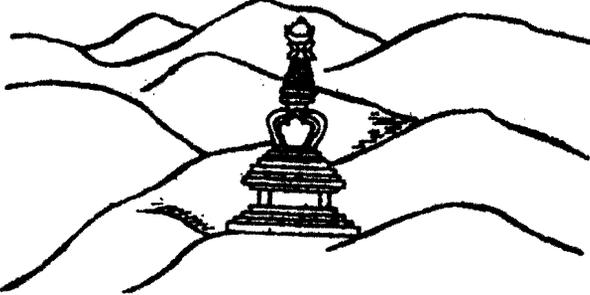


BULLETIN OF TIBETOLOGY



(SPECIAL VOLUME ON SHARIPUTRA AND MAUDGALYAYANA)

NEW SERIES

1997

NUMBER 3

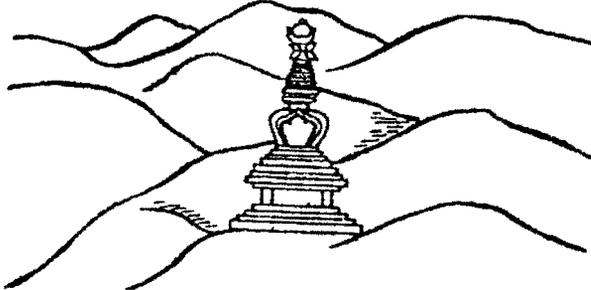
**SIKKIM RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TIBETOLOGY
GANGTOK, SIKKIM.**

The Bulletin of Tibetology seeks to serve the specialist as well as the general reader with an interest in this field of study. The motif portraying the stupa on the mountains suggests the dimensions of the field.

**Compiled by:
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(Research Officer)**

**Translated by:
Thupten Tenzing
(Research Assistant)**

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CONTENTS

	Page
1. Foreword	1
2. Preface	2
3. འཕགས་པ་གྲུ་རིའི་བུའི་རྣམ་ཐར་མདོར་བསྟུས།	3
4. མོ་འུ་འགལ་གྱི་བུའི་རྣམ་ཐར་མདོར་བསྟུས།	8
5. འཕགས་པ་གྲུ་རིའི་བུ་དང་འཕགས་པ་མོ་འུ་འགལ་གྱི་བུ་གཉིས་ ཁྱིམ་ནས་ཁྱིམ་མེད་པར་རབ་ཏུ་བྱུང་བའི་ལོ་རྒྱུས།	9
6. འཕགས་པ་གྲུ་རིའི་བུ་དང་མོ་འུ་འགལ་གྱི་བུ་གཉིས་ ཟུང་ན་ལས་འདས་པའི་ལོ་རྒྱུས།	19
1. The compiled works from Tibetan sources.	
2. Biography of Shariputra	24
3. Biography of Maha-Maudgalyayana	27
4. The Renunciation of household life and embracing monkhood by Shariputra and Maha-Maudgalyayana.	28
5. The attainment of Nirvana by Shariputra and MahaMaudgalyayana.	35

Bibliography:

FOREWORD

The present book is the outcome of the Research Project undertaken by the Sikkim Research Institute of Tibetology, Gangtok, to encourage the systematic research in the cultural aspects of Sikkim and Buddhism. In view of above, SRIT has already organised occasional Seminar and Symposium in recent years.

The compilation of the Life and Teachings of Shariputra and Maha-Maudgalyayana in present paper is mostly from Mdo(Sutra) and 'Dul-Ba(Vinaya). It is well-known that these are translation from Sanskrit version of Mula-Sarvastivada School.

So far Buddhist Publication Society, Sri Lanka in two series of Publication (The Wheel and Bodhi Leaves Serials) published the Life of the above stated Arhats. They are held in high esteem by the Theravada-Mahayana followers of Buddhism. Sri Lanka Publications are from Pali canonical and non-canonical literature.

Shariputra and Maha-Maudgalyayana during Buddha, were held as Vinaya-dhara/The Great exponent of Vinaya and Dharma-dhara/The Master of Metaphysics and doctrine. Even, we find their names and dialogues occur in vast Mahayana scriptures like (i) Prajna-Paramita, (ii) Divya-avadana, (iii) Sukhavati-vyuha, (iv) Mahavyutpatti, (v) Saddharmapundarika Sutra, (vi) Sali-stamba-Sutra etc.

The present compilation is a humble attempts of one of the Research Officer Acharya Samten Gyatso Lepcha of SRIT for the first time from Tibetan source. He proposed to give a comprehensive dissertation on the same theme at a later stage. I appreciate Research Assistant, Shri Thupten Tenzing for translating the work.

I hope this volume will highlight so far unknown data on the theme and will be appreciated in the scholarly world.

**Tashi Tobden, IAS
DIRECTOR**

PREFACE

The Sikkim Research Institute of Tibetology abounds in various works (canonical and non-canonical) of Buddha, ancient Buddhist masters, scholars and learned man in Tibetan languages which indeed became a treasure house for the western , oriental and occidental world researchers and other devout practitioners. As such, the effort has been made to compile the works of academic value and other interesting subjects and thereafter to translate the same into English for broader benefit of the interested non-Tibetan practitioners and researchers in the field of Buddhism.

The book "Biographies of Shariputra and Maha-Maudgalyayana" in Tibetan with English translation is first of its kind to have emerged from this Institute. The main characters, the Sdhariputra and Maudgalyayana, the former excelled in wisdom whereas the latter was skilled in miraculous arts respectively were two exceptional and closest disciples of Lord Buddha. Such possession of distinct qualification had made them renowned and attained supremacy among the Hinayana (Theravada) followers. This book imparts their individual's concise biography, renunciation of household and embracing monkhood and the manner of attainment of Nirvana-the salvation mostly from Tibetan sources.

This will immensely contribute for the furtherance of knowledge from Tibetan source which was so far known only in Pali and Sanskrit works of Buddhism.

Sonam Gyatso Dokhanm
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR