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Manuscripta Orientalia

International Journal for Oriental Manuscript Research

Vol. 8 No. 2 June 2002



76ESA St. Petersburg – Институт восточных рукописей PAH / The Institute of Oriental Manuscripts, RAS – http://www.orientalstudies.ru

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A SANSKRIT MANUSCRIPT ON BIRCH-BARK FROM BAIRAM-ALI. II. AVADĀNA AND JĀTAKA (PART 7)

The publication of new folios from the Bairam-Ali manuscript with a continuation of the texts of *avadānas* and *jātakas* must begin with several additions to the preceding publication (see *Manuscripta Orientalia*, VIII/1, pp. 18—26). We have shown that the top layer of birch-bark — half of the folio numbered 20 — was missing and was found later among the folios that contains quotes from *sūtras* and apparently were also paginated from fol. 1. The text of fol. 20b continues the text of fol. 20a we have already published and allows us to introduce certain corrections and additions. We repeat here the final line of fol. 20a, which runs as follows:

5. lakumcika iti śrāvastyām a[nya]-

The text continues on fol. 20b. The story "Lakumcika" is here quoted in some detail. It is a brief reworking of avadāna No. 88 from Avadānaśataka, II, pp. 152—60. The last story — "Eru" — which, according to the uddāna on fol. 17a (4), should have concluded this group of tales, is missing on fol. 20b. After the avadāna of "Lakumcika"

begins the *uddāna* for the next group of stories. The first two stories — "Maitrābala" and "Sārtha" — bear the same titles on fol. 21 a. The story "Maitrabala" (cf. "Maitrābala" in our text) is found, along with *Jātaka Mālā*, in the Gilgit manuscripts see "The story of Maitrabala", *The Gilgit Manuscript of the Saṅghabhedavastu*, pt. 2, pp. 20—1.

The third story in the *uddāna* is entitled "Kkrīditam" ("Play"). In the text on fol. 21b (5) it is called "Krīdīka iti" ("Worm"), and, as we have already shown, contains a story about worms that have attached themselves to a turtle that sacrifices itself to save them from starvation. The fifth story, which in the *uddāna* is called "Sinha" ("Lion"), on fol. 22 b (3), bears the name "Sinhasenāpati", which is the proper name of the hero of *jātaka* No. 246.

The following story — "Āraṇyaka" (see *uddāna*, fol. 20 b (5)) — is in the text on fol. 22 b (4) given the same title and contains praise for the life of a hermit in the forest that recalls the text of *jātaka* No. 480 and the *Avadāna* of Agastya (see *Jātaka Mālā*, No. 7).

FOL. 20b

TRANSLITERATION

- 1. tarasya brāhmaṇasya putro jātah kṛśako¹ durbalaśca. yada mahaṃtakah samvrttah (sa) [bhagava]-
- 2. cchāsane pravrajitah yāvad arhatvam prāptam yāvad ekam bhaktacchedam akārṣĩ² yāva parini-
- 3. rvṛtaḥO pūrvayogam bhūta mūrddham³ pradusṭacittena mātā gamje prakṣiptā pradusṭacittena
- 4. evā ca ābhasṭā⁴ bhasma āhāram āhārayasyeti⁵ sā ca kāla gatā evam vistareņa vaktavya-
- 5. m iti ¶Ø¶ maitrābalo ca sārtho ca kkrīḍitaṃ kuṃjareṇa ca sinha āraṇyako thero brāhma-6

TRANSLATION

- 1. To a certain *brāhman* a son was born, thin and feeble. When he had grown up^[1] [and] filled out in the shoulders^[2],
- 2. it was received by him as arhatva. How for one day he was cut off from food by fasting [3]. How

¹ Instead of krśalaka "guant, thing"? Cf. Skt. krśa, pāli kiso lukho (2 words). See BHSD, p. 191.

² Instead of akārṣīt, aorist sigmatic, 3 sg.

³ Instead of Skt. mūrdhana? Loc. sg.

⁴ Instead of ābhāṣṭā.

⁵ Instead of *āhārayasye iti*, conditionalis, 1 sg. âtm.

⁶ The *uddāna* consists of four eight-syllable lines; the poetic meter is octosyllabic *anustubh*.

