal. Perhaps it was used as a generic memorial for all earlier Phūṇḍhāḍaśākhā incumbents like the  $k\bar{i}rtistambha$  in Amer. The inscriptions of these three VS 1853 memorial stones record the continued rule of Mahārāja Savāī Pratāpa Siṅha (r. 1778–1803), who was already on the throne at the time of the erection of the Amer  $k\bar{i}rtistambha$ .



Figure 6. Bhaṭṭāraka caraṇa-chatrīs (L) and pādukā of Bhaṭṭāraka Mahendrakīrti (VS 1853, R).
Bhaṭṭārakīya Nasiyāṁ, Jaipur, February 2013.

Perhaps Sukhendrakīrti devised the larger platform in the hope that his own memorial would be erected on it, but his *caraṇa-chatrī* is found in Cākasū (see next). His successor Narendrakīrti instead used the remaining space for a *caraṇa-chatrī* of Sukhendrakīrti's predecessor Surendrakīrti. Narendrakīrti, the commemorated *bhaṭṭāraka*'s successor to the second degree, consecrated the *pādukā* on the 24th of January 1825 (Māgha *śukla* 5 VS 1881), doing so – like Sukhendrakīrti three decades earlier – very soon after his ascension to the *bhaṭṭāraka* seat, which took place in VS 1879 (Hoernle 1891, 355) or VS 1880 (Joharāpurakara 1958, 113). It probably was not a coincidence that Narendra-

<sup>19 8.3:</sup> mahārājādhirāja-mahārāja-śrī-savāī-pratāpasimha-jid-rājya-pravarttamāne; 8.4: mahārājādhirāja-mahārāja-śrī-savāī-pratāpasimha-jid-rājya-pravattamāne; 8.5: mahārājādhirāja-śrī-savāī-pratāpasimha-jid-rājye.

kīrti consecrated the third *caraṇa-chatrī* at the Bhaṭṭārakīya Nasiyām on the same calendar date as when Sukhendrakīrti had consecrated the first two memorials at the site, the 5th day of the bright half of the month of Māgha. Narendrakīrti also followed the by then standardised practice of deferring to the Kachavāhā monarch in recording the reign of Mahārāja Savāī Jaya Sinha (III) (r. 1819–35).<sup>20</sup> The three *caraṇa-chatrī* inscriptions also record that the *pādukā*s were installed and consecrated with great festivities,<sup>21</sup> and call for the continued performance of *pūjās* at the memorials.<sup>22</sup>

Bhattāraka Sukhendrakīrti, who developed the Jaipur commemoration site, probably died in Cākasū during a visit to this town with long-standing relations to his lineage (5.1). His carana-chatrī (Figure 7) is found at a site outside of the town centre, which was formerly also referred to as the Bhattārakīya Nasiyām but has recently been developed under another name (Digambara Jaina Atiśaya Ksetra Aksayanidhi Ādīśvara Dhāma). Sukhendrakīrti's chatrī is the latest Dhūndhādaśākhā bhattāraka memorial found, and probably the last to have been erected. It was consecrated on the 28th of November 1829 (Mārgaśīrsa śukla 2 VS 1886) by Bhattāraka Devendrakīrti (patta VS 1883), once more the commemorated bhattāraka's predecessor to the second degree, and once more within the first few years after his ascension to the seat. As we saw, Sukhendrakīrti's direct successor Narendrakīrti (paṭṭa VS 1880-83) did consecrate a memorial for his earlier predecessor Surendrakīrti in Jaipur. It may have taken more time for the Cākasū community to gather funds for the erection of a grand memorial. Or for some reason the pattern of memorials consecrated not by direct successors, as was more common elsewhere, but by successors to the second degree, may have come to be seen as the expected practice. The design of the Cākasū chatrī is similar to that of those at the Jaipur Bhattārakīya Nasiyām, being particularly close to the latest pavilion there, from just five years before (VS 1881). It also stands on a pillared platform, a feature unique to these two sites. The pādukā's inscription records the continued rule of Mahārāja Savāī Java Sinha (III).<sup>23</sup>

<sup>20 8.6:</sup> śrīman-mahārājādhirāja-mahārāja-śrī-savāī-jayasimha-jid-rājya-pravarttamāne.

<sup>21 8.3</sup> and 8.4 (VS 1853): mahotsavena; outdone by Bhaṭṭāraka Narendrakīrti in 8.5 (VS 1881): mahā-mahotsavaṁ krtvā.

<sup>22 8.3</sup> and 8.4: pūjakānām kalyāṇāvalīm karotu; 8.5: pūjakānām kalyāṇa-paramparām karotu.

<sup>23 8.7:</sup> śrīman-mahārājādhirāja-mahārāja-śrī-savāī-jayasimha-jid-rājya-pravarttamāne.



Figure 7. Caraṇa-chatrī of Bhaṭṭāraka Sukhendrakīrti (VS 1886) raised on pillared platform with recently renewed balustrade, next to recent constructions (right on R). Bhaṭṭārakīya Nasiyāṁ, Cākasū, December 2014.

