



Asia Education Foundation

Ashoka and the Mauryan Empire

Investigation 2. Solving the puzzle

[2.1] Ashokan edicts at Peshawar



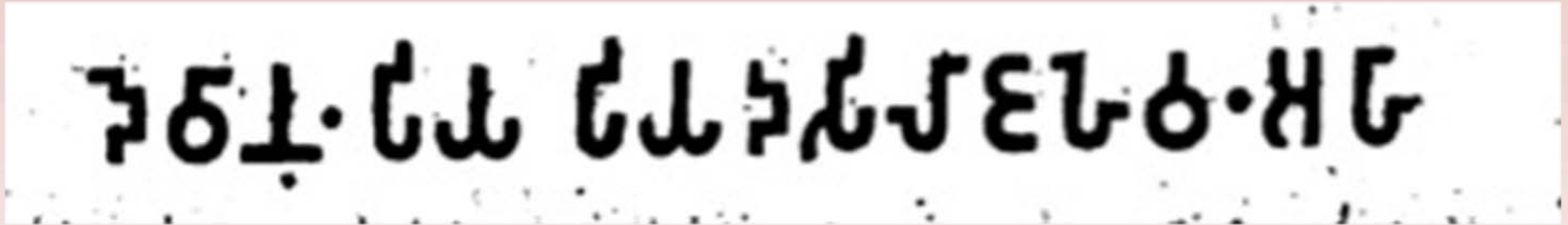
We already know that the first copies of the inscriptions that Prinsep saw were not clear and because they were very old, a lot of inscriptions had been worn away by weather. It's hard even to see the one on this rock near Peshawar in present day Pakistan, let alone trying to copy it.

[2.2] Ashokan pillars at Allahabad, Delhi and Lauriya Nandangarh



But as time went on, Prinsep got better copies. He wanted to see whether he could find groups of letters that were the same on different inscriptions, and one day he was looking at one from a pillar in Allahabad (left), one from Delhi (centre), and one from Lauriya Nandangarh that you've already seen (right).

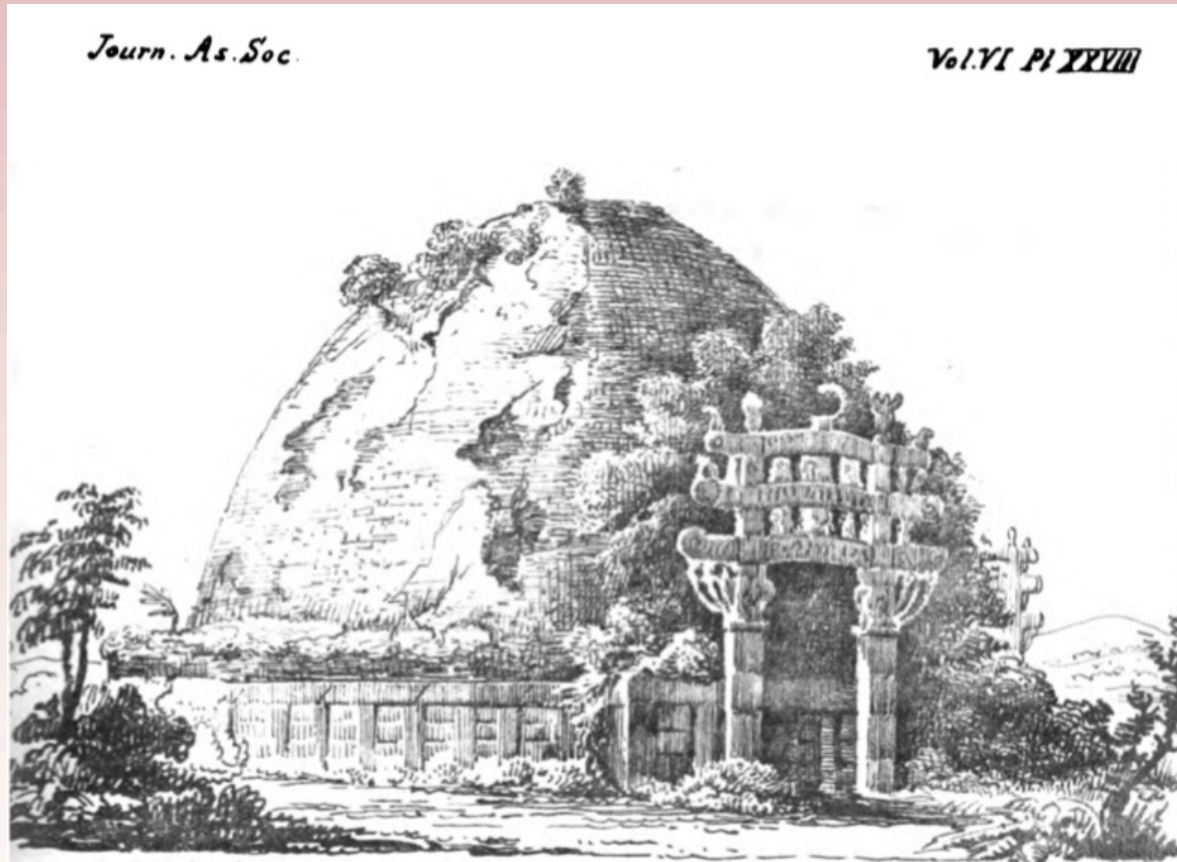
[2.3] Common group of 15 letters



First he noticed this group of 15 letters that appeared in all three inscriptions. And then he suddenly realised excitedly that, as he wrote, ‘to find any other words which might be common either to two or to all three of them, I was led to a most important discovery; namely, that *all three inscriptions are identically the same.*’

Perhaps you've noticed that large parts of the inscriptions you've already seen are the same as well.

[2.4] Sanchi in the 1830s



Prinsep was excited, and he *was* making progress, but he still couldn't *read* the inscriptions. It took another two years to work it out, and the final clues were found at Sanchi near Bhopal in central India. This is a drawing made by Captain Edward Smith in the 1830s.

