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The Heart Mantra of Gaṇapati

Gaṇapatihṛdaya

འཕགས་པ་ཚོགས་ཀྱི་བདག་པོའི་སྙིང་པོ།

'phags pa tshogs kyi bdag po'i snying po

The Noble Heart Mantra of Gaṇapati

Āryagaṇapatihṛdaya



Toh 665
Degé Kangyur, vol. 91 (rgyud 'bum, ba), folios 192.b–193.a

Translated by the Dharmachakra Translation Committee
under the patronage and supervision of 84000: Translating the Words of the Buddha

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co.

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SUMMARY

- s.1 The Buddha teaches *The Heart Mantra of Gaṇapati* to Ānanda at Vulture Peak. He recites the mantra, then gives a brief account of the protective benefits accrued by its daily recitation.

ac.

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ac.1 This text was translated by the Dharmachakra Translation Committee under the supervision of Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche. The translation was produced by Adam Krug and then checked against the Tibetan and edited by Andreas Doctor.

ac.2 The translation was completed under the patronage and supervision of 84000: Translating the Words of the Buddha.

i.

INTRODUCTION

i.1

The Heart Mantra of Gaṇapati opens in Rājagṛha on Vulture Peak Mountain where the Buddha Śākyamuni is seated with a saṅgha of 1,250 monks and a great saṅgha of bodhisattvas. Śākyamuni addresses Ānanda and tells him of the benefits of upholding The heart mantra of Gaṇapati, recites the mantra, and explains the mantra's benefits and protective powers.

i.2

The Heart Mantra of Gaṇapati continues to play an integral role in the Newar Buddhist *Saptavāra* (lit. "Seven Days") tradition, where it is recited on Tuesday.¹ As a result, there are numerous extant versions of the text in Sanskrit manuscript collections of the *Saptavāra*. Yutaka Iwamoto published a Sanskrit edition of this text in 1939,² and a translation of this Sanskrit edition was later published in Robert Duquenne's article "Gaṇapati Rituals in Chinese."³ Iwamoto's annotations highlight the fact that the content of this text can vary from one witness to the next, and his edition demonstrates that his sources diverge significantly from the version of *The Heart Mantra of Gaṇapati* preserved in the Tibetan Kangyurs. Christopher Wilkinson has also published a study and translation of the version of this text preserved in the Tibetan Kangyurs in his chapter on "The Tantric Gaṇeśa: Texts Preserved in the Tibetan Canon."⁴

i.3

The title of this text appears in the Denkarma⁵ and Phangthangma⁶ royal Tibetan catalogs of translated works, which indicates that *The Heart Mantra of Gaṇapati* had been translated into Tibetan by the early ninth century. There is no independent work that bears the name *The Heart Mantra of Gaṇapati* in the Chinese canon, though it does contain at least twelve works dedicated to Gaṇapati. The earliest of these is found in Atikūṭa's translation of the "Compendium of Dhāraṇīs" (Taishō 901)⁷ completed in 654 CE, and Amoghavajra's version of the same collection (Taishō 1266),⁸ completed between 746 and 774 CE. However, neither these nor the works on Gaṇapati that would later be translated into Chinese appear to match the Tibetan translation of *The Heart Mantra of Gaṇapati*.⁹

i.4 In the Degé Kangyur this text appears in both the Tantra Collection (*rgyud 'bum*, Toh 665) and the Compendium of Dhāraṇīs (*gzungs 'dus*, Toh 1084). This translation is based on both witnesses of *The Heart Mantra of Gaṇapati* preserved in the Degé Kangyur in consultation with the Comparative Edition (*dpe bsdur ma*) and the Stok Palace Kangyur. Yutaka Iwamoto's Sanskrit edition of the *Gaṇapatihṛdaya* was consulted in some cases to clarify the Sanskrit terminology underlying the Tibetan translation.

The Noble Heart Mantra of Gaṇapati

1.

The Translation

[F.192.b]

1.1 Homage to all buddhas and bodhisattvas.

Thus did I hear at one time. The Blessed One was dwelling at Rājagṛha on Vulture Peak Mountain with a great saṅgha of one thousand two hundred fifty monks as well as bodhisattvas who were all great beings. The Blessed One told venerable Ānanda, “Ānanda, when beings uphold the following heart mantra¹⁰ of Gaṇapati, Lord of the Gaṇas, all their endeavors will succeed.¹¹ By upholding it, they will accomplish their goal and all their mantras will be effective.

