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**A Mantra for Incanting Medicines, Extracted
from “Destroyer of the Great Trichiliocosm”**



Toh 1059
Degé Kangyur, vol. 101 (gzungs 'dus, waM), folios 189.b–190.a

Translated by Catherine Dalton
under the patronage and supervision of 84000: Translating the Words of the Buddha

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co.

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SUMMARY

s.

s.1 This text consists of a short mantra for incanting medicines that has been extracted from *Destroyer of the Great Trichiliocosm* (Toh 558).¹

ac.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ac.1 This text was translated and introduced by Catherine Dalton and edited by members of the 84000 editorial team.

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

i.

INTRODUCTION

i.1

This text gives a short mantra for incanting medicines that has been extracted from *Destroyer of the Great Trichiliocosm* (Toh 558), one of a set of five scriptures portrayed in Mahāyāna Buddhist traditions as five goddesses known as the Pañcarakṣā—the “Five Protectresses.” In the Tibetan tradition this set of texts is known as the “Five Great Dhāraṇīs” (*gzungs chen po lnga*).² In *Destroyer of the Great Trichiliocosm*, it is said that the medicine should first be given to the sick person, who faces toward the east, and then the mantra should be placed in the palm of their hand and chanted.³ Although the mantra, as it appears here, is very similar to the mantra in *Destroyer of the Great Trichiliocosm*, the two are not identical. The mantra given here diverges from the one in *Destroyer of the Great Trichiliocosm* by including a short supplication in Tibetan translation that is set in between the mantra and the concluding word *svāhā*. This supplication is also included in *Destroyer of the Great Trichiliocosm*, but there it follows immediately after the full mantra.

i.2

The text lacks both a Sanskrit title and a translator’s colophon, which in addition to the fact that the title states it has been extracted from *Destroyer of the Great Trichiliocosm*, suggests that the text took its present form in Tibet rather than in India. It is therefore not surprising that the mantra does not appear as an independent scripture in Sanskrit or in Chinese translation, although the five texts in the Pañcarakṣā collection are extant in both Sanskrit and in Chinese translation. *A Mantra for Incanting Medicines, Extracted from “Destroyer of the Great Trichiliocosm”* also does not appear in either the Denkarma or Phangtangma imperial catalogs of Tibetan translations, or among the scriptures found at Dunhuang. Its source text, *Destroyer of the Great Trichiliocosm*, does, however, appear in both imperial catalogs, as well as among the scriptures found at Dunhuang, and it was translated by the imperial-period translator Yeshé Dé in collaboration with the Indian paṇḍitas Śilendrabodhi, Jñānasiddhi, and Śākyaprabha.

i.3 This text is included in the Compendium of Dhāraṇīs section of the Degé Kangyur and other Tshalpa-lineage Kangyurs that include a separate Dhāraṇī section.⁴ In Tshalpa-lineage Kangyurs that lack a separate dhāraṇī collection, the text is found in the Tantra section, but only in the collection of dhāraṇīs that comprises part of the Tantra section. It is not included in any Thempangma-lineage Kangyurs.⁵ Notably, the dhāraṇī is one of only fifteen works in the Compendium of Dhāraṇīs section that are not duplicated in other sections of the Kangyur. It therefore appears that these fifteen texts found their way into the Tshalpa-lineage Kangyurs specifically because they were part of the Compendium of Dhāraṇīs, which most likely was compiled based on earlier collections of dhāraṇīs and associated ritual texts.⁶ These collections, known in Sanskrit as *dhāraṇīsāṅgraha*, circulated throughout South Asia and Tibet—including at Dunhuang—as extracanonical dhāraṇī collections.⁷

i.4 This English translation of *A Mantra for Incanting Medicines, Extracted from “Destroyer of the Great Trichiliocosm”* was made on the basis of the Degé Kangyur recension, with additional reference to the notes from the Comparative Edition (*dpe sdur ma*). We also compared the mantra against that in *Destroyer of the Great Trichiliocosm*; as noted above, there were some minor variations. We did not edit the mantra from the present work on the basis of the mantra found in *Destroyer of the Great Trichiliocosm*, but have included that version in the notes to the translation.

**A Mantra for Incanting Medicines, Extracted from
“Destroyer of the Great Trichiliocosm.”**

1.

The Translation

[F.189.b]

1.1 Homage to the Three Jewels!

1.2 *syād yathedam khaṭe khaṭe khaṭavikhaṭe cale vicalē vilamde bale balavate candre
caraṇe amṛtanirghoṣe*

May all diseases of wind, bile, phlegm, and their combination be pacified
*svāhā.*⁸

1.3 Incant the medicine of a sick person with this. [F.190.a]

1.4 *This completes “Mantra for Incanting Medicines, Extracted from ‘Destroyer of the
Great Trichiliocosm.’”*

n.