[2.5] Sanchi gateway in 1861



Even in 1861, when this photo was taken, the jungle was still taking over parts of the site. The big mound is called a stupa.

[2.6] Sanchi Stupa from eastern gate



This is Sanchi today. You can see how much repair work has been done.

[2.7] Sanchi repairs in 1881



In 1881, almost 50 years after Captain Smith's visit, Indian photographer Deen Dayal took this photo during the first repairs.

[2.8] Sanchi in 1883



This is Deen Dayal's 1883 photo, after repairs were finished.

[2.9] Sanchi gateway in 1883



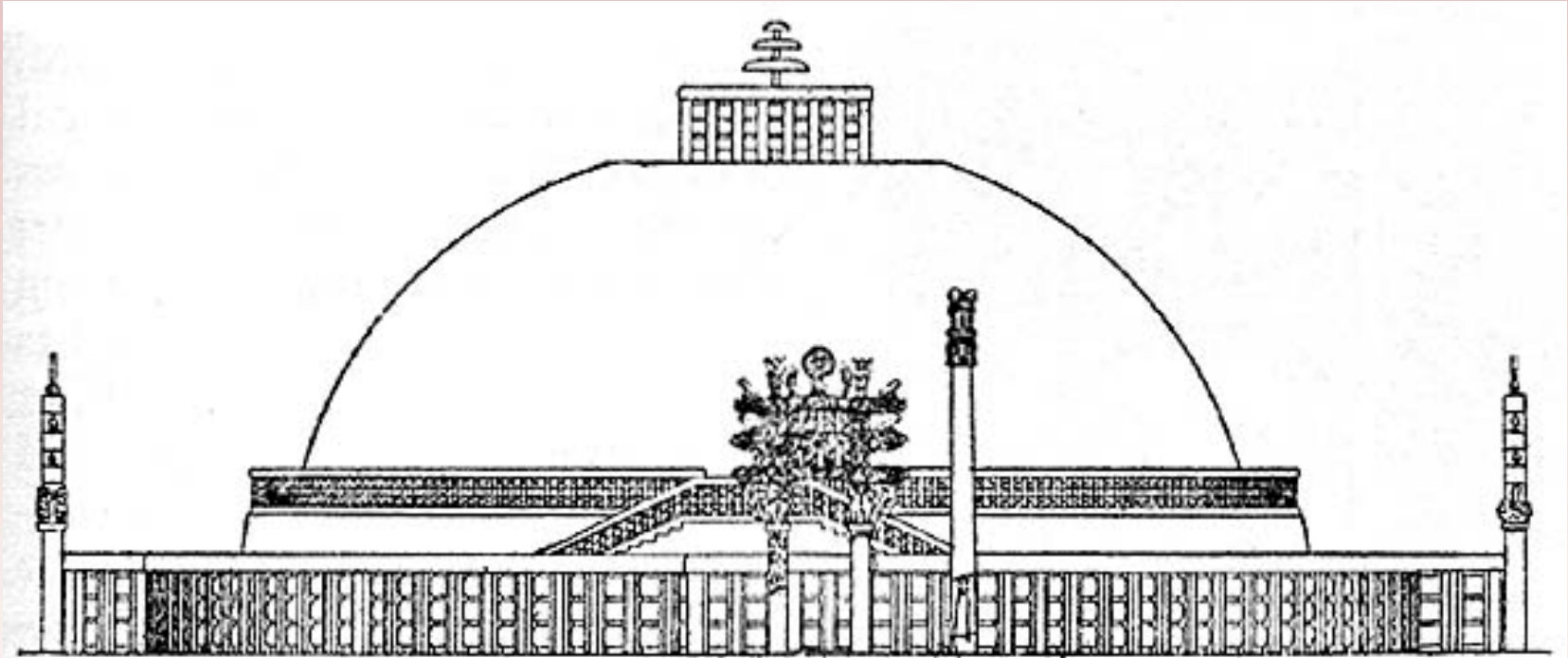
And this is another of Deen Dayal's 1883 photos, in which you can see some of the detail of the gateway. Sanchi is an old Buddhist site, but there weren't any Buddhists living around there by 1836.

[2.10] Monks at Sanchi



These days, though, lots of Buddhists (like these Tibetan monks) visit Sanchi. We'll find out more about Buddhism later.

[2.11] Drawing of stupa at Sanchi



You've probably noticed that Sanchi is not like the rocks and pillars we've already seen. Although Captain Smith went there mainly to draw the buildings sculpture, he copied some inscriptions as well. They were short and they were mostly on the 'railings' or fence that's clear in this drawing.