1.2 *tadyathā | namo 'stu te¹² mahāgaṇapataye svāhā |*

1.3 *oṃ kaṭa kaṭa maṭa maṭa dara dara vidara vidara hana hana gṛhṇa gṛhṇa dhāva dhāva
bhañja bhañja stambha stambha jambha jambha moha moha dehi dehi dāpaya
dāpaya dhādhānyaṃ siddhiṃ me prayaccha | | [F.193.a] samayam anusmara
mahārudravacanīye svāhā |*

1.4 *oṃ kuru kuru svāhā |*

1.5 *oṃ turu turu¹³ svāhā |*

1.6 *oṃ muru muru svāhā |*

1.7 *oṃ pāpaśāntivasuṣṭiṃ kuru svāhā |*

1.8 *amṛta¹⁴bindukṣubhitacittamahāvidāraḥ samāgacchati mahābhaya mahābala
mahāparākrama¹⁵ mahāhasti mahādakṣiṇāya¹⁶ pravedayāmi¹⁷ svāhā |*

1.9 *tadyathā oṃ kuru kuru curu curu muru muru |*

1.10 *oṃ gaḥ gaḥ gaḥ gaḥ gaḥ gaḥ gaḥ gaḥ |*

- 1.11 *oṃ namo namaḥ svāhā* |¹⁸
- 1.12 “Ānanda, if any sons of good family, daughters of good family, monks, nuns, male lay practitioners, or female lay practitioners, who write down this heart mantra of Gaṇapati, Lord of the Gaṇas, and perform the mantra practice, travel to another country to make offerings to the Three Jewels, or travel to a king’s court,¹⁹ they should read this Gaṇapati heart mantra while making offerings to the blessed buddhas with flowers and incense, and all their endeavors will succeed—let there be no doubt! If they recollect it when they are in the midst of all manner of fighting, arguing, strife, and regional conflict, it will all be pacified. If they recite it every morning when they get up, they will retain what they have learned. It will expel yakṣas, rākṣasas, and dākinīs, and these will no longer steal their vital energy.”
- 1.13 When the Blessed One said this, the entire retinue and the world with its gods, humans, asuras, and gandharvas rejoiced and praised what the Blessed One had said.
- 1.14 *This concludes “The Noble Heart Mantra of Gaṇapati.”*

ab.

ABBREVIATIONS

- C Choné (*co ne*)
- D Degé (*sde dge bka' 'gyur*)
- H Lhasa (*lha sa/zhol*)
- J Lithang (*li thang*)
- K Kanxi (*kang shi*)
- N Narthang (*snar thang*)
- S Stok Palace (*stog pho 'brang*)
- U Urga (*phyi sog khu re*)
- Y Yongle (*g.yong lo*)

n.

NOTES

- n.1 Bühnemann 2014.
- n.2 *The Buddhist Canons Research Database*, accessed May 10, 2019.
- n.3 Duquenne 1988.
- n.4 Wilkinson 1991.
- n.5 Denkarma, 303.a.5. See also Herrmann-Pfandt 2008, pp. 236–37, no. 413.
- n.6 *dkar chag 'phang thang ma* (Pe cin: mi rigs dpe skrun khang, 2003), p. 30.
- n.7 Lancaster, Lewis R. *The Korean Buddhist Canon*, accessed May 10, 2019, http://www.acmuller.net/descriptive_catalogue/files/k0308.html (http://www.acmuller.net/descriptive_catalogue/files/k0308.html).
- n.8 Lancaster, Lewis R. *The Korean Buddhist Canon*, accessed May 10, 2019, http://www.acmuller.net/descriptive_catalogue/files/k1378.html (http://www.acmuller.net/descriptive_catalogue/files/k1378.html).
- n.9 This is evident in Duquenne 1988, pp. 321–54.
- n.10 Following Toh 665 and Toh 1084: *tshogs kyi bdag po tshogs kyi dbang phyug gi snying po*, and S: *tshogs kyi bdag po/ tshogs kyi dbang phyug gi snying po*, where the term “heart mantra” (*snying po*) is rendered in the singular case. Iwamoto: *imāni gaṇapatihṛdayāni*, may be preferable, however, because it declines the term “heart mantra” in the plural (Skt. *hṛdayāni*), and the passage that follows this introduction does in fact consist of a series of individual mantras.
- n.11 This translation of the phrase *las thams cad* has been left broad enough here to include any activity, but in most cases this statement primarily refers to *las/karma* in its more technical sense as “ritual action.”