- 3. he departed for *nirvāṇa*. In a previous incarnation, having lost his senses, he threw his mother into the pantry ^[4]. Because he had lost his senses
- 4. he said crudely: "I will give [the poor] food of ashes!" And [his mother] died. Thus must one tell in detail.
- 5. "Maitrābala"; and "Useful"; and "Play"; together with the "Elephant"; "Sinha"; "Āraṇyaka"; "Thero"; "Brāhman";

Commentary

[1] mahamtaka, mahantaka — "the great".

[2] samvṛtta — lit. "became round"; in Buddhist texts this word forms part of the term susamvṛttaskandha, lit. "with well-rounded shoulders". The term indicates the 20th sign (lakṣaṇa) of an unusual person. An enumeration of these signs can be found in The Gilgit Manuscript of the Sanghabhedavastu, pt. 1, p. 51.

[3] In the text of the avadāna the parinirvāna began only after a fast that lasted for six days — "sadbhaktacchedāḥ

krtāh"; see Āvadānaśataka, pt. 2, p. 156, l. 10.

[4] In the text of the avadāna the mother's kindness was the cause of the harsh treatment she received — she gave alms to monks and brāhmans.

FOL. [23a]

TRANSLITERATION

- 1. prav[i]śat[i] ka[r]ma k[ā]śyape sam[m]yaksambuddhe pracyuto babhūva nevāsikah tatra paṃca māts[a]-
- 2. ryāni nisevitvā narakesu upapannah tatah cavitvā manusyesu upapannah jātismarah
- 3. tatahO tam smaritvā samsarga bhīruḥ || bhikṣuṇī iti bhikṣuṇī nāma dhvāna pratipannānām⁷
- 4. bhikṣuOnī pṛthivyā[m] utpatitā bhītā sā kathayati mā bhavatheti⁸ mānuṣā aha-
- 5. m iti yāva tā bhiksunī bhagavata⁹ ārocayamti bhagavān āha pravrājayatheti

TRANSLATION

- 1—2. He was tied up ^[5]. [His] *karma* [was such]: during the time of the wholly enlightened Kāśyapa he was a monk [and] strayed from the righteous path. At the same time, being susceptible to the five forms of jealousy ^[6], he was born in hells. Having thus fallen ^[7], he was [then] born among people, remembering his reincarnations ^[8].
- 3. Then, recalling that [reincartion], [he began] to fear earthly life [9]. [Tale] of the nun [10]. Then, how the nuns heard the whisper: "Nuns!"—
 - 4. the nuns fell to the ground in fear [11]. That [12] [voice] uttered: "Fear not, I am a human
- 5. being". How those nuns asked the Bhagavan [about the voice]. The Bhagavan replied: "Perform [on this being] the ritual of initiation.

Commentary

[5] The root viś + pra here means "be dedicated to something".

^[6] On the five forms of jealousy, see *Dharmasamgraha*, ed. M. Müller (Oxford, 1885), section 78.

^[7]The absolutive form *cavitvā* in Buddhist Sanskrit means "having fallen even lower" (see *BHSD*, p. 226). For analogous contexts, see *Mahāvastu*, III, 42, 18: "*manuṣyeṣu cavitvā narakeṣūpapadyati*"; *ibid.*, 43, 10: "*manuṣyeṣu cavitvā iha narakeṣūpapannaḥ*".

[8] jātismaraḥ as a compound word of the bahuvrīhi type means: "having memory of [one's] reincarnations".

[9] samsarga is here used in the meaning "life in the world, worldly life" as opposed to aranyaka — "life in the forest, a hermit's life".

[10] In the *uddāna* on fol. 20 b (5) this story is called "*Thero*", Nom. sg., masc., a Pāli form. *Thero* is definitely used here in place of *therī*, *meter causa*. The Sanskrit form of this word in the masculine is *sthavīra* ("elder", usually among monks). Certain details in the story coincide with several *avadānas* from the *Avadānaśataka*, but the text cannot be entirely identified.

[11] prthivyā[m] utpatitā bhītā — lit. "fell to the earth, frightened".

[12] sā kathayati in the text, where sā is the Nom. sg. fem. agreeing with mānuṣā ("human being of the female sex").

⁷ Instead of dhvānam pratipannam or dhvāna pratipanna.

⁸ Cf. BHSG, where we find the ending: imperative 2 plr. — = tha, p. 147, § 30, 12. The same is found throughout the text.

⁹ Instead of *bhagavantam*.