[2.12] Three inscriptions from Sanchi

10. 𑀓𑀣𑀤𑀥𑀦𑀧𑀨𑀩𑀪𑀫𑀬𑀭𑀮𑀯𑀰𑀱𑀲𑀳𑀴𑀵𑀶𑀷𑀸𑀹𑀺𑀻𑀼𑀽𑀾𑀿𑁀𑁁𑁂𑁃𑁄𑁅𑁆𑁇𑁈𑁉𑁊𑁋𑁌𑁍𑁎𑁏𑁐𑁑𑁒𑁓𑁔𑁕𑁖𑁗𑁘𑁙𑁚𑁛𑁜𑁝𑁞𑁟𑁠𑁡𑁢𑁣𑁤𑁥𑁦𑁧𑁨𑁩𑁪𑁫𑁬𑁭𑁮𑁯𑁰𑁱𑁲𑁳𑁴𑁵𑁶𑁷𑁸𑁹𑁺𑁻𑁼𑁽𑁾𑁿𑂀𑂁𑂂𑂃𑂄𑂅𑂆𑂇𑂈𑂉𑂊𑂋𑂌𑂍𑂎𑂏𑂐𑂑𑂒𑂓𑂔𑂕𑂖𑂗𑂘𑂙𑂚𑂛𑂜𑂝𑂞𑂟𑂠𑂡𑂢𑂣𑂤𑂥𑂦𑂧𑂨𑂩𑂪𑂫𑂬𑂭𑂮𑂯𑂰𑂱𑂲𑂳𑂴𑂵𑂶𑂷𑂸𑂺𑂹𑂻𑂼𑂽𑂾𑂿𑃀𑃁𑃂𑃃𑃄𑃅𑃆𑃇𑃈𑃉𑃊𑃋𑃌𑃍𑃎𑃏𑃐𑃑𑃒𑃓𑃔𑃕𑃖𑃗𑃘𑃙𑃚𑃛𑃜𑃝𑃞𑃟𑃠𑃡𑃢𑃣𑃤𑃥𑃦𑃧𑃨𑃩𑃪𑃫𑃬𑃭𑃮𑃯𑃰𑃱𑃲𑃳𑃴𑃵𑃶𑃷𑃸𑃹𑃺𑃻𑃼𑃽𑃾𑃿𑄀𑄁𑄂𑄃𑄄𑄅𑄆𑄇𑄈𑄉𑄊𑄋𑄌𑄍𑄎𑄏𑄐𑄑𑄒𑄓𑄔𑄕𑄖𑄗𑄘𑄙𑄚𑄛𑄜𑄝𑄞𑄟𑄠𑄡𑄢𑄣𑄤𑄥𑄦𑄧𑄨𑄩𑄪𑄫𑄬𑄭𑄮𑄯𑄰𑄱𑄲𑄳𑄴𑄵𑄶𑄷𑄸𑄹𑄺𑄻𑄼𑄽𑄾𑄿𑅀𑅁𑅂𑅃𑅄𑅅𑅆𑅇𑅈𑅉𑅊𑅋𑅌𑅍𑅎𑅏𑅐𑅑𑅒𑅓𑅔𑅕𑅖𑅗𑅘𑅙𑅚𑅛𑅜𑅝𑅞𑅟𑅠𑅡𑅢𑅣𑅤𑅥𑅦𑅧𑅨𑅩𑅪𑅫𑅬𑅭𑅮𑅯𑅰𑅱𑅲𑅳𑅴𑅵𑅶𑅷𑅸𑅹𑅺𑅻𑅼𑅽𑅾𑅿𑆀𑆁𑆂𑆃𑆄𑆅𑆆𑆇𑆈𑆉𑆊𑆋𑆌𑆍𑆎𑆏𑆐𑆑𑆒𑆓𑆔𑆕𑆖𑆗𑆘𑆙𑆚𑆛𑆜𑆝𑆞𑆟𑆠𑆡𑆢𑆣𑆤𑆥𑆦𑆧𑆨𑆩𑆪𑆫𑆬𑆭𑆮𑆯𑆰𑆱𑆲𑆳𑆴𑆵𑆶𑆷𑆸𑆹𑆺𑆻𑆼𑆽𑆾𑆿𑇀𑇁𑇂𑇃𑇄𑇅𑇆𑇇𑇈𑇉𑇊𑇋𑇌𑇍𑇎𑇏𑇐𑇑𑇒𑇓𑇔𑇕𑇖𑇗𑇘𑇙𑇚𑇛𑇜𑇝𑇞𑇟𑇠𑇡𑇢𑇣𑇤𑇥𑇦𑇧𑇨𑇩𑇪𑇫𑇬𑇭𑇮𑇯𑇰𑇱𑇲𑇳𑇴𑇵𑇶𑇷𑇸𑇹𑇺𑇻𑇼𑇽𑇾𑇿𑈀𑈁𑈂𑈃𑈄𑈅𑈆𑈇𑈈𑈉𑈊𑈋𑈌𑈍𑈎𑈏𑈐𑈑𑈒𑈓𑈔𑈕𑈖𑈗𑈘𑈙𑈚𑈛𑈜𑈝𑈞𑈟𑈠𑈡𑈢𑈣𑈤𑈥𑈦𑈧𑈨𑈩𑈪𑈫𑈬𑈭𑈮𑈯𑈰𑈱𑈲𑈳𑈴𑈶𑈵𑈷𑈸𑈹𑈺𑈻𑈼𑈽𑈾𑈿𑉀𑉁𑉂𑉃𑉄𑉅𑉆𑉇𑉈𑉉𑉊𑉋𑉌𑉍𑉎𑉏𑉐𑉑𑉒𑉓𑉔𑉕𑉖𑉗𑉘𑉙𑉚𑉛𑉜𑉝𑉞𑉟𑉠𑉡𑉢𑉣𑉤𑉥𑉦