### A PILGRIM'S GUIDE TO THE HIDDEN LAND OF SIKKIM<sup>1</sup> PROCLAIMED AS A TREASURE BY RIG 'DZIN RGOD KYI LDEM'PHRU CAN

with English translation and introduction by MARTIN J BOORD

#### Introduction

The text presented hereunder lists the sacred topological features encountered as one reaches the gateway from Tibet into the 'Hidden Land' (sbas yul) of Sikkim. Revealed as a symbolic treasure text (gter ma) in Sikkim itself by a descendant of the story's main protagonist, it was transcribed into human language and propagated by the gter ston dNgos grub rgyal mtshan (1337-1408), one of the great masters of the rNying ma tradition of guhyamantra and founder of the Byang gter (Northern Treasures) school of Tibet. Said to be the reincarnation of sNa nam rdo rje bdud 'joms, a close disciple of the Indian tantric master Padmasambhava and uncle of the 8th century Tibetan emperor Khri Srong Ide'u btsan, dNgos grub rgyal mtshan was born in northern La stod as the son of a tantric yogin. Upon his body were seen many auspicious marks including sacred seed-syllables and black and white moles upon his head. When he was just 11 years old, three feathery growths appeared on the top of his head and when he was 23 there were five. Because these growths looked like the feathers of a vulture he became known as rGod kyi Idem 'phru can, 'the One with Vulture's Feathers'. Being a master of Buddhist Dharma, he also rose to prominence as rig 'dzin chen po (mahāvidydhara), and this is the title which has been held ever since by each of his successive incarnations.<sup>2</sup>

Rig 'dzin rgod ldem is furthermore famed for his discovery of the 'Seven Hidden Lands', earthly paradises in which people could live happily in the peaceful pursuit of Dharma.<sup>3</sup> Having opened the door to Sikkim, he is said to have worked countless miracles here and blessed

<sup>2</sup> For a biographical outline of Rig 'dzin rgod Idem and an account of his lineage, see M. Boord, The Cult of the Deity Vajrakīla, Tring, 1993.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Edited from a blockprint produced at Hūrh ri dgon, obtained in Sikkim in 1994. Work on this project was carried out thanks to a generous award from the Stein-Arnold Exploration Fund administered by The British Academy (1993).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> In his article Khembalung, the hidden valley, Johan Reinhard lists the Seven Hidden Lands as: Khumbu, Helambu, Rongshar, Lapchi, Dolpo, Nubri and Sikkim.

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dPa' bo hūm ri and the White Rock Cave of bKra shis lding as powerful places for meditation. In later years, his reincarnation also took out a treasure text from the cave at Lha ri snying po, to the north of bKra shis lding. The Chronicle of the rulers of Sikkim describes a local cult dedicated to the holy mountain Gangs chen mdzod lnga as contained in the work of a later Byang gter gter ston, Shes rab me 'bar. Sacred dances in honour of the deities residing on the five peaks of that mountain are annually performed by royal command on the full moon day of the seventh Tibetan month, and Rig 'dzin rgod ldem himself recovered further gter ma from the central peak. This secondary revelation was in the form of images: one of Padmasambhava in wrathful guise and one of the goddess mThing kha. Letters announcing these discoveries were dispatched to Tibet suspended from the necks of vultures.

Apart from the gter ma which he himself revealed, Rig 'dzin rgod ldem held the key to other lists of hiding places, and was thus instrumental in the unearthing of many more texts and powerful cult objects. According to the text below, one such treasure, which encapsulates the message of all 84,000 doors of Dharma, is revealed to be hidden on the mountain of Maitreya behind Guru bla mtsho, the oracular lake of Padmasambhava in the area of Chorten Nyima.

Rig 'dzin rgod Idem attained the rainbow body, passing away at the age of 71 in Zil gnon, on the neighbouring ridge to bKra shis lding, in male earth mouse year 1408.