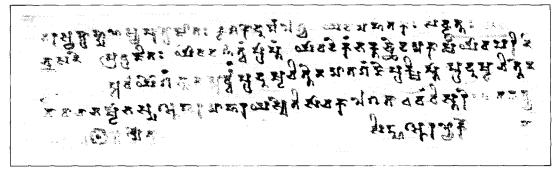


Fig. 1

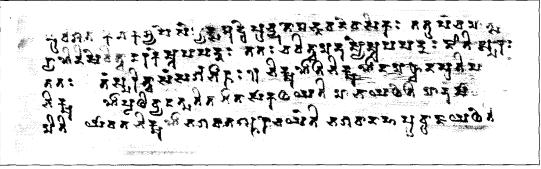


Fig. 2

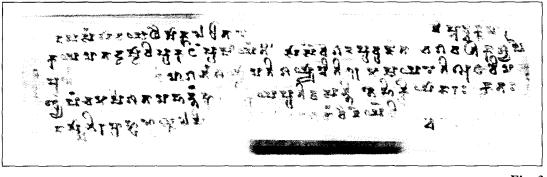


Fig. 3

FOL. 23b

TRANSLITERATION

- 1. upasampādayathaisā 10 kūladhītā 11 iti sā pravrajitā arhatvam prāptā karma pūrvvam kumā[ra]-2. kāya mātā dṛṣṭā viprakaṭam prajāyamṭī 12 sā samvegena pravrajitā bhagavati kāśyape
- 3. praniOdhānam kṛtam mā garbha[m] śayyāmati 13 śayyām iti 14 || rṣaya iti aṭavīma-
- 4. dhye pamca rşi śatā mahantam hradam [niśra]ya prativasanti tehi kkriyākāraḥ krataḥ
- 5. na asmābhir abrāhmana ālapitavyam iti yāva bhagavām vaineyam vinītvā tatra ābhyāgatah dhītā

TRANSLATION

- 1. [and] upasampāda! This is a girl from a noble lineage!" In a previous incarnation she received initiation and attained arhatva.
- 2. She was the mother of a young boy [13], to [whom] she gave birth in secret. Soon [after the Bhagavan's explanation] she underwent the ritual of initiation. In the time of the Bhagavan Kāśyapa
 - 3. a passionate desire was expressed [by her]: "May I not remain infertile!" [Story] about rsis [14]. In the forest grove
 - 4. lived five hundred *rsis*, having built a dwelling near a large lake. They made a decision:
- 5. "We will not engage in idle chatter unworthy of a brāhman!" How the Bhagavan, performing the ritual of initiation on someone awaiting conversion, went in there.

Commentary

[13] pūrvvam kumārakāya mātā drstā — lit. "they saw her earlier as the mother of a boy".

[14] We were unable to identify the plot of this story, although the idea has a number of parallels in European and Russian folklore. In the *uddāna* on fol. 20 b (5) this story is called "Brāhmaṇah".

FOL. [24a]

TRANSLITERATION

- 1. te buddham bhagavantam na ālpam(ti kṣa)triya iti krtvā bhagavām tam hradam gatah te tato 'p[ām]
- 2. hradātah 15 samjñayā vārayamti [bha]gavatā šusko hrado nirmitah vāva sarve rsayah
- 3. samāOgammya japamti upavāsam kalpavamti na ca vāri sambhayati vāva bhagavantam
- 4. ksamāpayanti bhagavatā tesā ddharmadeśanā krtā yāvad anāgāmi phalam prāptam yāva
- 5. bhagavan[t]am keśa nakham yācanti yāva bhagavatā dattam te satkaronti kim karma kāśyape sammya-

TRANSLATION

- 1. They did not converse with the Buddha Bhagavan. In keeping with the custom of the kṣatriyas [15], the Bhagavan went to that lake [to wash his face]. Later,
- 2. when he was refreshing himself in the water [16], they forbade [him this] with a gesture. [Then] Bhagavan made the lake dry. How all of the rsis,
 - 3. having gathered together, read prayers, fasted, but water did not appear. How they appealed to the Bhagavan
- 4. for forgiveness. The Bhagavan taught them to follow the dharma. How the [rsis] received the fruit of one who does not return [to the world] [17].
- 5. they implored the Bhagavan in every fashion [18]. How the Bhagavan gave [water] [and] they honoured [the Bhagavan]. What was [their] karma? In the time of the wholly enlightened [19] Kāśyapa

Commentary

[15] kṣatriya iti kṛtvā — lit. "having done as a kṣatriya".