𑉧𑉨𑉩𑉪𑉫𑉬𑉭𑉮𑉯𑉰𑉱𑉲𑉳𑉴𑉵𑉶𑉷𑉸𑉹𑉺𑉻𑉼𑉽𑉾𑉿𑊀𑊁𑊂𑊃𑊄𑊅𑊆𑊇𑊈𑊉𑊊𑊋𑊌𑊍𑊎𑊏𑊐𑊑𑊒𑊓𑊔𑊕𑊖𑊗𑊘𑊙𑊚𑊛𑊜𑊝𑊞𑊟𑊠𑊡𑊢𑊣𑊤𑊥𑊦𑊧𑊨𑊩𑊪𑊫𑊬𑊭𑊮𑊯𑊰𑊱𑊲𑊳𑊴𑊵𑊶𑊷𑊸𑊹𑊺𑊻𑊼𑊽𑊾𑊿𑋀𑋁𑋂𑋃𑋄𑋅𑋆𑋇𑋈𑋉𑋊𑋋𑋌𑋍𑋎𑋏𑋐𑋑𑋒𑋓𑋔𑋕𑋖𑋗𑋘𑋙𑋚𑋛𑋜𑋝𑋞𑋟𑋠𑋡𑋢𑋣𑋤𑋥𑋦𑋧𑋨𑋩𑋪𑋫𑋬𑋭𑋮𑋯𑋰𑋱𑋲𑋳𑋴𑋵𑋶𑋷𑋸𑋹𑋺𑋻𑋼𑋽𑋾𑋿𑌀𑌁𑌂𑌃𑌄𑌅𑌆𑌇𑌈𑌉𑌊𑌋𑌌𑌍𑌎𑌏𑌐𑌑𑌒𑌓𑌔𑌕𑌖𑌗𑌘𑌙𑌚𑌛𑌜𑌝𑌞𑌟𑌠𑌡𑌢𑌣𑌤𑌥𑌦𑌧𑌨𑌩𑌪𑌫𑌬𑌭𑌮𑌯𑌰𑌱𑌲𑌳𑌴𑌵𑌶𑌷𑌸𑌹𑌺𑌻𑌼𑌽𑌾𑌿𑍀𑍁𑍂𑍃𑍄𑍅𑍆𑍇𑍈𑍉𑍊𑍋𑍌𑍍𑍎𑍏𑍐𑍑𑍒𑍓𑍔𑍕𑍖𑍗𑍘𑍙𑍚𑍛𑍜𑍝𑍞𑍟𑍠𑍡𑍢𑍣𑍤𑍥𑍦𑍧𑍨𑍩𑍪𑍫𑍬𑍭𑍮𑍯𑍰𑍱𑍲𑍳𑍴𑍵𑍶𑍷𑍸𑍹𑍺𑍻𑍼𑍽𑍾𑍿𑎀𑎁𑎂𑎃𑎄𑎅𑎆𑎇𑎈𑎉𑎊𑎋𑎌𑎍𑎎𑎏𑎐𑎑𑎒𑎓𑎔𑎕𑎖𑎗𑎘𑎙𑎚𑎛𑎜𑎝𑎞𑎟𑎠𑎡𑎢𑎣𑎤𑎥𑎦𑎧𑎨𑎩𑎪𑎫𑎬𑎭𑎮𑎯𑎰𑎱𑎲𑎳𑎴𑎵𑎶𑎷𑎸𑎹𑎺𑎻𑎼𑎽𑎾𑎿𑏀𑏁𑏂𑏃𑏄𑏅𑏆𑏇𑏈𑏉𑏊𑏋𑏌𑏍𑏎𑏏𑏐𑏑𑏒𑏓𑏔𑏕𑏖𑏗𑏘𑏙𑏚𑏛𑏜𑏝𑏞𑏟𑏠𑏡𑏢𑏣𑏤𑏥𑏦𑏧𑏨𑏩𑏪𑏫𑏬𑏭𑏮𑏯𑏰𑏱𑏲𑏳𑏴𑏵𑏶𑏷𑏸𑏹𑏺𑏻𑏼𑏽𑏾𑏿𑐀𑐁𑐂𑐃𑐄𑐅𑐆𑐇𑐈𑐉𑐊𑐋𑐌𑐍𑐎𑐏𑐐𑐑𑐒𑐓𑐔𑐕𑐖𑐗𑐘𑐙𑐚𑐛𑐜𑐝𑐞𑐟𑐠𑐡𑐢𑐣𑐤𑐥𑐦𑐧𑐨𑐩𑐪𑐫𑐬𑐭𑐮𑐯𑐰𑐱𑐲𑐳𑐴𑐵𑐶𑐷𑐸𑐹𑐺𑐻𑐼𑐽𑐾𑐿𑑀𑑁𑑂𑑃𑑄𑑅𑑆𑑇𑑈𑑉𑑊𑑋𑑌𑑍𑑎𑑏𑑐𑑑𑑒𑑓𑑔𑑕𑑖𑑗𑑘𑑙𑑚𑑛𑑜𑑝𑑞𑑟𑑠𑑡𑑢𑑣𑑤𑑥𑑦𑑧𑑨𑑩𑑪𑑫𑑬𑑭𑑮𑑯𑑰𑑱𑑲𑑳𑑴𑑵𑑶𑑷𑑸𑑹𑑺𑑻𑑼𑑽𑑾𑑿𑒀𑒁𑒂𑒃𑒄𑒅𑒆𑒇𑒈𑒉𑒊𑒋𑒌𑒍𑒎𑒏𑒐𑒑𑒒𑒓𑒔𑒕𑒖𑒗𑒘𑒙𑒚𑒛𑒜𑒝𑒞𑒟𑒠𑒡𑒢𑒣𑒤𑒥𑒦𑒧𑒨𑒩𑒪𑒫𑒬𑒭𑒮𑒯𑒰𑒱𑒲𑒳𑒴𑒵𑒶𑒷𑒸𑒻𑒻𑒼𑒽𑒾𑒿𑓀𑓁𑓃𑓂𑓄𑓅𑓆𑓇𑓈𑓉𑓊𑓋𑓌𑓍𑓎𑓏𑓐𑓑𑓒𑓓𑓔𑓕𑓖𑓗