### 5.3. Paṇḍita memorials: Jaipur (VS 1880), Caurū (VS 1888), Phāgī (VS 1924)

By the 19th century, lower-ranking renouncers had disappeared from the bhaṭṭāraka saṅghas, and the bhaṭṭārakas operated within networks of lay paṇḍitas. The latter probably served as adjuncts to the bhattarakas, as satellites of their polity. Memorials and manuscript colophons attest pupillary lineages of panditas connected to the Dhūndhādaśākhā bhattārakas based both in Jaipur and in smaller towns in the broader region. Memorials of panditas were commonly erected from the late 18th to the early 20th century and were often substantial structures. According to Bhamvaralala Nyayatirtha (1986), the 19th-and-20thcentury panditas of Jaipur were celibate. In the inscription of a memorial of panditas related to the Ajmer Balātkāragana lineage, two panditas are recorded with honorifics of venerability otherwise reserved for Digambara renouncers (pūjya, 108) (Detige forthcoming). Panditas probably took up additional activities and a higher standing in the absence of broader circles of renouncers. Within their own localities, they may have acted as the lords of their own small-town polities as masters of Jaina doctrine and philosophy, as ritual specialist, teachers, preachers, storytellers, astrologists, or experts in yet further associated arts. The inscriptions of the memorials of three panditas related to the Dhūndhādaśākhā refer to the Kachavāhā rulers flourishing at the time of their consecration. Two of these date to the same period as the latest of the Jaipur and the Cākasū bhaṭṭāraka memorials, the second and third decades of the 19th

century. The third dates to almost half a century later. One is found in Jaipur, the others in two nearby towns some fifty kilometres further southwest.

At the Śvojī Godhā Nasivām to the north of Jaipur, a VS 1880 pādukā of Pandita Kesarīsinha is found in a spacious modern building, at the time an unusual, innovative commemorative structure. The structure is a type of tibārā, a simple block building with three open arched doorways which now have been provided with metal lattices (Figure 8). Another three arched doorways against the back wall create a garbhagṛha-like structure. Paṇḍita Kesarīsiṅha's pādukā in the middle section is the only cult object in an otherwise bare room. The pādukā is an octagonal drum-shaped stone installed waist-high on a pillar, possibly meant to provide easy ritual access.<sup>24</sup> The finely carved, hexagonal pādukā slab with a large lotus flower below the feet is akin to the coeval bhattāraka pādukās at the Jaipur and Cākasū Bhattārakīya Nasiyāms and may well have been commissioned from the same artisans. The inscription refers to the incumbent Dhūndhādaśākhā Bhattāraka Narendrakīrti (patta VS 1880-83) and to the reign of Mahārāja Savāī Jaya Sinha (III) (r. 1819–35). 25 The pādukā was consecrated by Pandita Lālacandra on the 7th of March 1824 (Phālguna śukla 7 VS 1880) "in eternal memory and praise" (niramtarasmaranārtham vandanārtham ca) of Pandita Kesarīsinha. Lālacandra was the pupil (tadamtevāsī) of Kesarīsinha, the crestjewel among panditas (pandita-śiromani-pandita), and the latter is recorded as himself a pupil of the foremost pandita (pandita-pradhāna-pandita) Sukharāma. The inscription also records Lālacandra's own pupil Pandita Jhāñjhūrāma and two pupils of the latter for whom no title is indicated, Devālāla and Bhairūlāla. In total, the inscription thus records five pupillary generations: Pandita Sukharāma > Paṇḍita Kesarīsinha > Paṇḍita Lālacandra > Paṇḍita Jhānjhūrāma > Devālāla + Bhairūlāla. The whole pandita succession is recorded as standing in the tradition (-āmnāve) of Bhattāraka Narendrakīrti, 26 who was on the Dhūndhādaśākhā seat at the time of the memorial's consecration, but is cited here without the usual mention of his predecessors, next to the longer-running pandita pupillary succession and without an explicit indication of his relation to

<sup>24</sup> The socle seems to be more recent than the *pādukā*, and the whole is sunk deeper into the ground than the rest of the shrine room. Some renovations seem to have been performed, perhaps in view of ritual practice. I thank Brian Hatcher for raising my attention to these material aspects of the memorial.

<sup>25 8.8:</sup> śrī-mahārājādhirāja-mahārāja-śrī-savāī-jayasimha-jid-rājya-pravarttamāne.

<sup>26</sup> Joharāpurakara and Kāsalīvāla (1975, 248) give a pupillary pedigree of up to eight generations of paṇḍitas as stemming from the 17th century Þhūṇḍhāḍaśākhā Bhaṭṭāraka Narendrakīrti. They do not give the source of this information, but it seems likely these are instead paṇḍitas who traced their descent from the 19th-century namesake bhaṭṭāraka.

them. It is remarkable that Paṇḍita Lālacandra himself consecrated the memorial stone, rather than calling upon the  $bhaṭṭ\bar{a}raka$  who was present nearby and is deferred to in the memorial's inscription. Apparently Paṇḍita Lālacandra had sufficient autonomy to undertake such a project and the ritual authority to consecrate the  $p\bar{a}duk\bar{a}$ .