- n.12 Following Iwamoto: *namo 'stu te*, which includes the *avagraha* that is missing in the Tibetan witnesses.
- n.13 Following Toh 1084: *tu ru tu ru*. Toh 665 and S: *su ru su ru*. The Sanskrit of the heart mantra in Iwamoto reflects the transmission of a different textual tradition, but it is worth noting that Iwamoto arranges three similar lines of mantra as *oṃ suru suru svāhā | oṃ turu turu svāhā | oṃ muru muru svāhā |*.
- n.14 The readings in Toh 665 and Toh 1084, *oM ang+gu ta*; the readings in N, H, and S, *oM a b+hu ta*; and the reading in Iwamoto, *oṃ adbhuta*, are amended here to reflect the reading **amṛtabindu*. The readings *adbhuta* and *aṅguta* in the Tibetan witnesses and in Iwamoto are likely corruptions of the term *amṛta*, as the orthographies for this term in the Sanskrit sources could easily have been misread as either of these two options.
- n.15 Following N, H, and S: *ma hA pa rA kra ma*, which is supported in Iwamoto: *mahāparākramāya*. Toh 665 and Toh 1084: *ma ha pa ra kra ma*.
- n.16 Following H, S: *ma hA dak+Shi NA ya*. Toh 665 and Toh 1084: *ma hA dak+Shi Ni ya*. Iwamoto: *mahāhastidhakṣiṇāya*.
- n.17 The transliteration of the verb in Toh 665 and Toh 1084, *pra ci da ya mi*, has been corrected from *pra+√cid* to *pra+√vid* and the spelling has been amended to reflect the correct causative form.
- n.18 The following is a tentative English translation of *The Heart Mantra of Gaṇapati*:

Homage to Great Gaṇapati *svāhā*

Oṃ surround surround(?); intoxicate intoxicate(?); split split; cleave cleave; strike strike; seize seize; advance advance; rout rout; paralyze paralyze; crush crush; stupefy stupefy; give give; make them give make them give money and grain. Grant me *siddhi*. Remember the *samaya*! To the great Rudravacana, *svāhā*

Oṃ do it do it *svāhā*

Oṃ hurry hurry *svāhā*

Oṃ kill kill(?) *svāhā*

Oṃ pacify misdeeds and increase wealth *svāhā*

Approach, great destroyer whose mind is stimulated by the ambrosial drops. Great Fearless One, Great Powerful One, Great Attacker, Great Elephant, I address this to you Great Clever One *svāhā*

Oṃ do it, do it; take take(?); kill kill(?)

Oṃ gaḥ gaḥ gaḥ gaḥ gaḥ gaḥ gaḥ gaḥ

Oṃ svāhā

- n.19 Following Toh 665 and Toh 1084: *gsang sngags sgrub pa/dkon mchog gsum mchod du yul gzhan du 'gro'am/rgyal po'i pho brang 'khor du 'jug na*. S, N, H: *gsang sngags bsgrubs pas/dkon mchog gsum mchod du yul gzhan du 'gro'am/rgyal po'i pho brang 'khor du 'jug na*. Iwamoto: *yaḥ kaścit kāryaṃ ālabhate mantrasādhanaṃ vā tri-ratnapūjāṃ vā deśāntaragamaṇaṃ vā rājakulagamaṇaṃ vā*. The alternative readings noted here are equally plausible. The reading in the Stok Palace, Narthang, and Lhasa Kangyurs translates, “[i]f any ... writes down this heart mantra of Gaṇapati, Lord of the Gaṇas, and has accomplished the mantra practice should travel to another country to make offerings to the Three Jewels or travel to a king’s court.” The Sanskrit witness in Iwamoto’s edition translates as “who endeavors to perform the mantra practice, make offerings to the Three Jewels, travel to another country, or go to a king’s court.”

b.

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GLOSSARY

· Types of attestation for names and terms of the corresponding ·
source language

AS	<i>Attested in source text</i> This term is attested in a manuscript used as a source for this translation.
AO	<i>Attested in other text</i> This term is attested in other manuscripts with a parallel or similar context.
AD	<i>Attested in dictionary</i> This term is attested in dictionaries matching Tibetan to the corresponding language.
AA	<i>Approximate attestation</i> The attestation of this name is approximate. It is based on other names where the relationship between the Tibetan and source language is attested in dictionaries or other manuscripts.
RP	<i>Reconstruction from Tibetan phonetic rendering</i> This term is a reconstruction based on the Tibetan phonetic rendering of the term.
RS	<i>Reconstruction from Tibetan semantic rendering</i> This term is a reconstruction based on the semantics of the Tibetan translation.
SU	<i>Source Unspecified</i> This term has been supplied from an unspecified source, which most often is a widely trusted dictionary.

g.1 Ānanda

kun dga' bo

ཀུན་དགའ་བོ།

ānanda^{AS}

Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:

A major śrāvaka disciple and personal attendant of the Buddha Śākyamuni during the last twenty-five years of his life. He was a cousin of the Buddha (according to the *Mahāvastu*, he was a son of Śuklodana, one of the brothers of King Śuddhodana, which means he was a brother of Devadatta; other sources say he was a son of Amṛtodana, another brother of King Śuddhodana, which means he would have been a brother of Aniruddha).