𑓘𑓙𑓚𑓛𑓜𑓝𑓞𑓟𑓠𑓡𑓢𑓣𑓤𑓥𑓦𑓧𑓨𑓩𑓪𑓫𑓬𑓭𑓮𑓯𑓰𑓱𑓲𑓳𑓴𑓵𑓶𑓷𑓸𑓹𑓺𑓻𑓼𑓽𑓾𑓿𑔀𑔁𑔂𑔃𑔄𑔅𑔆𑔇𑔈𑔉𑔊𑔋𑔌𑔍𑔎𑔏𑔐𑔑𑔒𑔓𑔔𑔕𑔖𑔗𑔘𑔙𑔚𑔛𑔜𑔝𑔞𑔟𑔠𑔡𑔢𑔣𑔤𑔥𑔦𑔧𑔨𑔩𑔪𑔫𑔬𑔭𑔮𑔯𑔰𑔱𑔲𑔳𑔴𑔵𑔶𑔷𑔸𑔹𑔺𑔻𑔼𑔽𑔾𑔿𑕀𑕁𑕂𑕃𑕄𑕅𑕆𑕇𑕈𑕉𑕊𑕋𑕌𑕍𑕎𑕏𑕐𑕑𑕒𑕓𑕔𑕕𑕖𑕗𑕘𑕙𑕚𑕛𑕜𑕝𑕞𑕟𑕠𑕡𑕢𑕣𑕤𑕥𑕦𑕧𑕨𑕩𑕪𑕫𑕬𑕭𑕮𑕯𑕰𑕱𑕲𑕳𑕴𑕵𑕶𑕷𑕸𑕹𑕺𑕻𑕼𑕽𑕾𑕿𑖀𑖁𑖂𑖃𑖄𑖅𑖆𑖇𑖈𑖉𑖊𑖋𑖌𑖍𑖎𑖏𑖐𑖑𑖒𑖓𑖔𑖕𑖖𑖗𑖘𑖙𑖚𑖛𑖜𑖝𑖞𑖟𑖠𑖡𑖢𑖣𑖤𑖥𑖦𑖧𑖨𑖩𑖪𑖫𑖬𑖭𑖮𑖯𑖰𑖱𑖲𑖳𑖴𑖵𑖶𑖷𑖸𑖹𑖺𑖻𑖼𑖽𑖾𑗀𑖿𑗁𑗂𑗃𑗄𑗅𑗆𑗇𑗈𑗉𑗊𑗋𑗌𑗍𑗎𑗏𑗐𑗑𑗒𑗓𑗔𑗕𑗖𑗗𑗘𑗙𑗚𑗛𑗜𑗝𑗞𑗟𑗠𑗡𑗢𑗣𑗤𑗥𑗦𑗧𑗨𑗩𑗪𑗫𑗬𑗭𑗮𑗯𑗰𑗱𑗲𑗳𑗴𑗵𑗶𑗷𑗸𑗹𑗺𑗻𑗼𑗽𑗾𑗿𑘀𑘁𑘂𑘃𑘄𑘅𑘆𑘇𑘈𑘉𑘊𑘋𑘌𑘍𑘎𑘏𑘐𑘑𑘒𑘓𑘔𑘕𑘖𑘗𑘘𑘙𑘚𑘛𑘜𑘝𑘞𑘟𑘠𑘡𑘢𑘣𑘤𑘥𑘦𑘧𑘨𑘩𑘪𑘫𑘬𑘭𑘮𑘯𑘰𑘱𑘲𑘳𑘴𑘵𑘶𑘷𑘸𑘹𑘺𑘻𑘼𑘽𑘾𑘿𑙀𑙁𑙂𑙃𑙄𑙅𑙆𑙇𑙈𑙉𑙊𑙋𑙌𑙍𑙎𑙏𑙐𑙑𑙒𑙓𑙔𑙕𑙖𑙗𑙘𑙙𑙚𑙛𑙜𑙝𑙞𑙟𑙠𑙡𑙢𑙣𑙤𑙥𑙦𑙧𑙨𑙩𑙪𑙫𑙬𑙭𑙮𑙯𑙰𑙱𑙲𑙳𑙴𑙵𑙶𑙷𑙸𑙹𑙺𑙻𑙼𑙽𑙾𑙿𑚀𑚁𑚂𑚃𑚄𑚅𑚆𑚇𑚈𑚉𑚊𑚋𑚌𑚍𑚎𑚏𑚐𑚑𑚒𑚓𑚔𑚕𑚖𑚗𑚘𑚙𑚚𑚛𑚜𑚝𑚞𑚟𑚠𑚡𑚢𑚣𑚤𑚥𑚦𑚧𑚨𑚩𑚪𑚫𑚬𑚭𑚮𑚯𑚰𑚱𑚲𑚳𑚴𑚵𑚷𑚶𑚸𑚹𑚺𑚻𑚼𑚽𑚾𑚿𑛀𑛁𑛂𑛃𑛄𑛅𑛆𑛇𑛈𑛉𑛊𑛋𑛌𑛍𑛎𑛏𑛐𑛑𑛒𑛓𑛔𑛕𑛖𑛗𑛘𑛙𑛚𑛛𑛜𑛝𑛞𑛟𑛠𑛡𑛢𑛣𑛤𑛥𑛦𑛧𑛨𑛩𑛪𑛫𑛬𑛭𑛮𑛯𑛰𑛱𑛲𑛳𑛴𑛵𑛶𑛷𑛸𑛹𑛺𑛻𑛼𑛽𑛾𑛿𑜀𑜁𑜂𑜃𑜄𑜅𑜆𑜇𑜈𑜉𑜊𑜋𑜌𑜍𑜎𑜏𑜐𑜑𑜒𑜓𑜔𑜕𑜖𑜗𑜘𑜙𑜚𑜛𑜜𑜝𑜞𑜟𑜠𑜡𑜢𑜣𑜤𑜥𑜦𑜧𑜨𑜩𑜪𑜫𑜬𑜭𑜮𑜯𑜰𑜱𑜲𑜳𑜴𑜵𑜶𑜷𑜸𑜹𑜺𑜻𑜼𑜽𑜾𑜿𑝀𑝁𑝂𑝃𑝄𑝅𑝆𑝇