Figure 8. Pādukā of Paṇḍita Kesarīsiṅha (VS 1880) waist-high on a pedestal sunk into the ground (R) in the back section of the shrine room separated off with arches (L) Pārśvanātha Digambara Jaina Mandira Nasiyāṁ Śyojī Godhā, Jaipur, December 2014.

A caraṇa-chatrī at the nasīyā in Caurū (Figure 9 L & R), a town some 60 km southwest of Jaipur, is a memorial of Paṇḍita Dhanarāja established in November 1831 (Mārgaśīrṣa kṛṣṇa 5 VS 1888). The inscription records the continued rule of Mahārāja Savāī Jaya Siṅha (III),² but the incumbency by then of Bhaṭṭāraka Devendrakīrti (paṭṭa VS 1883–1939; Varmā 1998, 31). Paṇḍita Dhanarāja's memorial was built (kārayitvā) and consecrated (prasthāpitam) by his pupil (tadamtevāsinā) Paṇḍita Ratanasukha, "for eternal remembrance and praise" (niramtaram smaraṇārtham bamdanārtham ca). Paṇḍita Dhanarāja is remembered as a pupil of the "foremost paṇḍita" (pamḍita-pradhāna-pamḍita-jicchrī) Baṣatarāma (= Bakhatarāma). This pupillary succession of paṇḍitas is recorded as standing in the tradition (-āmnāye) of Bhaṭṭāraka Devendrakīrti, who ascended the seat some five years before. The inscription runs closely parallel to that of Paṇḍita Kesarīsiṅha's pādukā in Jaipur from less than a decade earlier, and is clearly modelled after it or after another common source. Although different

<sup>27 8.9:</sup> śrīman-mahārājādhirāja-mahārājya-śrī-savāī-jayasimha-jid-rājya-pravarttamāne.

pupillary successions of paṇḍitas are attested at both sites, this indicates a relation between both.

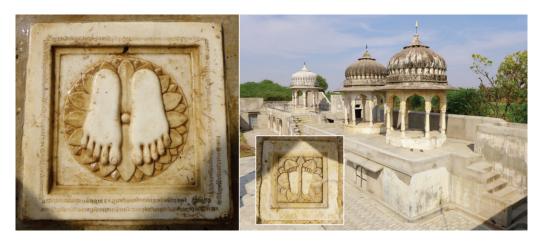


Figure 9. Caraṇa-chatrīs, Nasīyā, Caurū, February 2016. L: pādukā of Paṇḍita Dhanarāja (VS 1888). R: From right to left: caraṇa-chatrīs commemorating Paṇḍita Dhanarāja, an unidentified individual, and Muni Puṣpadantasāgara (VS 2048, repurposed). Inset: unmarked pādukā.

Two further carana-chatris at the Caurū nasīyā (Figure 9 R) are roughly contemporary to, and of similar design and size as, that of Pandita Dhanarāja. These are fairly typical examples of the 19th-century Digambara chatris of Central Rajasthan, medium-sized, elegant, and well proportioned, standing on an octagonal plinth and featuring bulbous, ribbed domes with a stone mataka kalaśa, angular eaves, and arched openings between the eight, graceful pillars. One of the other two chatrīs at the Caurū nasīyā (central in Figure 9 R) shares a platform with that of Pandita Dhanarāja, another indication that it is near contemporary to it. It houses a pādukā without inscription (Figure 9 inset), which has a somewhat more rudimentary design than that of Pandita Dhanarāja and therefore seems to be slightly older. The third chatrī (left in Figure 9 R) is raised on its own, spacious platform, slightly higher than the other. It may be slightly more recent than the other two chatris, but architectural elements clearly show it to be of comparable antiquity. It has, however, been repurposed as a memorial for a local, contemporary Digambara muni. It was whitewashed more recently than the other chatris, and decorative patterns and verses of poetry were painted on its pillars and lintels and inside the cupola. Furthermore, it features a pādukā of Muni Puspadantasāgara, a pupil of Ācārya Dharmasāgara, according to the inscription born in nearby Mauzamabad in VS 1969 and deceased in Caurū in VS 2046 (1989), his memorial having been erected in VS 2048 by brahmacārinī Pyārībāī under the inspiration of Āryikā Pārśvamatī Mātājī. Given the similar size of all three *chatrī*s on site, the repurposed *chatrī* and the *chatrī* with the unmarked *pādukā* likely also commemorated *paṇḍitas*.