Presented here is one of the texts propagated by Rig 'dzin rgod ldem which deals with the gateway area from Tibet into the Hidden Land of northwest Sikkim, an area of unrivalled scenic beauty and richly fertile soil known nowadays as Chorten Nyima. This name also refers to a mountain range of 14 peaks, to the highest peak along that range, to the general area and to a particular monastery. Chorten Nyima is an extremely active pilgrimage centre, with up to 100 pilgrims or more arriving from Tibet per day, and there is a retreat hermitage for one dozen or so nuns to the west. The three cliff-top stūpas mentioned in the text are the pilgrims' focal point, but of almost equal importance are the three sky-burial sites and the medicinal springs renowned for their eight attributes of pure water, which are now bottled and marketed in Tibet as 'Chorten Nyima Mineral Water'. The upper storey of the assembly hall in the local temple contains images of Hayagrīva and Mañjughosa, as well as a small spontaneously manifest phur pa engraved with an image of Hayagrīva. The rTa mgrin lha khang (Hayagrīva Temple) encloses the meditation cave of Padmasambhava in which are to be found four highly revered sacred stones, one of which is known as the Stomach of the Mother Goddess and another which bears the imprint of the guru's foot, supposedly impressed into the rock when he was just eight years old. Popular folklore cites Chorten Nyima as the destination for all those who need to be purified of the sin of incest. A two-day circumambulation route of the area comprises the glacial oracular life-spirit lakes of the great guru and his consort. Our text speaks of a lake 'of the trinity of Gold, Coral and Conch' which may be three local spirits, or may be a reference to treasures held within the lake's gift. Its companion lake is unequivocally identified in our text as possessing oracular qualities. Most of the events related in our text are well-known to the pilgrims who visit the place, although in somewhat naive form. Our text makes explicit, for example, that the central player in the historical drama of the site was a simple vak herder recognized as the 'genuine embodiment' (sku dngos) or reincarnation of the famous monk Nam mkha'i snying po. Local tradition, however, believes Nam mkha'i snying po himself to have meditated here. The numerous springs of the area are known locally as Phyag phreng brgya dang brgyad, 'The 108 Rosary [Beads],' and are believed to have sprung from the actual beads of the guru's rosary, not from his words as stated in our text.

The three sky-burial grounds that overlook the monastery do, indeed, contain the extraordinary features of an unusual rock formation, etc., mentioned in the text. Pilgrims climb up on to the ridge to the east of the monastery where they throw themselves down upon the sacred earth in order to mimic their own death and connect themselves bodily with the promise of higher rebirth spoken of in our text. They then leave behind them some token pieces of clothing, hair, fingernail cuttings and drops of blood, with which these sites abound.

On top of the opposite ridge, to the west of the monastery, is a large rock bearing the ubiquitous inscription OM MANI PADME HUM, beneath which is a short tunnel with a narrow opening. Known as the sDig pa dkar nag, it indicates a black, through shades of grey, to white scale of sins, and it is believed that the degree of difficulty experienced by attempting to crawl through this passage is an indication of the state of one's karma. Could this be the rock of Samantabhadra that is mentioned in our text?

Just a short distance south of this, marked by a grove of prayerflags, is Gu ru sman chu, the spring of healing water created by Padmasambhava when he thrust his khatvänga staff into the ground.

#### 34 BULLETIN OF TIBETOLOGY

Iconographic and mythological details of the various local gods and spirits mentioned in the text are to be found in the prayer books used in monasteries throughout Sikkim.

জ্ঞ। । ई हे ले अदे चार अधिवा वार्श्य प्राप्त दे प्राप्त कवा प्राप्त क्षा ।

Herein is contained the guide to rDo rje nyi ma, a secret inventory

ल्ट्-त्र-दृश्चित्र-दृश्चित्र-त्र-दृश्च-त्र-तृश्च-तृश्च-त्र-तृश्च-तृश्च-त्र-तृश्च-तृश्च-त्र-तृश्च-

Homage to the Lord of the World (Lokeśvara). In the beginning, here, in this holy supreme field of those gone to bliss (sugata) who have attained the great stage of Vajradhara on the thirteenth bhūmi, inseparable from the hidden land of 'Bras ljongs (Fruitful Valley), 6 the best of all [places], the preeminent field of the supremely noble

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Blockprint reads ra'i.

Blockprint reads brtsun.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> 'Bras ljongs is also a proper name for the land of Sikkim.

Avalokitesvara, prophesied by the venerable Ārya Tārā and Indra, king of the gods, the holy supreme field in which Padmasambhava demonstrated his sovereignty on a hundred occasions, just before the time when the second buddha, the great ācārya of Oddiāyna himself, departed to the land of the rākṣasas (cannibal demons) in the southwest, a son was born through the power of former aspirations into the family of Hūm ri in Sikkim, and his father was the vidyādhara mThong mchog mthong grol. Outwardly he exhibited the characteristics of a herdsman. Inwardly he was a master of the Old School of guhyamantra, and at all times he continuously exerted himself reciting the propitiatory prayers of his chosen deity (istadevatā), Avalokiteśvara Mahākārunā.

