

height, are to be seen; moreover, a (rusted) iron spear planted in the ground close to the stones (see Fig. 13b). Next comes the already described grave of Malla (see Fig. 10). Close to the right of the grave, on a level with its head side, there stands a single tall stone.

Finally, on the far right, we find a low rectangular platform edged by stone walls on the top of which, right in its centre, there is a clay horse, now slightly broken. To the right of the clay horse, but near to the front wall, a (rusted) trident is fixed in the platform soil (see Fig. 13c).



Fig. 13c: Platform with a clay horse and a trident planted on its top

Unfortunately, the present-day Ālu Kuṛumbas of Kenjukūru, the hamlet affiliated to this site, were not in a position to furnish a satisfactory explanation concerning the significance and function of this place of worship, excepting the spot forming the grave of Malla.

9. "Megalithic" Prisons

On the outskirts of the Ālu Kuṛumba hamlet of Nīḍiṅgāl-ūru (Nedugal Kombai) in the Kundā area, on top of a hill, I was shown an interesting "megalithic" structure, now situated in the midst of a tea plantation. As it presents itself today, the structure consists of twelve large orthostats, now partly sunk in the ground, which are arranged to form a rectangle, its interior measuring about two by two meters (see Fig. 14). At the front side of the structure,

there is, between two orthostats, a narrow gap which once served as entrance.



Fig. 14a: "Megalithic" prison (Nīḍiṅgāl-ūru)



Fig. 14b: View from another side, with my Ālu Kuṛumba informant Laccuma

In the language of the Ālu Kuṛumbas, this dolmen-like structure is called *naṭṭa kallu biṭṭa maṇḍe*¹⁰⁰, meaning "planted stone(s) – liberated head(s)," a term which was explained to me as being their old expression for "prison."

According to the informations gathered from the old people, the original shape of this "megalithic" prison was as follows: In the centre of the rectangular room enclosed by the twelve large orthostats, then measuring about 1.80 to two meters in height, there were two tall

¹⁰⁰ For *naṭṭa kallu*, cf. note 69; *biṭṭa* = relative participle past of *bīd-* to leave, quit, liberate, release, etc.; cf. Tamil *viṭu* to leave, quit, part with, etc.; etc. (DED 4419). – Cf. Tamil *maṇṭai* mendicant's begging bowl, earthen vessel, head, skull, etc.; etc. (DED 3831).