At the Candraprabhū Digambara Jaina Nasiyām in Phāgī, another town 50 km southwest of Jaipur, ten kilometres east of Caurū, stands a memorial of Pandita Jayacanda consecrated in July 1867 (Āsādha śukla 2 VS 1924). The memorial is a simple platform with a pādukā installed in open air (carana-cabūtarā). The inscription on the pādukā again follows the same structure as those of the Jaipur and Caurū pandita pādukās discussed before. It records the continued incumbency of Bhattāraka Devendrakīrti and the reign by then of Mahārāja Savāī Rāma Sinha (r. 1835-80).28 The memorial was built (caraṇālayam kārayitvā) in eternal remembrance and praise of Jayacanda (niramtaram smaranārtham vamdanārtham) by his pupil Pandita Śivalāla. Jayacanda is commemorated as a pupil of Pandita Amaracanda, who in turn is recorded as a pupil of Pandita Vasatarāma (= Bakhatarāma), most probably the same pandita as attested in the Caurū inscription. As in Caurū, this paṇḍita pupillary succession is recorded as standing in the tradition (-āmnāye) of Bhaṭṭāraka Devendrakīrti. The design of the pādukā is similar to that of Caurū, though slightly less refined. Some emblems are also depicted which are not found on the earlier Caurū pādukā, two flowers, a mālā, and a simple rectangular shape probably representing a scripture or manuscript (śāstra). Pandita Jayacanda's carana-cabūtarā is of course a far more modest memorial than Pandita Dhanarāja's carana-chatrīs in Caurū and Pandita Kesarīsinha's memorial building in Jaipur. Pandita Jayacanda's name was still remembered in the town by elderly Jainas at the time of my visit (February 2016).

As attested by these memorials, related pupillary lineages of <code>paṇḍitas</code> were active in the nearby towns of Caurū (Paṇḍita Bakhatarāma > Paṇḍita Dhanarāja > Paṇḍita Ratanasukha) and Phāgī (Paṇḍita Bakhatarāma > Paṇḍita Amaracanda > Paṇḍita Jayacanda > Paṇḍita Śivalāla). No memorials have been found of the other <code>paṇḍitas</code> of these lineages, although they may be among the unidentified memorials of Caurū or at other sites in the region. The inscriptions of these three Þhūṇḍhāḍaśākhā <code>paṇḍita</code> memorials all defer to the flourishing <code>bhaṭṭāraka</code>, which expresses their allegiance to the Jaipur <code>bhaṭṭāraka</code> polity. The inscriptions do not, however, explicate the specific link of the commemorated or consecrating <code>paṇḍitas</code> to the <code>bhaṭṭārakas</code>. Instead, the pupillary <code>paṇḍita</code> successions are recorded at great length and generically said to have stood in the incumbent <code>bhaṭṭāraka</code>'s tradition (āmnāye). Given the geographic location of Phāgī and Caurū, within the zone of influence of the Jaipur <code>bhaṭṭāraka</code> seat and at the same time

<sup>28 8.10:</sup> śrīman-mahārājādhirāja-māhārājya-śrī-savāī-rāmasimha-jid-rājya-pravarttamāne.

at some distance from it, local <code>paṇḍitas</code> here may have had some additional agency, more autonomy, and a higher, more strongly profiled standing in their local communities. Yet even the <code>paṇḍita</code> memorial inscription from Jaipur shares this stronger focus on the <code>paṇḍitas</code>' internal relations than on their relation to the incumbent, and in this case nearby, <code>bhaṭṭāraka</code>. While these successions of several pupillary generations of <code>paṇḍitas</code> flourishing in Jaipur and in outlaying towns thus seem to have operated with some self-determination, they were undoubtedly still subordinate to the <code>bhaṭṭārakas</code>, whose polity was itself inscribed within that of the Kachavāhās.

## 6. Other Digambara memorials attesting rulers

Only a few further examples are found of Digambara memorials from Western India deferring to local rulers. One of these is a pandita memorial found in Bundī in the Hādautī region, on the border with Mevāda. At the nasīyā outside of this town almost 200 km south of Jaipur stands an elegant ensemble of four caranachatrīs commemorating local panditas with links to the Dhūndhādaśākhā (Figure 10 L). The oldest memorial has the mid-19th-century (VS 1911) pādukā of Pandita Dungarasidāsa installed in a small shrine under the chatrī, like the much earlier examples from Amer (5.1). Around the turn of the 20th century, the smaller chatris of three panditas in Dungarasidasa's pupillary lineage were erected in a nicely laid out, symmetrical plan around the memorial of their predecessor. Among these are two direct pandita pupils of Dungarasidasa, Rāmasukha (VS 1949) and Śivalāla (VS 1949), and a pupil of again the latter, Pandita Ratnalāla (prob. VS 1956). The inscription on Pandita Śivalāla's pādukā also records a ruler of Ajmer, Rāvā Rapudīra Simga. The two VS 1949 pādukās were consecrated along with a grand festival by Bhattāraka Mahendrakīrti. The latter is described as "the leader of the Mūlasangha" (mūla-samaha-nāvaka) and "the leader of the whole śrāvaka community" (samasta-śravaga-saṃgha-nāyaka). No further indications of his lineage are recorded, but this is no doubt the Mahendrakīrti who had then occupied the Dhūndhādaśākhā seat for a decade.