Ānanda, having always been in the Buddha's presence, is said to have memorized all the teachings he heard and is celebrated for having recited all the Buddha's teachings by memory at the first council of the Buddhist saṅgha, thus preserving the teachings after the Buddha's parinirvāṇa. The phrase "Thus did I hear at one time," found at the beginning of the sūtras, usually stands for his recitation of the teachings. He became a patriarch after the passing of Mahākāśyapa.

g.2 ḍākinī

mkha' 'gro ma

མཁའ་འགྲོ་མ།

ḍākinī^{AS}

Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:

A class of powerful nonhuman female beings who play a variety of roles in Indic literature in general and Buddhist literature specifically. Essentially synonymous with yoginīs, ḍākinīs are liminal and often dangerous beings who can be propitiated to acquire both mundane and transcendent spiritual accomplishments. In the higher Buddhist tantras, ḍākinīs are often considered embodiments of awakening and feature prominently in tantric maṇḍalas.

g.3 Gaṇapati

tshogs kyi bdag po

ཚོགས་ཀྱི་བདག་པོ།

gaṇapati^{AS}

The name of the elephant-headed deity also commonly known as Ganeśa. Gaṇapati is as much a part of the Buddhist pantheon as the Hindu pantheon with which the deity is more commonly associated.

g.4 heart mantra

snying po

སྟིང་པོ།

hṛdaya^{AS}

A term that is often used to signify the most important or central mantra of a certain deity.

g.5 Lord of the Gaṇas

tshogs kyi dbang phyug

ཚོགས་ཀྱི་དབང་ཕྱུག

gaṇeśa ^{AS}

The name of the elephant-headed deity who is also commonly known as Gaṇapati. Gaṇapati is as much a part of the Buddhist pantheon as the Hindu pantheon with which the deity is more commonly associated.

g.6 Rājagṛha

rgyal po'i khab

རྒྱལ་པོའི་ཁབ།

rājagṛha ^{AS}

Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:

The ancient capital of Magadha prior to its relocation to Pāṭaliputra during the Mauryan dynasty, Rājagṛha is one of the most important locations in Buddhist history. The literature tells us that the Buddha and his saṅgha spent a considerable amount of time in residence in and around Rājagṛha—in nearby places, such as the Vulture Peak Mountain (Gṛdhrakūṭaparvata), a major site of the Mahāyāna sūtras, and the Bamboo Grove (Veṇuvana)—enjoying the patronage of King Bimbisāra and then of his son King Ajātaśatru. Rājagṛha is also remembered as the location where the first Buddhist monastic council was held after the Buddha Śākyamuni passed into parinirvāṇa. Now known as Rajgir and located in the modern Indian state of Bihar.

g.7 rākṣasa

srin po

སྲིན་པོ།

rākṣasa ^{AS}

Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:

A class of nonhuman beings that are often, but certainly not always, considered demonic in the Buddhist tradition. They are often depicted as flesh-eating monsters who haunt frightening places and are ugly and evil-natured with a yearning for human flesh, and who additionally have miraculous powers, such as being able to change their appearance.

g.8 vital energy

mdangs

མདངས།

ojas ^{AS}

A term for vitality, strength, and vigor. It is widely believed that this vital energy can be targeted and stolen by various classes of demonic beings, causing a person to experience mental and physical decline.

g.9 **Vulture Peak Mountain**

bya rgod kyi phung po'i ri

བྱ་རྫོང་གྱི་ཕུང་པོའི་རི།

gṛdhrakūṭaparvata ^{AS}

Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:

The Gṛdhrakūṭa, literally Vulture Peak, was a hill located in the kingdom of Magadha, in the vicinity of the ancient city of Rājagṛha (modern-day Rajgir, in the state of Bihar, India), where the Buddha bestowed many sūtras, especially the Great Vehicle teachings, such as the Prajñāpāramitā sūtras. It continues to be a sacred pilgrimage site for Buddhists to this day.

g.10 **yakṣa**

gnod sbyin

གནོད་སྦྱིན།

yakṣa ^{AS}

Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:

A class of nonhuman beings who inhabit forests, mountainous areas, and other natural spaces, or serve as guardians of villages and towns, and may be propitiated for health, wealth, protection, and other boons, or controlled through magic. According to tradition, their homeland is in the north, where they live under the jurisdiction of the Great King Vaiśravaṇa.

Several members of this class have been deified as gods of wealth (these include the just-mentioned Vaiśravaṇa) or as bodhisattva generals of yakṣa armies, and have entered the Buddhist pantheon in a variety of forms, including, in tantric Buddhism, those of wrathful deities.

