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A Sanskrit Manuscript on Birch-Bark from Bairam-Ali. II. Avadāna and Jātaka (Part 6)

Although there are no concrete indications, it appears that the avadānas and jātakas that make up this section of the manuscript follow the ideas expressed by the Buddha in the Saṅghabhādevāvastu, focusing on the chapter in which the Buddha expresses his concern for his subjects and discusses the ways of the righteous ("Solicitudes of the Buddha") [1]. Setting out for Rājagṛha for the season of rains, he invites his relatives and the followers of the teaching, for he has a presentiment that without him Devadatta will cause a schism in the community. This is, in fact, what happened. At that point, Sāriputra and Maudgalyāyana went to the Buddha and asked him to return and preach a sermon on the four meritorious men. The Buddha complied with their request, saying that a meritorious man should first erect a stūpa, placing holy relics connected with the Buddha in the foundation; or he should take care of a stūpa, adorning it with flowers, bringing holy water, etc. Secondly, he who has grasped the Teaching of the Buddha should spread it to the four corners of the earth. Thirdly — and this would appear to be the most important precept in this group of tales — he should put an end to conflicts within the community. Finally, he should, with an open heart, with hostility toward no one, without rivalry, without causing harm, performing the ritual of upasampada, live in a community, abide by its rules, and follow all precepts and rituals (including timely departure for the season of rains period with all other members of the community).

FOL. [19a]

TRANSLITERATION

1. [puṭṭ](ā)rya tataḥ tena janena bhagavato mahāpūjā krīta bhūṃjāpito ca bhagavān tā¹ tādrī
2. dharmadesānam krītā te yamāhāyena² satye pratiṣṭhāpitā gopabhārāyā bhagavān bhūṃjāpitāh
3. saḍôdṛṣṭasatyā samvritā pūrvavayaṃ sarve kāśyape sanyaksambuddhe upāsakaḥ āsit³
4. vavasyā iti sambhula vavasyā nṛtyamānā gāyamānā ca vividhāir vādyā⁴ vīṣeyai-
5. rannagārāniśkramaṇit bhagavāṃś ca pravisati te⁵ prasāda-jātā vividhāir vādyair nṛtyaṃ tā tāvadeva

TRANSLATION[1]

1. …for veneration. Then this man solemnly honoured the Bhagavān, Bhagavān was satisfied [with this veneration]. In this fashion
2. those [who took part in the veneration] almost entirely [2] grasped the dharma. The wife of a shepherd [also] become grounded in the truth. Bhagavān was satisfied.
3. That [shepherd’s wife] gained [the four noble] truths. In an earlier incarnation during the time of the completely enlightened Kāśyapa, she was upāsikā.


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1 Instead of te?
2 Instead of yadābhāyena, see BHSD, p. 444.
3 * is used to show the sign of avagraha.
4 Instead of vividhāir vādyair.
5 Instead of tā (we find here the signs of text's correcting).

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