Figure 10. L: Chatrī of Paṇḍita Śivalāla (VS 1949, left in front) next to other paṇḍita memorials, Digambara Jaina Mandira Nasyājī, Bundī, February 2014. M: Bṛhadvāgaḍāśākhā kīrtistambha (VS 1571), Nasīyājī, Naugāmā, January 2014. R: Memorial of Bhaṭṭāraka Yaśakīrti (VS 1887), Sambhavanātha Mandira, Īḍara, January 2014.

The last two memorial inscriptions referring to local rulers stem from the Vāgadā region on the Rajasthan-Gujarat borderland and relate to one of the Balātkāragana lineages which were active there. They are separated by over three centuries, dating to the second decade of the 16th century and the third decade of the 19th century. In both cases we can discern specific circumstances which may have motivated the inclusion of this uncommon reference in the inscription. The first is a VS 1571 Brhadvāgadāśākhā kīrtistambha found at the Nasīyājī in Naugāmā (Figure 10 M). The pillar's long foundation inscription also includes an extensive family pedigree of its Humbada caste lay patrons. Through this feature, rarely encountered on early modern Digambara memorials, the inscription conforms more to the template of manuscript colophons. This also renders less unexpected the short, seemingly defective reference to the reign in the Vagada land of an unnamed ruler, whose name is possibly missing by mere oversight of the carver. <sup>29</sup> Yet the intended reference to the regional monarch could be seen as specifically appropriate for this communal memorial, mooring the bhattaraka lineage in the royal polity just like the later Amer kīrtistambha (5.1). At the time, Naugāmā was administered by ācāryas of the Laghuvāgadāśākhā, who were subordinated to the Brhadvāgadāśākhā bhattārakas settled in nearby Sāgavādā. The Laghuvāgadāśākhā later became an independent bhattāraka lineage, but at the time of its consecration, the Naugāmā

<sup>29</sup> vāgavara-deśe rājādhirājye. The phrasing rājādhirājye seems to be an erring contraction of the common mahārājādhirāja-māhārāja-[X]-rājya.

kīrtistambha stood as an axis connecting three hierarchically differentiated polities, namely those of the Naugāmā ācāryas, the bhaṭṭārakas of their mother lineage, and the royal court.

The last memorial to be noted here is a VS 1887 Brhadvagadaśakha bhattaraka memorial found at the Sambhavanātha Mandira in Īdara (Figure 10 R). The memorial consists of a heavy, hourglass-shaped base with separate nisedhikā and pādukā stones installed in a spacious, no doubt purpose-built chatrī annexed to the temple. According to the pādukā inscription, in an entirely unique attestation, Bhattāraka Yaśakīrti installed his own memorial. A separate inscription on the back of the nisedhikā records the victorious rule of Māhārāja Gambhīra Sinha over the fortress of Idara. Yasakirti seems to have been the first Brhadvagadaśākhā incumbent to have established his seat in Īdara, at the Pārśvanātha Mandira, one of the other Digambara temples in town. Yaśakīrti's deference to the local ruler in his own memorial may well be seen as expressing efforts to insert his own polity in the local kingdom. This would be similar to the case of the Dhūndhādaśākhā Narendrakīrti two centuries earlier, who initiated the Dhūndhādaśākhā practice of referring to Kachavāhā mahārājas in memorial inscriptions when moving into their capital Amer (5.1). That the record of the ruler in Idara was added in a separate inscription confirms its intentionality.

#### 7. Conclusions

After the early, 17th-century example (5.1), nine late-18th-to-19th-century Dhūndhādaśākhā memorial stones are found deferring to the ruling Kachavāhā monarchs. Four of these commemorate consecutive bhattarakas, one is a collective bhattāraka memorial, and one is an unspecified renouncer's memorial (5.2). Three other memorials commemorate panditas (5.3). No individual memorials have been retrieved of four further Dhūndhādaśākhā incumbents from the 19th and 20th centuries, and they probably were never erected. The waning of the Kachavāhā court's autonomy in the colonial period probably also reflected on the Dhūndhādaśākhā. A number of further memorials found in Jaipur and other small towns in the area possibly commemorated panditas related to the Dhūndhādaśākhā, but either the pādukās do not feature inscriptions or the memorial stones are missing altogether. In other words, not a single Dhūndhādaśākhā memorial contemporary to those recording the Kachavāhā rulers has been found which does not follow this practice. On the other hand, references to rulers are particularly uncommon in Digambara memorials elsewhere, being represented by only three further examples in my corpus of some 200 Western 256

and Central Indian Digambara memorials predating the contemporary muni saṅghas.

