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M. I. Vorobyova-Desyatovskaya

A SANSKRIT MANUSCRIPT ON BIRCH-BARK FROM BAIRAM-ALI: I. THE VINAYA OF THE SARVĀSTIVĀDINS (PART 4)

The present paper continues the publication of Sanskrit manuscript SI Merv 1 on birch-bark from Bairam-Ali (see Manuscripta Orientalia, V/2-4, 1999). We gives here

transliteration, translation and commentary of fols. [79r] and 79 v of the text.

FOL. [79 r]

TRANSLITERATION

- 1. pātra-kalpo dvau pātrāni mrtikama[yānī]¹ ca sāstrakā² ca na ca bhiksunā vina pātrena
- 2. janapadacāriko caritavyah. cīvara-kalpo daša cīvarāni trihi³ daurvarnnī karane-
- 3. hi⁴ daurvvarnnīkaranehi⁵ daurvvarnnīrtavvāni nīsīdana⁶ kalpo dau⁷ nisīdanāni ghana-
- 4. puta ca vighata ca na ca bhiksunā vina nisīdanena janapadacāriko caritavyah ||

TRANSLATION

- The rule concerning the *pātra*: [Bhagavan has prescribed] two [types] of *pātra*: clay and metal, and monks
 should not walk the land without a *pātra*^[77]. The rule concerning the *cīvara*: ten *cīvaras*, by means of dying [one] of three [colours]
- 3. should be made unsightly in colour ^[78]. The rule concerning the mat: [Bhagavan has prescribed] two [types] of mats: solid
- 4. covering [the body] and short, and a *bhiksu* should not walk the land without a mat ^[79].

Commentary

[77] See Cūllavagga, V, 9, 1: anujānāmi bhikkhave dve patte ayopattam mattikāpattan ti ("I enjoin [you], monks, [to use] two [types] of pātra — metal and clay"); see also Cūllavagga, V, 9, 4: ajānāni bhikkhave pattatthavikan ti ("I enjoin [you], monks, to carry [your] pātra in a bag"). The word sāstra here means "iron, metal".

^[78] The same rule is cited above in a different forumalation: it speaks of seven *cīvaras* (see n. 71).

^[79] The rule is not attested in this formulation in other Vinaya texts. In the Pāli Vinaya, the word nisīdana ("mat") is used in the sense of "covering, bedding"; see Mahāvagga, VIII, 16: "I enjoin [you], monks, to use bedding to protect your body, clothing, and the place where you sleep ... I permit [you], monks, to have bedding of the size you wish". Cf. Prātimoksa-sūtra, Pācittivā, 89, where the dimensions of the bedding are established as approximately 45.7×22.8 cm. In Pali texts, the term nisidana-paccatthara is used in the sense of

¹ Instead of mrttikamavānī.

² Instead of *śastrakāni*.

³ Instead of tribhi.

⁴ Instead of durvarni karnebhih.

⁵ daurvvarnnīkaranehi is erroneously repeated here.

⁶ Instead of daurvarnī kartavyāni. The word nīsīdana is written with nī only here (see below).

⁷ Instead of *dvau* (here and hereafter).

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a "mat for sitting". Both types of bedding are enumerated among the things which a monk must have on his person and must not give to another person, see Mahāvagga, VIII, 20, 2.

In the Sanskrit text of the Prātimoksa-sūtra, the term nisīdana (p. 524) is used for "bedding, cover", and nisīdanasamstara or samstara for "mat for sitting" (see "Le Prātimoksasūtra des Sarvāstivādins", pp. 496-7).

Both of these types of bedding are evidently intended in the manuscript. They are described by the epithets ghana --- "solid, thick, impenetrable" and puta — "closing, covering". Although it is a stretch, they could be opposed to yet another epithet — vighata with the meaning "shorn, short".

FOL. 79 v

TRANSLITERATION

- 1. sūci-kalpo do sūceyo⁸ bhagavatā anujñātā āyomikā⁹ ca tāmrikā ca na ca bhiksunā vina sūcika¹⁰ jana-
- 2. padacārikam carttavyah¹¹ || sūcīghara-kalpo dvau sūcigharā¹² bhagavato anujñātā sūcināddikā¹³ ca sū-
- 3. cimustikā ca sūcīna¹⁴ gopanartham sastra-kalpo sastra-kalpo¹⁵ śastrako bhagavato anujñātā cīvarāna¹⁶ dvi-
- 4. dvanārtham¹⁷ na ca bhiksunā atidirgho śastrako dhārayitavyam || ranga-kalpo pamca-rangā bhagavatā a[nu]-
- 5. jñātā. cīvarāna rajanārtham katame pamca mūla-kāsāyam ganda-kāsāyam puspa-kāsāyam ||
- 6. kim na kalpati yo madyavarnam madygandham madyarasam madya[svādam]

