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Notes on the Textcritical Editing of the Bodhisattvāvadānakalpalatā

by Frances Wilson

Fortunately, so the story¹ goes, Kṣemendra was prevailed upon to compose a Bodhisattvāvadānakalpalatā [BAKL]. Kṣemendra's neat and modest verse is a delight and deserves the care which de Jong has bestowed upon his textcritical remarks made toward a textcritical edition. (Textcritical Remarks on the Bodhisattvāvadānakalpalatā [Pallavas 42–108]. By J.W. de Jong. Tokyo: The Reiyukai Library, 1979. x + 303 pp.)

These remarks are to be read with

...the text published by Sarat Chandra Das and Paṇḍit Hari Mohan Vidyābhūṣaṇa (from 1906 onwards replaced by Satis Chandra Vidyābhūṣaṇa) in the Bibliotheca Indica (Calcutta, 1888—1917). That edition was based on a Tibetan blockprint [published 1664—1665] which contains both the Sanskrit text in Tibetan transliteration and the Tibetan translation. [Introduction, p. 3]

De Jong gives textcritical remarks on both the Sanskrit and Tibetan manuscript traditions, which are described in the Introduction to pallavas 42-48.² The Introduction is concluded with a request that readers offer critical remarks: de Jong notes that there are instances where the choice between readings was difficult to make and other instances where the Sanskrit was difficult to understand. I leave the fulfillment of this request to others.

I can not fault the conservative and thorough textcritical remarks made by de Jong. His method is standard: The authoratative manuscript is Add. 1306, Cambridge University Library, written in 1302 A.D., just 150 years after Ksemendra composed the *Kalpalatā*. Within the body of the textcritical remarks de Jong carefully describes the primary entries and the secondary corrections contained within Add. 1306. He

also gives notes derivative from his use of other manuscripts of the Kalpalatā and from standard reference works such as Franklin Edgerton's Buddhist Hybrid Sanskrit Dictionary. In a conversation Dr. Leonard Zwilling confirmed that the edition was without fault. He felt real indebtedness for this work, which clarifies the mistakes of previous Sanskrit editions.

My concern about this edition (and all other editions focusing on the BAKL) is the lack of a *pratīka* index. It is not easy to find if de Jong has over looked works that might have been pertinent to his volume. De Jong has no *pratīka* index and no list of the many other works that he has used.

I must assume that de Jong has looked at all the other works of Kṣemendra. I have yet to discover an entry from these works. They must not have been pertinent to these verses, or I have not discovered de Jong's notes on them. Let me give an example of my difficulties here. Kṣemendra's Aucityavicāracarcā³ includes three verses from the Kalpalatā. I can not place them in the BAKL tradition. It would help the critical reader if pratīka indices and lists of works used were given.

Furthermore, it would be dangerous but it might be in order at some point to apply Ksemendra's rules on aucitya to determine the validity of readings. Certainly, this is usually a dubious if not completely wrong method. But—Ksemendra is one of the few writers whose works might be looked at in this way. He was both a writer on alaṃkāra and a poet. Still, there would be hazards in applying his rules to his poetic works. I give two examples.

Verse 1ab in pallava 91, Sibisubhāṣitāvadāna.
 subhāṣitam satyapathaprakāśanam karoty anālokapade sudīpavat / snang-ba med-pa'i gnas-rnams dag-tu sgron-ma bzhin / legs-par bshad-pa bden-pa'i lam ni gsal-bar byed /

Read with A anālokapadeșu dīpavat, cf. T.

Professor Narayana Rao remarked—in a casual conversation—that A (Add. 1306) has a less euphonic reading. The reading does not embody so nearly the principle of samatā.

Verse 34ab in pallava 91. dṛṣṭādṛṣṭasukhe subhāṣitarucir mārge pradīpāyate saṃvādena subhāṣitāmṛtarasaḥ prītim vindati / Read with A margah in a and param varsati in b.

Again Professor Narayana Rao felt varṣati to be inappropriate (anaucitya) unless drought and deserts were the focus in the preceding verses.

To conclude, I leave textcritical matters and give the text and translation of a few verses from the Mithila edition. There are no textcritical remarks on these. These verses give a third minor variant to the two traditions of the Sibi story that I know.

śivavatyam pura puryam śibir nama nareśvarah / babhuva sarvabhutanam dayadayitabandhavah // 6 tatpuņyasāsanāsīnaih svargam āpūritam naraih / drstvā satakraturjāātum sattvam tasya samāyayau // 7 ratnaprāsādasikharākrāntam nṛpatim etya sah / raksorupam vidhayogram tadagrabhimukho 'bravit // 8 anityāh samsārās taralataravidyuddyutinibhāh / samutpannotpannapralayaparinamapranayinah // 9 subhāsitārdham ityuktvā tūsnīm āsīt sa rāksasah / tam pranamya ksitipatih krtanjalir abhasata // 10 sadho subhasitasyardham sesam samsa manahsukham / vānīm bodhyangabhūtām te sisyo bhūtvā sṛṇomy aham // 11 iti bruvāņam vinayān nṛpam provāca rākṣasaḥ / tvayā šisyeņa rājendra nisphalena karomi kim // 12 pipasaparibhūto 'ham kşunnakukşir bubhukşaya naitan mamepsitam rajan kevalam gurugauravam // 13

- 6. In Śivavatī town there was, at one time, a King by the name of Śibi.
 - He was the beloved and generous friend of all beings.
- 7. When Indra's heaven was filled with men who had sat for Sibi's meritorious instruction,
 - He of the hundred sacrifices went to him to test his resolution.
- 8. As he approached the place where the king sat surrounded by the turrets of his jewel-pavilion,
 - Indra took the form of a ferocious demon and when right in front of King Sibi, he said:
- 9. "This world of transmigration is momentary like flickering lightning flashes.
 - It comes to an end in a dissolution of everything that has been born or produced. "
- 10. When the demon had uttered half of the *subhāṣita*, he became quiet.
 - King Sibi did him homage and with his hands raised folded together in salutation he said:
- 11. "O sādhu, say the last half of the subhāṣita for my benefit.

- I am your student and would hear your voice which is a 'limb of enlightenment.'"
- 12. The demon replied to the gentle address of the king: "What can I do with you? You are useless as my pupil.
- 13. I am overcome by thirst and my belly is pierced by the pangs of hunger.

I desire more, O king, than the homage paid a teacher."

NOTES

- 1. P.L. Vaidya, ed., Avadāna-kalpalatā of Kṣemendra. Volumes 1 and 11. Buddhist Sanskrit Texts, no. 22 and no. 23. Darbhanga: The Mithila Institute of Post-Graduate Studies and Research in Sanskrit Learning, 1959. Vol. I, p. 9. [De Jong nowhere refers to this Mithila edition, which is "more or less a reprint . . . of the Bibliotheca edition" (Vol. 1, p. vii) upon which de Jong bases his remarks.]
 - 2. De Jong does not mention publication of pallavas 1-41.
- 3. Dr. Süryakanta, Ksemendra Studies. (Poona Oriental Series No. 91) Oriental Book Agency, Poona, 1954, pp. 206 and 207.
 - 4. Vaidya, op. cit., p. 518 (vol. 11).