In several cases from both the Dhūṇḍhāḍa region and elsewhere we can identify circumstantial factors which potentially prompted the Digambara agents erecting and inscribing memorials to defer to the local ruler. They may have sought to establish associations to the royal court after newly settling in its territory, to formally record and acknowledge established relations with or favours received from the court, like land donations and royal legitimation of the bhaṭṭā-raka lineage, or simply to portray themselves as closely linked to the Kachavāhā court. We also see connections between three, hierarchically differentiated polities. The pupillary lineages of paṇḍitas in the Jaipur region formed semi-autonomous, satellite polities under the Dhūṇḍhāḍaśākhā bhaṭṭārakas, themselves subordinated to the Kachavāhā throne. In the Vāgaḍā region, the Laghuvāgaḍāśākhā ācāryas of Naugāmā worked under the Bṛhadvāgaḍāśākhā bhaṭṭārakas, who at various points also seem to have sought to connect their polity to local kings. And the Dhūṇḍhāḍaśākhā bhaṭṭāraka Mahendrakīrti capitalised on the Kachavāhā ties to the Mughal court in turning to Delhi.

Connections to local rulers were no doubt initiated and cultivated by bhattārakas throughout Western and Central India on behalf of the lay constitution of their polities. The uncommon but consistent, relatively elaborate, and elegant deference given to the Kachavāhā rulers in the Dhūndhādaśākhā memorials from the late 18th and 19th century seems to express a particularly close alignment between the Dhūndhādaśākhā and the Kachavāhā court. Beyond a purely symbolic claim to a connection to the court on the part of the Digambaras, an actual link between both polities had already been established in the 17th century, when Narendrakīrti settled in Amer, and is also confirmed by the Jaipur mahārājas' engagement with the Amer kīrtistambha and their donation of the plot of land in Jaipur which became an important Dhūndhādaśākhā commemoration site. The structural alignment of the Dhūndhādaśākhā with various royal and imperial courts on the longer run also becomes clear when mapping the repeated shifts of its seat onto political history. From the early 16th all the way up to the 20th century, each relocation of the Dhūndhādaśākhā seat can be connected to the revolving fortunes of imperial and royal polities and attendant socio-economic conditions (Detige forthcoming).

## 8. Inscriptions

The following editions conform to the DHARMA transliteration scheme (Balogh and Griffiths 2020), an extension of ISO-15919. In this system, full (initial) vowel signs of the original script are rendered as uppercase Roman vowels (e.g. mahotsava-Arcakam corresponding to Devanagari महोत्सवअर्चक), and virāma marks attached to consonant characters are rendered with a · (median dot) sign after the transliterated consonant (e.g. samvat· corresponding to Devanagari संवत्). The following editorial markup is used in these editions:

- <1> line numbering
- \_3\_ space left blank in original, with size in approximate number of akṣaras
- [...] lacuna in original, extent indefinite
- [×] lacuna in original, number of × marks indicating approximate number of aksaras lost
- [a?] lacuna in original, tentatively restored
- (a) unclear or ambiguous characters in the original, confidently legible in context
- (a/b) ambiguous characters in the original, alternative readings
- (a?) unclear or ambiguous characters in the original, tentative reading
- $\langle\langle a \rangle\rangle$  scribal insertion in original
- [x] deletion in original, number of x marks indicating approximate number of akṣaras deleted and now illegible

### 8.1. Pādukā of Bhaṭṭāraka Devendrakīrti

Consecrated by Bhaṭṭāraka Narendrakīrti, built by Brahma Keśava, date unknown, Kīrtistambha Nasiyām, Amer.

### 8.2. Kīrtistambha of the Dhūndhādaśākhā

Consecrated by Bhaṭṭāraka Surendrakīrti, VS 1845, Kīrtistambha Nasiyām, Amer.

sambat 1845 madhye jyeşţa-māse krsna-pakşe \_3\_ tithau Ambāvatī ka[rvvaţe?] mahārājādhirāja-śrī-savāl \_3\_ simha-rājye śrī-mūla-

balātkāra-gaņe kumdakumdācāryyānvaye bhaṭṭāraka śrī-suremdrakīrtinā sakalamunibhi dāka-gaṇi-nī<sup><3></sup>dhi-pūjjana-śrāvaka-śrāvikā-samdoha-krta-paramotsava-yuktābhi(h·?) campāvatī-Arca-sṭhāpanā-vivaddanānamtaramm atra niveśitam sahatsava-Arcakam śrī-gurūṇām pratimā-darśanārvana-vamdanā-vidhā(tṛ?)nām sarvadā mamgalāvalī samgh(obhayādanārate?) ||śrī||

## 8.3. Pādukā of Bhaṭṭāraka Mahendrakīrti

Consecrated by Bhaṭṭāraka Sukhendrakīrti, VS 1853, Bhaṭṭārakīya Nasiyāṁ, Jaipur.