[16] $ap[\bar{a}m]$ $hr[\bar{a}]datah$ — "at the time that he was refreshing himself" — Genetivus absolutus construction.

¹⁰ upasampādayatha esā.

¹¹ Instead of kūladuhitā.

¹² Instead of *prajāyati*.

¹³ Instead of śayyam iti.

¹⁴ Instead of *śayvam iti*.

¹⁵ Instead of *hrādatah*.

[17] anāgāmi phalam — "fruit of one who does not return [to the world]" — the final incarnation before parinirvāņa.

[18] bhagavantam keśa nakham yācanti — lit. "implored the Bhagavan in his entirety, beginning with a tuft of hair on his head to his nails".

[19] The second half of the term sammya[ksambuddha] — "wholly enlightened" — on fol. 24b(1).

FOL. 24b

TRANSLITERATION

- $1. \ [k] sa[m] buddh[e] \ \acute{s}ara nagamana \ nig! h[i] t\bar{a} \ na \ \acute{s}ik \\ \ddot{s}\bar{a} pade \\ \ddot{s}u \ ca \ pratis! h\bar{a}pit\bar{a} \ \| \ pit\bar{a} \ iti \ \acute{s}r\bar{a} vasty \\ \ddot{a}[m]$
- 2. anyatarah śresthih sa putra pātra parivāro udyāna bhūmi nnirgatah sa tatra buddham bhagava-
- 3. ntam aOdya śāsi 16 tatah sa grhapatih sa putra bhrataram 17 kathayati etha 18 buddham
- 4. bhagavantam paryupāsisyāmah tatas te sarve upasamkkrāntā bhagavatā teṣā ddharmodeśitah
- 5. yāva sarvve drstasatyā sam[vrttā] yāva buddham sarvopakaranaih pravārayamti yāva tam

TRANSLATION

- 1. In Śrāvastī they undertook a departure under the [Buddha's] protection, but did not persevere in following the moral rules. [Tale] of the father [20]. In Śravastī
- 2. there lived a certain head of merchants. His son left for the park Udyāna with a *pātra* and in monastic garb. There he from the Buddha Bhagavan
- 3. today receives instruction. Later that head of the household said to the brother of that son: "Here the Buddha Bhagavan shall we venerate!" [21] Later they all came [to the Bhagavan] and the Bhagavan proposed that they follow
- 4. the *dharma*. How they all acquired [the four] noble truths. How they gave gifts to the Buddha [in the form of varied] food. How in that

Commentary

[20] In the *uddāna* on fol. 21 a(1) we find mention of a story (?) called "Karṣika" (Skt. karṣaka) — "The Ploughs-Man". The story is absent in the text. In this story the main characters are: Vipaśyin (fol. 25 a(1)) and his father Bandhuman (fol. 25 a(2)). See "The story of Vipaśyin" in *The Gilgit Manuscript of the Sanghabhedavastu*, pt. 2, pp. 147—9.

[21] "Here" in the sense "in this incarnation", cf. later, where the story tells of the hero's previous incarnations.

FOL. [25a]

TRANSLITERATION

- 1. grham udapāna bhūtam sam[v]rt[tam] kim karma ete ekanavatime kalpe vipasyī sammya[k]s[sam]-
- 2. buddho loke uduvāsi 19 sa bhagavām sakalam buddhakāryam kṛtvā parinirvṛtaḥ tasya bandhumatā
- 3. rajñāO stūpam kārāpitam yojanāyāmavistāram caturam namayam²⁰ tatra yastyāropa-
- 4. nam kartavyam iti tena yastyāropyamānāya udghosāpitam kaḥ kim prayacchati iti ||
- 5. (a)nyatarena grhapatinā²¹ putra²² bhrātaram avalokitam yāva ṣaṣṭi hiraṃnya koṭīya²³

TRANSLATION

- 1. house a spring appeared. What [was their] *karma*? In the ninety-first *kalpa*, [counting back] from this [one], [the first son] like the wholly enlightened Vipaśyin [22]
- 2. lived in the world. [As] the Bhagavan, he carried out all of the Buddha's obligations and retreated into *nirvāṇa*. For his [remains] Bandhuman
- 3. $r\bar{a}j\bar{a}$ ordered a $st\bar{u}pa$ built. "An [innumerable] amount of yojanas in circumference, four [yojanas] high there a $yasti^{[23]}$ banner

¹⁶ Instead of śāsyate?