TRANSLATION

- 1. The rule concerning the needle: Bhagavan has prescribed two [types] of needles: iron and brass, and the monk without 2. a needle should not walk the land ^[80]. The rule concerning the needle-case: Bhagavan has prescribed two [types] of needle-cases: a needle-case from bamboo stalk and
- 3. a needle-case of barley dough in order to protect the needle ^[81]. The rule concerning the knife: Bhagavan has prescribed a knife in order to
- 4. cut cloth for a civara, and a monk should not have a knife [that is] too long [82]. The rule concerning the dying [of cīvaras]. Bhagavan has prescribed five [types] of dye.
- 5. Which five [are good] for dying cīvaras? Brown-red [dyes] from roots, brown-red [dyes] from stalks, brown-red [dyes] from flowers [83]
- 6. How one should not proceed: that he who [uses dye which is] pleasant in colour, pleasant in odour, pleasant in taste, sweetly intoxicating

Commentary

[80] In the Cullavagga V, 11, 2, the number of needles is not indicated: anujānāmi bhikkhave sūcin ti ("I enjoin you, o monks, [to use] a needle"). In the Vinayaksudraka-vastu, four types of needles are enumerated, see bKa'-gyur Derge, 'dul-va, vol. tha, fol. 32b(3): ... khab rnam-po bži-po 'di lha-ste | ra-gan dang | zangs dang | khar-ba dang | lcags-las byas-pa dag bcang-bar-bya'o ("Four types of needles, namely: those made of brass, of copper, of an alloy of copper and zinc, and of iron should be used").

The word ayomika appears to be written incorrectly here in place of ayomaya ("iron"). The form ayomika is not attested in Sanskrit. It is possible that the copyist confused it with the word āyāmika ("long").

[81] In the Cüllavagga, V, 11, 2 — one type of needle-box is designated with the same term as in the manuscript — sūcinālika: anujānāmi bhikkhave sūcinālikan ti. ("I prescribe [for you], o monks, a needle-box [made] from the stalk of bamboo").

There are two needle-boxes mentioned in the Vinayaksudraka-vastu - the second one, moreover, is evidently designated with a term close in meaning to that used in the manuscript. See bKa'-gyur Derge, 'dul-ba, vol. tha, fol. 32b(5): khab-ral-ni rnam-pa gñis-te

⁸ Instead of sūcayo.

⁹ Instead of ayomayā.

¹⁰ Instead of sūcinā.

¹¹ Instead of caritavyah.

¹² Instead of sūcīgharā.

¹³ Instead of sūcīnadikā.

¹⁴ Instead of sūcinā.

¹⁵ sastra-kalpo is erroneously repeated here.

¹⁶ Instead of cīvarāni (here and hereafter).

¹⁷ Instead of dvidhanartham?

|sbu-gu-can dang | chang-blta-bu'o | ("Two types of needle-boxes: a hollow stalk of reed and a bit of dough from barley flour"). The word chab-bu in the S. Das' dictionary (p. 408) indicates "dough from barley flour formed or pressed by hand and sifted through the fingers". The corresponding Sanskirt term — mustika — can also be read as "sifted through the fingers" or "prepared with the fingers". Sanskrit dictionaries only contains the meaning "handful".

^[82] Cf. the Cūllavagga, V, 11, 1: tena kho pana samayena bhikkhū hatthena vipātetvā cīvaram sibbenti. cīvaram vilomam hoti. bhagavato etam attham ārocesum. anujānāmi bhikkhavo satthakam namatakan ti ("It was at that time that the monks would sew their cīvaras, tearing [the fabric] with their hands. Cīvaras with unequal edges resulted. They told Bhagavan about this: 'I enjoin [you], o monks, [to use] a knife and sheath of felt'").

As concerns the dimensions of the knife, there is an indication in the *Vinayakşudraka-vastu*, *bKa'-gyur Derge*, '*dul-ba*, vol. *tha*, fol. 32 a (4-5): "Knives are of three (sizes): large, medium, and small. The large one is six *sors* [in length], the small one is four *sors*, the medium one is of a medium size (among them)".

In the phrase dvidyanārtham, the word dvidyana is not attested in Sanskrit. It was possibly used in place of dvidhana, which means "division into two parts". In the Pāli text, the unclear form *vipāţetvā*, is used, which the editors of the text attempt to interpret as *vipphāletvā* (Rhes Davids, H. Oldenberg, *Vinaya Texts*, pt. III, p. 90).

^[83] Cf. *Mahāvagga*, VIII, 10, 1: "I enjoin [you], o monks, to use the following six types of dyes: dyes from roots, dyes from wood, dyes from bark, dyes from leaves, dyes from flowers, dyes from their fruits".

Illustrations

Fig. 1. Sanskrit manuscript SI Merv 1 on birch-bark from Bairam-Ali in the collection of the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies, fol. [79r], 19.0×5.0 cm.

Fig. 2. The same manuscript, fol. 79 v, 19.0×5.0 cm.