samvat· 1853 māgha-māse śukla-pakṣe pamcamī guru-vāsare ḍhumḍhāhaḍa-deśe savāl-jaya-nagare mahārājādhirāja-mahārāja-śrī-savāl-pratāpasimha-jid-rājya-pravarttamāne śrī-mūla-samghe namdy-āmnāye valā
sarasvatī-gacche kumdakumdācāryānvaye Amvāvatī-paṭṭodayādri-dinamaṇi-tulya-bhaṭṭārakemdra-bhaṭṭāraka-jīc-chrī-devemdrakīrttis tat-paṭṭe bhaṭṭāraka-jic-chrī-mahemdrakīrttis tat-paṭṭe bhaṭṭāraka-jic-chrī-kṣememdrakīrttis tat-paṭṭe bhaṭṭāraka-jic-chrī-suremdrakīrtti-ji-deva-paṭṭe bhaṭṭāraka-jic-chrī-suremdrakīrtti-ji-deva-paṭṭe bhaṭṭāraka-jic-chrī-suremdrakīrtti-guroḥ pādukā prasthāpya mahotsavena pratiṣṭāpitā pūjakānām kalyāṇāvalīm karotu śrīr astu śubham bhavatu

## 8.4. Pādukā of Bhaţţāraka Kṣemendrakīrti

Consecrated by Bhaṭṭāraka Sukhendrakīrti, VS 1853, Bhaṭṭārakīya Nasiyām, Jaipur.

samvata 1853 māgha-māse śukla-pakṣe pamcamī guru-vāsare ḍhumḍhāhaḍa-deśe savāĪ-jaya-nagare mahārājādhirāja-mahārāja-śrī-savāĪ-pratāpasimha-jid-rājya-pravattamāne śrī-mūla-samghe namdy-āmnāye valātkāra-gaṇe sarasvatī-gacche kumdakumdācāryānvaye Amvāvatī-paṭṭodayādri-dinamaṇi-tulya-bhaṭṭā<sup>-2</sup> rakemdra-bhaṭṭāraka-jī(c-ch?)rī-mahemdrakīrttis tat-paṭṭe bhaṭṭāraka-jic-chrī-kṣememdrakīrttis tat-paṭṭe bhaṭṭāraka-jic-chrī-suremdrakīrttis tat-paṭṭe bhaṭṭāraka-jic-chrī-sukhemdrakīrttis-te<a href="mailto:kṣememdrakīrttis-te">kṣememdrakīrttis-te<a href="mailto:kṣememdrakīrttis-te">kṣememdrakīrttis-te<a href="mailto:kṣememdrakīrttis-te">kṣememdrakīrttis-te<a href="mailto:kṣememdrakīrttis-te">kṣememdrakīrttis-te<a href="mailto:kṣememdrakīrttis-te">kṣememdrakīrtti-guroḥ pādukā prasthāpya mahotsavena pratiṣṭitā|| pūjakānām kalyāṇāvalīm karotu|| śrīrastu||

### 8.5. Pādukā of unspecified renouncer

Consecrated by Bhaṭṭāraka Sukhendrakīrti, VS 1853, Bhaṭṭārakīya Nasiyāṁ, Jaipur.

savat· 1853 kā māgha śukla pamcamyām guru-vāre savāl-jaya-nagare mahārājādhirāja-śrī-savāl-pratāpasimha[xxxx]drājye śrī-mūla-samghe namdy-āmnāye valātkāra-gaņe sarasvatī-gache kumdakumdācāryyānvaye Ambavatī-paṭṭe bhaṭṭārakemḍra-bhaṭṭārakaḥ 5² śrī-devemdrakīrttis tat-paṭṭe bhaṭṭāraka-śrī-mahemdrakīrtti-jitkasya bhattāraka-śrī-surendrakīrati-deva-patte bhattāraka-śrī-

sukhemdrakīrttinā Iyam pādukā <3-pratis(t/th)āpitā

## 8.6. Pādukā of Bhaṭṭāraka Surendrakīrti

Consecrated by Bhaṭṭāraka Narendrakīrti, VS 1881, Bhaṭṭārakīya Nasiyām, Jaipur.

samvat· 1881 māgha-māse śukla-pakṣe pamcamī soma-vāsare ḍhumḍhāhaḍa-deśe savāl̄-jaya-nagare śrīman-mahārājādhirāja-mahārāja-śrī-savāl̄-jayasimha-jidrājya-pravarttamāne śrī-mūla-samghe namdy-āmnāye valātkāra-gaṇe sarasvatī-gacche kumdakumdācāryānvaye bhaṭṭārakemdra-bhaṭṭāraka-jīc-chrī-mahemdrakīrtis tat-pa(ṭṭe?) bha-²²-ṭṭāraka-śrī-kṣememdrakīrttis tat-paṭe bhaṭṭāraka-śrī-suremdrakīrttis tat-paṭe bhaṭṭāraka-śrī-sukhemdrakīrttis tat-paṭe bhaṭṭāraka-jic-chrī-naremdrakīrtti-jika Eteṣām madhye bhaṭṭāraka-śrī-naremdrakīrttinā mahā-mahotsavam kṛtvā bhadra-bhāvena śrī-suremdrakīrtti-guroś caraṇa-yugalam prasthāpya pratiṣṭhitam pūjakānām kalyāṇa-paramparām karotu‖ śrīrastu‖ śrīḥ‖