¹⁷ Instead of tasya putrasya bhrataram.

¹⁸ Instead of ettha.

¹⁹ Instead of udavāsi.

²⁰ Instead of Skt. catvāri [yojanāni] namayat?

²¹ Instead of Skt. grhapateh? or grhapatinā is correct and we have here Instrumentalis absolutus?

²² Instead of Skt. putrena?

²³ Instead of Skt. sadbhi hiranya kotībhi?

- 4. should be raised up!" thus [did he command]. Thanks to this, who asks who should be proclaimed the man to raises up the banner of *yasti*?
 - 5. How by another son of the head of the household, thanks to the example of his brother [24], sixty million in gold

Commentary

[22] Cf. Mahāvastu, II, p. 271, II. 5—8: "bhūtapūrvaṃ bhikṣavaḥ atītamadhvānaṃ itaḥ ekanvatime kalpe rājā abhūṣi baṃdhumo nāma… rājňo khalu punaḥ bhikṣavo bandhumasya vipaṣyī nāma putro abhūṣi" ("In earlier times, monks, in the past, in the ninety-first kalpa, beginning with this one, there lived a ruler by the name of Bandhuman … And also, monks, the rājā Bandhuman had a son by the name of Vipaṣyin"). The same text is found at the beginning of jātaka No. 547 (Vessantara-jātaka). In their earlier incarnation, the heroes of the story in the manuscript were: the Buddha Vipaśyin (the first son), the rājā Bandhuman (the father) and Anaṅgana (Jyotiṣka, the second son). The latter is the subject of a jātaka from the Mahāvastu, II, pp. 271(3)—276(15).

[23] For a more precise description of the banner yaṣṭi, which according to Buddhist tradition adorned the capitals of the first five Buddhas, see Mahāvastu, III, p. 229, ll. 12—14: "...yaṣṭi abhūṣi citrā darśanīyā saptānāṃ varṇānāṃ ... dvadaśa yojanāni uddhedhena catvāri yojanāni. abhiniveśena" ("there was the banner yaṣṭi, motley, of seven varied valuables, ... 12 yojanas high and four yojanas in circumference"). Edgerton translates "in diameter" (see BHSD, p. 445). In another part of the Mahāvastu (III, p. 238, ll. 12—13) there is a similar description, closer to the one in our text in its vocabulary: "... dvādaśa yojanānyamena sapta yojanāni vistareṇa..." ("...12 yojanas high and 7 yojanas in width").

[24] bhrātaram avalokitam — lit. "in keeping with the observation of a brother".

FOL. 25b

TRANSLITERATION

- 1. [d]v[i]t[ī]yā v[im]ś[a]t[i] y[ā]va rājā prīt[a]h t[e]na mahatā dhanena sa vibhaktah bhagavān āha sa e-
- 2. şa grhapati iti || Ø || kacamgalā ca nāgā ca vivāham chedanena ca khājjate nandikā
- 3. pindīO brāhmanam karsakam pitā²⁴ || Ø || kacamgala²⁵ iti vistarena yāva bhagavato
- 4. pānīyām dattam yāva bhagavacchāsane pravrajitah 26 sūtrāmta vibhamgikānām agro nirdistah
- 5. karma pamca janma śatā mātā babhūva kāśyape samyaksambuddhe brahmacaryam cīrnnam || **nāgā iti**

TRANSLATION

- 1. another time two hundred [million in gold] was given with pomp to the $r\bar{a}j\bar{a}^{[25]}$. Thanks to this that $[r\bar{a}j\bar{a}]$ was endowed with great wealth. The Bhagavan said that he was in fact this
- 2. head of the household. [Tales entitled]: "Kacamgalā" [26]; and "Nāgās"; "Entering into Marriage"; "Division"; and "It is Devoured"; and "Nandikā"
- 3. "Dumplings"; "The Brāhman Ploughs-Man"(?); "The Father". [The Tale] of Kacamgalā in detail. How Bhagayan
- 4. was given something to drink $^{[27]}$, how at the Bhagavan's behest [Kacamgalā] undertook the ritual of initiation. [Her name] was mentioned first among those who had learned the $s\bar{u}tras$ and the commentaries on them $^{[28]}$.
- 5. [Her] karma: five hundred incarnations [ago] she was the mother [of a bodhisattva]. In the time of the wholly enlightened Kāśyapa she led a virtuous life [Tale] of the $n\bar{a}g\bar{a}s$ [29].