𑝈𑝉𑝊𑝋𑝌𑝍𑝎𑝏𑝐𑝑𑝒𑝓𑝔𑝕𑝖𑝗𑝘𑝙𑝚𑝛𑝜𑝝𑝞𑝟𑝠𑝡𑝢𑝣𑝤𑝥𑝦𑝧𑝨𑝩𑝪𑝫𑝬𑝭𑝮𑝯𑝰𑝱𑝲𑝳𑝴𑝵𑝶𑝷𑝸𑝹𑝺𑝻𑝼𑝽𑝾𑝿𑞀𑞁𑞂𑞃𑞄𑞅𑞆𑞇𑞈𑞉𑞊𑞋𑞌𑞍𑞎𑞏𑞐𑞑𑞒𑞓𑞔𑞕𑞖𑞗𑞘𑞙𑞚𑞛𑞜𑞝𑞞𑞟𑞠𑞡𑞢𑞣𑞤𑞥𑞦𑞧𑞨𑞩𑞪𑞫𑞬𑞭𑞮𑞯𑞰𑞱𑞲𑞳𑞴𑞵𑞶𑞷𑞸𑞹𑞺𑞻𑞼𑞽𑞾𑞿𑟀𑟁𑟂𑟃𑟄𑟅𑟆𑟇𑟈𑟉𑟊𑟋𑟌𑟍𑟎𑟏𑟐𑟑𑟒𑟓𑟔𑟕𑟖𑟗𑟘𑟙𑟚𑟛𑟜𑟝𑟞𑟟𑟠𑟡𑟢𑟣𑟤𑟥𑟦𑟧𑟨𑟩𑟪𑟫𑟬𑟭𑟮𑟯𑟰𑟱𑟲𑟳𑟴𑟵𑟶𑟷𑟸𑟹𑟺𑟻𑟼𑟽𑟾𑟿𑠀𑠁𑠂𑠃𑠄𑠅𑠆𑠇𑠈𑠉𑠊𑠋𑠌𑠍𑠎𑠏𑠐𑠑𑠒𑠓𑠔𑠕𑠖𑠗𑠘𑠙𑠚𑠛𑠜𑠝𑠞𑠟𑠠𑠡𑠢𑠣𑠤𑠥𑠦𑠧𑠨𑠩𑠪𑠫𑠬𑠭𑠮𑠯𑠰𑠱𑠲𑠳𑠴𑠵𑠶𑠷𑠸𑠺𑠹𑠻𑠼𑠽𑠾𑠿𑡀𑡁𑡂𑡃𑡄𑡅𑡆𑡇𑡈𑡉𑡊𑡋𑡌𑡍𑡎𑡏𑡐𑡑𑡒𑡓𑡔𑡕𑡖𑡗𑡘𑡙𑡚𑡛𑡜𑡝𑡞𑡟𑡠𑡡𑡢𑡣𑡤𑡥𑡦𑡧𑡨𑡩𑡪𑡫𑡬𑡭𑡮𑡯𑡰𑡱𑡲𑡳𑡴𑡵𑡶𑡷𑡸𑡹𑡺𑡻𑡼𑡽𑡾𑡿𑢀𑢁𑢂𑢃𑢄𑢅𑢆𑢇𑢈𑢉𑢊𑢋𑢌𑢍𑢎𑢏𑢐𑢑𑢒𑢓𑢔𑢕𑢖𑢗𑢘𑢙𑢚𑢛𑢜𑢝𑢞𑢟𑢠𑢡𑢢𑢣𑢤𑢥𑢦𑢧𑢨𑢩𑢪𑢫𑢬𑢭𑢮𑢯𑢰𑢱𑢲𑢳𑢴𑢵𑢶𑢷𑢸𑢹𑢺𑢻𑢼𑢽𑢾𑢿𑣀𑣁𑣂𑣃𑣄𑣅𑣆𑣇𑣈𑣉𑣊𑣋𑣌𑣍𑣎𑣏𑣐𑣑𑣒𑣓𑣔𑣕𑣖𑣗𑣘𑣙𑣚𑣛𑣜𑣝𑣞𑣟𑣠𑣡𑣢𑣣𑣤𑣥𑣦𑣧𑣨𑣩𑣪𑣫𑣬𑣭𑣮𑣯𑣰𑣱𑣲𑣳𑣴𑣵𑣶𑣷𑣸𑣹𑣺𑣻𑣼𑣽𑣾𑣿𑤀𑤁𑤂𑤃𑤄𑤅𑤆𑤇𑤈𑤉𑤊𑤋𑤌𑤍𑤎𑤏𑤐𑤑𑤒𑤓𑤔𑤕𑤖𑤗𑤘𑤙𑤚𑤛𑤜𑤝𑤞𑤟𑤠𑤡𑤢𑤣𑤤𑤥𑤦𑤧𑤨𑤩𑤪𑤫𑤬𑤭𑤮𑤯𑤰𑤱𑤲𑤳𑤴𑤵𑤶𑤷𑤸𑤹𑤺𑤻𑤼𑤽𑤾𑤿𑥀𑥁𑥂𑥃𑥄𑥅𑥆𑥇𑥈𑥉𑥊𑥋𑥌𑥍𑥎𑥏𑥐𑥑𑥒𑥓𑥔𑥕𑥖𑥗𑥘𑥙𑥚𑥛𑥜𑥝𑥞𑥟𑥠𑥡𑥢𑥣𑥤𑥥𑥦𑥧𑥨𑥩𑥪𑥫𑥬𑥭𑥮𑥯𑥰𑥱𑥲𑥳𑥴𑥵𑥶𑥷𑥸𑥹𑥺𑥻𑥼𑥽𑥾𑥿𑦀𑦁𑦂𑦃𑦄𑦅𑦆𑦇𑦈𑦉𑦊𑦋𑦌𑦍𑦎𑦏𑦐𑦑𑦒𑦓𑦔𑦕𑦖𑦗𑦘𑦙𑦚𑦛𑦜𑦝𑦞𑦟𑦠𑦡𑦢𑦣𑦤𑦥𑦦𑦧𑦨𑦩𑦪𑦫𑦬𑦭𑦮𑦯𑦰𑦱𑦲𑦳𑦴𑦵𑦶𑦷