नावनाः सना निका कुना कुना की है कि र देव का है। कि र ना क्षा की कि र कि ना की कि कि ना की की कि ना की की की की डिदः गायमा'समा'द्वस्य होत्र हों ज्ञसापर सें सेंर रदा समें वेंद्र या ददः दर्गेद हों हेसा स्देद श्रेन्द्राच्यान्त्रीकार्वेद्याचार्क्षवाकाः व्यासक्ष्यानुःस्न्र्याक्ष्याःस्वर्वेद्याःस्वर्वेद्याः **८८:इपु. १९४: वर्षे ११ वर्षे १** र्येदे श्वन्याना वया हा अनीव न्यारायेदे श्वान ने ना हे न न्या स्वान स्वा तक्रमाबिमाक्कीवमाक्की क्रांचिमाक्का विकासिम्बासका के हे में कार्य सिन्मान स्थाप र्द्वेग्रानीःवर्षेरःवें।क्रुकेरःवस्वानिः

Going forth as a herdsman, responsible for both yaks and sheep for a period of about three years, he engaged himself solely in the recitation of mantra. During the day all the cattle and sheep would go off on their own to their grazing sites, and in the evening they would return by themselves without anyone herding them. In ways such as this he performed a whole series of wondrous deeds and then, on the 18th day of the first month, as a sign of his accomplishment, from the heart of the Ārya Mahākārunikā there emanated the blazing bright red form of Hayagrīva. Neighing three times with the cry of a horse, he declared: 'I need this delightful shepherd's hut.' Full of faith, the shepherd

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Blockprint reads bzungs.

prostrated himself, and presenting him with an abundant array of offerings (ganacakra), said:

क्षेत्रकार्य त्राची वर्षे वर्

कुन्नामिश्चरक्षास्त्राच्याः भक्ष्याः ताराः संभावियः वृत्यत् सम्भावियः वृत्यः स्त्रीम् स्त्राच्यः स्त्राच्यः स् तायः मिश्चराः पुष्टिः स्त्रायः स्वायः स्वायः तायः तत्वः स्वर् स्वरः स्वेतः स्वायः स्वरः स्वरः स्वरः स्वरः स्व वायः मिश्चराः पुष्टिः स्वरः स्वरः

During the construction of the  $st\bar{u}pa$ , while the dome ('treasury-vase') was being erected, that previously mentioned self-arisen coral image of Hayagrīva came down from the sky as the heart relic. When the  $st\bar{u}pa$  was complete, at the time of its consecration ( $pratisth\bar{a}$ ), the sound of a horse neighing three times [was heard], and it is said that, even in this degenerate age, when fortunate beings with the right karmic connection go there, a horse's neigh can be heard. As for its

<sup>9</sup> gzungs zhugs, lit: 'inserted support (dhāraṇī)'. thugs gzungs, 'mental support'.

Supreme Horse', an epithet of Hayagrīva.

name, it is known as the 'Hayagrīva's *Stūpa* of Peace' (rTa mgrin zhi ba'i mchod rten).

यर.लूट.ट्राः ब्रिट.ग्रीट.पाझ्जाय.लट.लट.झ्याः कुस.मीश्चटकाःस्रः प्रत्ये.ट्राः ब्रिट.ग्रीट.पाझ्जाय.लट.लट.झ्याः कुस.मीश्चटकाःस्रः

Furthermore, Paramāśva uttered this prophecy: 'Now the time is approaching when the great [guru of] Oddiāyna (Padmasambhava) will go to the southwest and all your prayers, too, will be fulfilled over and over again.' Thus he spoke.

ने विश्व का ना ज्ञा निर्देश निर्देश निर्देश के ही के प्रेश के विश्व के प्रेश के प्र

लीता देशका कीटा मुँ. टेजा खुटा कुटा क्योबा ता बिटा ता टेटा बा क्रूंटा श्राप्त हि। कुटा ता खुवा वा क्रीटा देश है। तूपुर है बा पड़ेटा खुवाबा ता टेटा पूर्टा बुदा खुवा वा बुवाबा बैटा है। वीटा ता टेटा वालावा.

<sup>11</sup> Blockprint reads gnang.

When the herdsman set off in their pursuit, there arose a vision of a great beam of light, and the cattle and sheep calmed down and became peaceful. Then he saw what he took to be the genuine presence of Padmasambhava, the great master of Oddiāyna, clearly manifest and seated upon a great throne of Zahor with the princess Mandāravā on his right, Ye shes mtsho rgyal on his left and with a retinue of male and female vidyādharas, mahāsiddhas and dākinīs assembled all around. With fervent faith and devotion, [the herdsman] prostrated himself and asked: 'Oh, precious guru, from where have you come? Where are you staying now? What is the purpose of your journey?' The guru replied: 'Ho! I am the Lotus-born, and in order to subjugate the rakşasas I am departing now for the southwest.' Thus he spoke.