NOTES

- n.1 Dharmacakra Translation Committee, trans., *Destroyer of the Great Trichiliocosm* (<http://read.84000.co/translation/toh558.html>), Toh 558 (84000: Translating the Words of the Buddha, 2016).
- n.2 See the [introduction](#) to Toh 558 for further details about this tantra and the Pañcarakṣā collection.
- n.3 Dharmacakra Translation Committee, trans., *Destroyer of the Great Trichiliocosm*, Toh 558 (2021), [1,299](#).
- n.4 An explicitly named Compendium of Dhāraṇīs section is found in the Degé and Urga Kangyurs as well as in the peripheral Kangyurs of the Tshalpa lineage (Dodedrak, Phajoding, and Ragya). In contrast, the Berlin, Choné, Lithang, and Peking Qianlong Kangyurs include the same collection of dhāraṇīs in a separate part of their Tantra sections, which have no distinct label. With or without the label, these collections of dhāraṇīs contain many duplicates of texts also found in the General Sūtra or Tantra sections, and in the latter group of Kangyurs many dhāraṇī texts therefore appear twice in different parts of the Tantra section.
- n.5 The Qianlong, Choné, and Lithang Kangyurs contain two recensions of this text, with identical titles, both included in the Tantra (*rgyud*) section of these Kangyurs. The two recensions in the Qianlong Kangyur (Q 268 and Q 684) are identical apart from two minor orthographic differences in the mantra. Presumably the same is the case with the recensions in the Choné and Lithang Kangyurs, but we have not verified this.
- n.6 Hidas notes a remark by Orosz that the Degé Kangyur catalog (*dkar chag*) identifies the source of the Compendium of Dhāraṇīs as the extracanonical collection edited by Tārānātha (Hidas 2021, p. 7, n. 56).

- n.7 See J. Dalton 2016 and J. Dalton and van Schaik 2006 on the *dhāraṇīsāṅgraha* collections preserved at Dunhuang, which, like the canonical collection, contain praises and prayers as well as dhāraṇīs. See Hidas 2021 for the catalogs of eighteen *dhāraṇīsāṅgraha* collections surviving in Sanskrit.
- n.8 This varies slightly from the mantra as it is given in the tantra *Destroyer of the Great Trichiliocosm*. The mantra there is *syād yathedam khaṭe khaṭe khaṭe khaṭevikhaṭi vimale vilambe bale balavati candre caraṇe amṛtanirghoṣe svāhā* | (Destroyer of the Great Trichiliocosm, folio 81.a.; see also Dharmachakra Translation Committee 2021, [1.300](#)).

b.

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GLOSSARY

· Types of attestation for Sanskrit names and terms ·

| | |
|----|---|
| AS | <i>Attested in source text</i> This term is attested in the Sanskrit manuscript used as a source for this translation. |
| AO | <i>Attested in other text</i> This term is attested in other Sanskrit manuscripts of the Kangyur or Tengyur. |
| AD | <i>Attested in dictionary</i> This term is attested in Tibetan-Sanskrit dictionaries. |
| AA | <i>Approximate attestation</i> The attestation of this name is approximate. It is based on other names where Tibetan-Sanskrit relationship 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 Jñānasiddhi

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jñānasiddhi

An Indian paṇḍita who was resident in Tibet during the late eighth and early ninth centuries.

g.2 Śākyaprabha

—

—

śākyaprabha

An Indian paṇḍita who was resident in Tibet during the late eighth and early ninth centuries.

g.3 Śīlendrabodhi

—

—

śīlendrabodhi

An Indian paṇḍita who was resident in Tibet during the late eighth and early ninth centuries.

g.4 Three Jewels

dkon mchog gsum

དཀོན་མཆོག་གསུམ།

triratna

The Buddha, Dharma, and Saṅgha—the three objects of Buddhist refuge. In the Tibetan rendering, “the three rare and supreme ones.”

g.5 Yeshé Dé

ye shes sde

ཡེ་ཤེས་སྡེ།

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Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:

Yeshé Dé (late eighth to early ninth century) was the most prolific translator of sūtras into Tibetan. Altogether he is credited with the translation of more than one hundred sixty sūtra translations and more than one hundred additional translations, mostly on tantric topics. In spite of Yeshé Dé’s great importance for the propagation of Buddhism in Tibet during the imperial era, only a few biographical details about this figure are known. Later sources describe him as a student of the Indian teacher Padmasambhava, and he is also credited with teaching both sūtra and tantra widely to students of his own. He was also known as Nanam Yeshé Dé, from the Nanam (*sna nam*) clan.