𑦸𑦹𑦺𑦻𑦼𑦽𑦾𑦿𑧀𑧁𑧂𑧃𑧄𑧅𑧆𑧇𑧈𑧉𑧊𑧋𑧌𑧍𑧎𑧏𑧐𑧑𑧒𑧓𑧔𑧕𑧖𑧗𑧘𑧙𑧚𑧛𑧜𑧝𑧞𑧟𑧠𑧡𑧢𑧣𑧤𑧥𑧦𑧧𑧨𑧩𑧪𑧫𑧬𑧭𑧮𑧯𑧰𑧱𑧲𑧳𑧴𑧵𑧶𑧷𑧸𑧹𑧺𑧻𑧼𑧽𑧾𑧿𑨀𑨁𑨂𑨃𑨄𑨅𑨆𑨇𑨈𑨉𑨊𑨋𑨌𑨍𑨎𑨏𑨐𑨑𑨒𑨓𑨔𑨕𑨖𑨗𑨘𑨙𑨚𑨛𑨜𑨝𑨞𑨟𑨠𑨡𑨢𑨣𑨤𑨥𑨦𑨧𑨨𑨩𑨪𑨫𑨬𑨭𑨮𑨯𑨰𑨱𑨲𑨳𑨴𑨵𑨶𑨷𑨸𑨹𑨺𑨻𑨼𑨽𑨾𑨿𑩀𑩁𑩂𑩃𑩄𑩅𑩆𑩇𑩈𑩉𑩊𑩋𑩌𑩍𑩎𑩏𑩐𑩑𑩒𑩓𑩔𑩕𑩖𑩗𑩘𑩙𑩚𑩛𑩜𑩝𑩞𑩟𑩠𑩡𑩢𑩣𑩤𑩥𑩦𑩧𑩨𑩩𑩪𑩫𑩬𑩭𑩮𑩯𑩰𑩱𑩲𑩳𑩴𑩵𑩶𑩷𑩸𑩹𑩺𑩻𑩼𑩽𑩾𑩿𑪀𑪁𑪂𑪃𑪄𑪅𑪆𑪇𑪈𑪉𑪊𑪋𑪌𑪍𑪎𑪏𑪐𑪑𑪒𑪓𑪔𑪕𑪖𑪗𑪘𑪙𑪚𑪛𑪜𑪝𑪞𑪟𑪠𑪡𑪢𑪣𑪤𑪥𑪦𑪧𑪨𑪩𑪪𑪫𑪬𑪭𑪮𑪯𑪰𑪱𑪲𑪳𑪴𑪵𑪶𑪷𑪸𑪹𑪺𑪻𑪼𑪽𑪾𑪿𑫀𑫁𑫂𑫃𑫄𑫅𑫆𑫇𑫈𑫉𑫊𑫋𑫌𑫍𑫎𑫏𑫐𑫑𑫒𑫓𑫔𑫕𑫖𑫗𑫘𑫙𑫚𑫛𑫜𑫝𑫞𑫟𑫠𑫡𑫢𑫣𑫤𑫥𑫦𑫧𑫨𑫩𑫪𑫫𑫬𑫭𑫮𑫯𑫰𑫱𑫲𑫳𑫴𑫵𑫶𑫷𑫸𑫹𑫺𑫻𑫼𑫽𑫾𑫿𑬀𑬁𑬂𑬃𑬄𑬅𑬆𑬇𑬈𑬉𑬊𑬋𑬌𑬍𑬎𑬏𑬐𑬑𑬒𑬓𑬔𑬕𑬖𑬗𑬘𑬙𑬚𑬛𑬜𑬝𑬞𑬟𑬠𑬡𑬢𑬣𑬤𑬥𑬦𑬧𑬨𑬩𑬪𑬫𑬬𑬭𑬮𑬯𑬰𑬱𑬲𑬳𑬴𑬵𑬶𑬷𑬸𑬹𑬺𑬻𑬼𑬽𑬾𑬿𑭀𑭁𑭂𑭃𑭄𑭅𑭆𑭇𑭈𑭉𑭊𑭋𑭌𑭍𑭎𑭏𑭐𑭑𑭒𑭓𑭔𑭕𑭖𑭗𑭘𑭙𑭚𑭛𑭜𑭝𑭞𑭟𑭠𑭡𑭢𑭣𑭤𑭥𑭦𑭧𑭨𑭩𑭪𑭫𑭬𑭭𑭮𑭯𑭰𑭱𑭲𑭳𑭴𑭵𑭶𑭷𑭸𑭹𑭺𑭻𑭼𑭽𑭾𑭿𑮀𑮁𑮂𑮃𑮄𑮅𑮆𑮇𑮈𑮉𑮊𑮋𑮌𑮍𑮎𑮏𑮐𑮑𑮒𑮓𑮔𑮕𑮖𑮗𑮘𑮙𑮚𑮛𑮜𑮝𑮞𑮟𑮠𑮡𑮢𑮣𑮤𑮥𑮦𑮧𑮨𑮩𑮪𑮫𑮬𑮭𑮮𑮯𑮰𑮱𑮲𑮳𑮴𑮵𑮶𑮷𑮸𑮹𑮺𑮻𑮼𑮽𑮾𑮿𑯀𑯁𑯂𑯃𑯄𑯅𑯆𑯇𑯈𑯉𑯊𑯋𑯌𑯍𑯎𑯏𑯐𑯑𑯒𑯓𑯔𑯕𑯖𑯗𑯘𑯙𑯚𑯛𑯜𑯝𑯞𑯟𑯠𑯡𑯢𑯣𑯤𑯥𑯦𑯧𑯨𑯩𑯪𑯫𑯬𑯭𑯮𑯯𑯰𑯱𑯲𑯳𑯴𑯵𑯶𑯷𑯸𑯹𑯺𑯻𑯼𑯽𑯾𑯿𑰀𑰁𑰂𑰃𑰄𑰅𑰆𑰇𑰈𑰉𑰊𑰋𑰌𑰍𑰎𑰏𑰐𑰑𑰒𑰓𑰔𑰕𑰖𑰗𑰘𑰙𑰚𑰛𑰜𑰝𑰞𑰟𑰠𑰡𑰢𑰣𑰤𑰥