Commentary

[25] $r\bar{a}j\bar{a}$ $pr\bar{i}tah$ — lit. "the $r\bar{a}j\bar{a}$ was honoured".

[26] Beginning with this word on II. 2—3 we find an *uddāna* for 9 new stories. The last two titles coincide with the text of the *uddāna* on fols. 20b(5)—21a(1). The stories themselves are different, however. The story "Kacaṃgalā" has the same title in the *uddāna* and in the text. In content, the story is a brief exposition of the *avadāna* with the same title from the *Avadānaśataka*, II, pp. 41—4. Textological parallels are noted below. For the Pāli version of the story, see *Anguttara-Nikāya*, V, XXVII. The Pāli title of the *jātaka* is "Kajaṇgalā".

[27] In the manuscript — "yāva bhagavato pānīyam dattam"; in the Avadānaśataka, II, p. 41, ll. 8—9 — "yāvatka-cangalā pānīyaghaṭam pūrayitvā bhagavantaḥ sakāśam gatā" ("How Kacaṃgalā, having filled the pitcher with water, approached the Bhagavan").

²⁴ The *uddāna* consists of four eight-syllable lines; the poetic meter is octosyllabic *anustubh*.

²⁵ Slip of the pen: kacamgalā.

²⁶ Instead of *pravrajitā*.

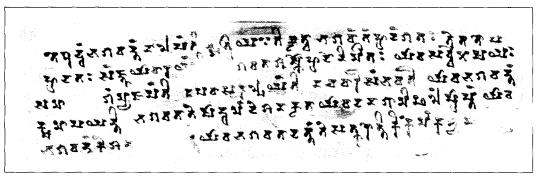


Fig. 4

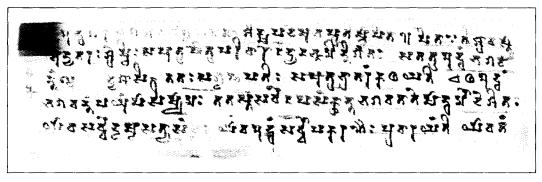


Fig. 5

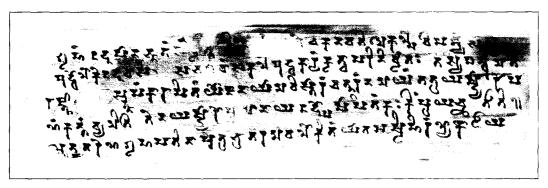


Fig. 6

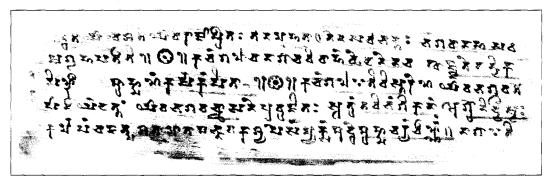


Fig. 7

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[28] In the manuscript — "yāva bhagavacchāsane ptavrajit[ā] sūtrāmta vibhaṃgikānāṃ agro nirdiṣṭaḥ"; in the Avadāna-śataka, II, p. 43, ll. 10—12: "kiṃ bhadanta kacangalayā karma kṛtaṃ yena vṛddhā pravrajitā … pravrajyā cārhattvaṃ sākṣat kṛtaṃ sūtrāntabibhagakartrīṇāṃ cāgrā nirdiṣṭā" ("How, noble person, is the karma of Kacaṃgalā, that in old age she undertook the ritual of initiation? …Received pravrajyā and arhatva. She is dubbed the first among the experts on sūtras and commentaries on them".

[29] In the *uddāna* (1. 2) the story has the same title.

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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. 20b, 19.0×5.0 cm.
- Fig. 2. The same manuscript, fol. [23a], 19.0×5.0 cm.
- Fig. 3. The same manuscript, fol. 23b, 19.0×5.0 cm.
- Fig. 4. The same manuscript, fol. [24a], 19.0×5.0 cm.
- Fig. 5. The same manuscript, fol. 24b, 19.0×5.0 cm.
- Fig. 6. The same manuscript, fol. [25a], 19.0×5.0 cm.
- Fig. 7. The same manuscript, fol. 25b, 19.0×5.0 cm.