## 8.7. Pādukā of Bhaṭṭāraka Sukhendrakīrti

Consecrated by Bhaṭṭāraka Devendrakīrti, VS 1886, Bhaṭṭārakīya Nasiyām, Cākasū.

sudi 2 śani-vāsare ḍhumḍhāha-deśe campāvatī-nagare śrīman-mahārājādhirāja-mahārāja-śrī-savāĪ-jayasimha-jid-rājya-pravarttamāne śrī-mūla-samghe namdyāmnāye balātkāra-gaṇe sarasvatī-gacche kumdakumdācāryānvaye bhaṭṭāraka-śirośekhara-bhaṭṭā-²raka-jic-chrī-suremdrakīrttis tat-paṭṭodayādri-dinamaṇi-bhaṭṭāraka-śrī-sukhemdrakīrttis tat-paṭṭe bhaṭṭāraka-naremdrakīttis tat-paṭṭa-śaila-dinamaṇi-sama-vinayavatā bhaṭṭāraka-devemdrakīrttinā śrī-bhaṭṭāraka-sukhemdrakīrtter guror mahā-mahotsavam kṛtvā caraṇa-yugalam prasthāpya pratiṣṭitam jagatām śam astu

### 8.8. Pādukā of Pandita Kesarīsinha

Consecrated by Paṇḍita Lālacandra, VS 1880, Śyojī Godhā Nasiyām, Jaipur.

savāl-jaya-nagare śri-mahārājādhirāja-mahārāja-śri-savāl-jayasimha-jid-rājya-pravarttamāne śri-mūla-samghe namdy-āmnāye balātkāra-gaņe sarasvatī-gacche kumdakumdācāryānvaye bhaṭṭāraka-ji-śri-narendrakī</ri>
karat-pradhāna-pamḍita-jic-chrī-sukharāma-jitkas tac-chiṣya-pamḍita-śiromaṇi-pamḍita-ji-chrī-kesarīsimha-jitkas tad-amtevāsī pamḍita-lālacamdras tac-chiṣya-vara-pamḍita-siphāmjhūrāmas tac-chiṣyau dvau prathamaḥ devālālaḥ dvitīyaḥ bhairūlālaḥ Eteṣām madhye paṇḍita-lālacandreṇa caraṇālayam kāriyitvā sva-guroḥ śrī-kesarīsimha-jitkasya caraṇa-kamala-yugam niramtara-

smaraṇārtham vandanārtham ca prasthāpitam srīr astu

## 8.9. Pādukā of Paṇḍita Dhanarāja

Consecrated by Paṇḍita Ratanasukha, VS 1888, Nasīyā, Caurū.

\*i³|| śrī-paramātmane namaḥ|| sambat 1888 kā māsottama-māse mṛgasira kṛṣṇa paṁcamī gura-vāsare ḍhuṁḍhāhaḍākaye deśe corū-nāmni nagare śrīman-mahārājādhirāja-mahārājya-śrī-savāĪ-jayasiṁha-jid-rājya-pravarttamāne śrī-mūla-saṁghe naṁdy-āmnāye balātkāra-gaṇe sarasvatī-gacche kuṁdakuṁdācāryyānvaye bhaṭṭārakeṁdra-bhaṭṭāraka-jīc-chrī-deveṁdrakīrtti-jīd-āmnāye paṁḍita-pradhāna-paṁḍita-jic-chrī-baṣatarāma-jitkas tac-chiṣya vidyadhara-paṁḍita-dhanarāja-ji\*²tkas tad-aṁtevāsinā paṁḍita ratanasukhena caraṇālayaṁ kārayitvā sva-guro śrī-dhanarāja-jitkasya caraṇa-yuga(ṁ?) niraṁtaraṁ smaraṇārthaṁ baṁdanārthaṁ ca pras(th)āpitam|| śrīr astu||

## 8.10. Pādukā of Paņdita Jayacanda

Consecrated by Bhaṭṭāraka Devendrakīrti, VS 1924, Candraprabhū Digambara Jaina Nasiyām, Phāgī.

srī-paramātmane namaḥ samvata 1924 kā māsottama-māse Asāḍha-māse sukla-pakṣe doyaja vudha-vāsare ḍhūmḍhāhaḍakaye deśe phāgaĪ-nag(are) śrīman-mahārā(j)ādhirāja-māhārājya-śrī-savāĪ-rāmasimha-jid-rājya-pravarttamāne śrī-mūla-samghe namdy-āmnāye valātkāra-gaṇe sarasvatī-gacche samaya pamḍita-ji-śrī-devemdrakīrti-jīd-āmnāye pamḍita-ji-śrī-vaṣatarāma-jitkas ta-siṣya-vidyadhara-pamḍita-ji-śrī-Amaracamda-jitkas ta-siṣya pamḍita-(vidyadhara)-jayacamda-jitkas tadamtevāsinā pamḍita-śivalālena caraṇālayam kārayitvā sva-guro śrī-jayacamda-jitkasya caraṇa-yuga niramtaram smaraṇārtham vamdanārtham pras(thā?)pit-

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