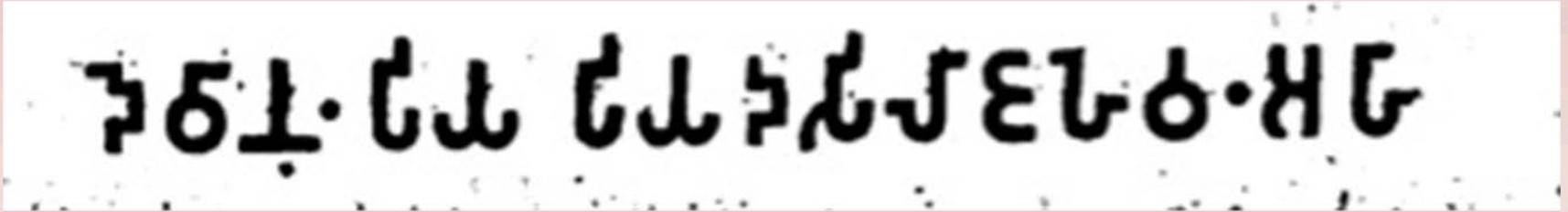
[2.13] 'Danam' inscription



Prinsep knew about Buddhist stupas in other countries like Thailand and Burma, so he had some idea what these 'little' inscriptions might be saying. He guessed that they might be recording gifts given by different people to the stupa. And he also noticed that they all ended with these letters. Did you notice as well?

What if they meant 'gift' or 'given', so each little inscription would say 'somebody's gift'? Now this is where Prinsep's knowledge of the old languages of Sanskrit and Pali came in. He thought the word for gift would be 'danam', and that's what these letters are saying. With just that last clue, and his knowledge of old languages, Prinsep was able to work out just about all the others.

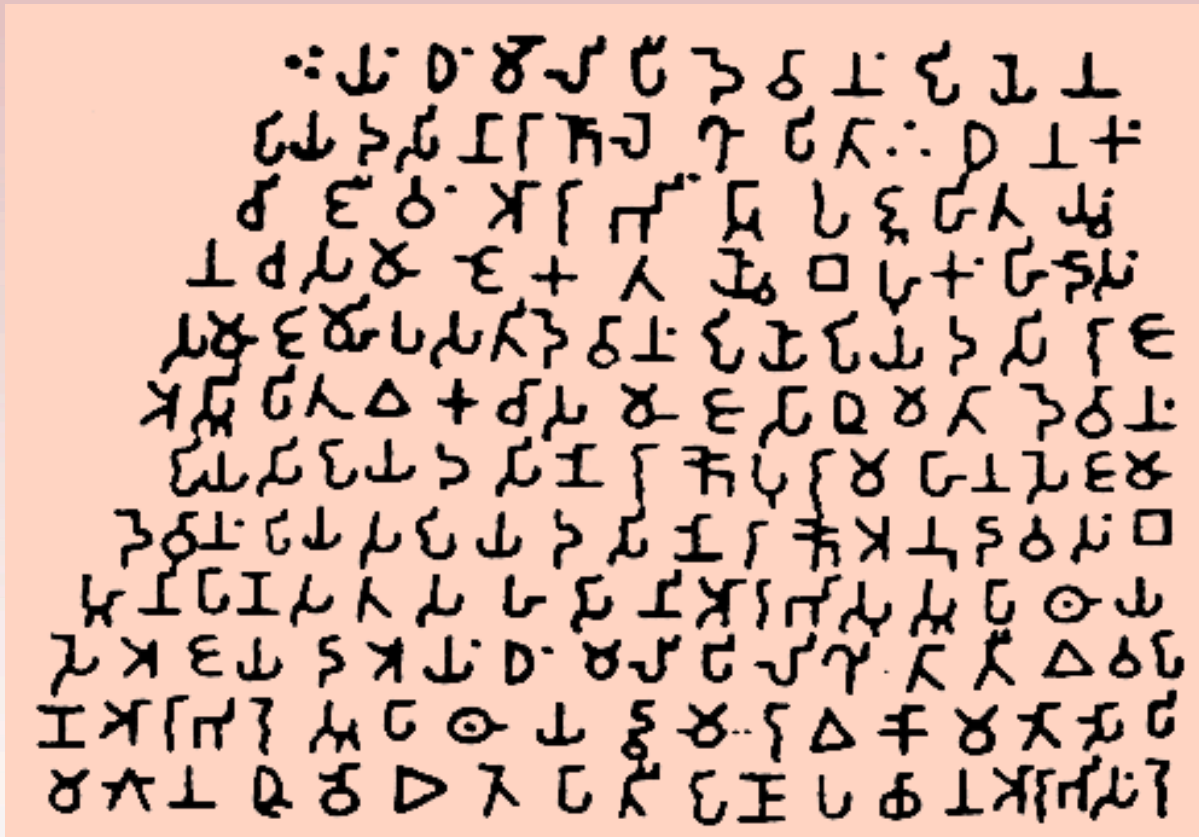
[2.14] King said



Or that's how it seemed. But in reality he had help from highly educated Indians. We don't hear much about them in what Prinsep wrote about all this, but he does mention 'the Asiatic Society's pandit', and he even gives him a name: Rama Govinda.

Anyway, Prinsep was soon able to read these fifteen letters that we saw earlier. They mean 'The beloved of the Gods, King Piyadasi, says...', so they obviously introduce something that the king wanted to tell people. The inscriptions seemed to be the words of a king who called himself Piyadasi, and it wasn't long before the inscriptions were translated. We'll now call them *edicts*. The king's real name was Ashoka, and lots of stories about him were already known. But this was the first time real evidence about him had been found.

[2.15] Ashokan edict at Girnar



You might be surprised at some of the things he says in his edicts: all religions should be respected, and all his people are like his children. And here again is the very first inscription we saw, which talks about how all living things should be respected and that people should not sacrifice animals.

Next we'll look at what else he said and did.

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