<sup>12</sup> Blockprint reads mnyams.

<sup>13</sup> Blockprint reads mi tris.

<sup>14</sup> Blockprint reads snga brgya'i mthar ma.

विराधराज्य बेना रदः मानवा धरा धुनाया रद्धेनाया अस्यया स्थाया स्थाया देरा भूया है । भूया ल्. मेच. रंबा वाश्वरा प्रद्विय तथा तथा या वर केता श्वरा का मामित स्था निवा इ.जिंद्र.जग्रेश पोझ्ज.तश्र

Once again with fervent faith and devotion the herdsman prostrated himself and, having presented a rosary of sapphire that had formerly been offered by the Indian mahāsiddha Maitrīpa and a top ornament of precious white stone which he happened to have, as the meditative support for a mandala, he made this request: 'During the period of the final 500 years, the lifespan of humans is short and there are many diseases, demons and evil circumstances. In particular, the ten nonvirtues<sup>15</sup> [abound], as well as the five heinous crimes<sup>16</sup> and the five that are nearly as bad, <sup>17</sup> and so on. During this time, when much evil karma is accumulated, what special means of taming [living beings] can be found in this place of subjugation? What signs, furthermore, are to be seen in the rocky mountains all around this place? What do they represent? May the [teacher from] Oddiāyna, you who know the past, present and future, please hold me with your compassion and explain these things to me.' Thus he asked.

वी.रेश्व.चीश्वर.चार्ट्र.श्रद्ध.तश्रवीच.होर.टे.पर्ह्य.तपु.श्च्य.बीशः ट्रे.श.वच.वि.खेयश्रवश्रालयः त्मनायकुर्व्यक्षे नित्र्रिक्षेत्रेत्रेत्रेत्रेत्रेत्रेत्वेत्विद्वात्त्रेत्र्वेत्र्वेत्र्वेत्व

The guru then made a scattering of words just as if he had scattered [the beads of] that rosary and immediately there gushed forth a spring of nectar with eight good qualities, 18 and a stream like that of the river Ganges flowed down from the foot of his throne.

<sup>15</sup> Killing, stealing, sexual misconduct, lying, slander, harsh speech, frivolous talk, covetousness, malice, preaching false doctrines.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> The murder of one's mother, father, or an arhat, the shedding of the blood of a buddha or causing a division among the sangha.

<sup>17</sup> The rape of a female adept (arhat), the destruction of the root of bodhicitta, the killing of a monk or nun in training, the theft of the property of the sangha, and the destruction of a stūpa.

<sup>18</sup> The eight good qualities of pure water are that it is cool, sweet, light, soft, clear, soothing, pleasant and wholesome.

त्तरुः तस्य स्थान्तर्भः स्थान्तरः स्यान्तर्भः स्थान्तरः स्थान्तर्भः स्थान्तर्भः स्थान्तर्भः स्थान्तर्

Wonderful! From the foot of the throne where the buddhas of the three times are gathered, there come into being 100 springs of nectar. By washing [with this water], all diseases, demons and obstacles become pacified and, by drinking it, all karma and sins become pure. One should use this water particularly for the purification of the ten nonvirtuous acts and the five heinous crimes. As a sign of the confused (incestuous) relationships between siblings, brothers and sisters, in the degenerate age, the wind of the element earth, which at that time has lost its vitality, causes harelip and it is certain that beings are bound for the vajra hells. Due to bodily contact with all manner of evil and the carrying of corpses of the dead, wisdom and awareness are curtailed and the channels of bodhicitta dry up. Even though such things appear as clearly as in a mirror wiped free of grime, 23 all these sinful acts, the five terrible deeds and so on, are purified. This [sacred spring] is the entire treasury of my, Padmasambhava's, mind and it performs an ablution just like the flow of the river Ganges which is unequalled

<sup>19</sup> Blockprint omits na.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Blockprint omits su.

<sup>21</sup> Blockprint reads gi.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Blockprint reads krug.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> The text says 'a mirror wiped free of rust' due to the use of metal mirrors in Tibet.

[anywhere in the world] with Vajrāsana at its centre, beneath the sun or above the earth.

खुटा-म्बिकाका-मूक्त्रक्षः वीक्षिका-मुन्द्रक्षः भारत्यका भारत्यका-मुन्द्रिः चितिः विद्वतः मुक्ता-बिता-बुव्यका-बिता-बुव्यका-भारतः विद्यतः मुक्ता-बित्यका-भारतः विद्यतः मुक्ता-विद्यतः मुक्ता-विद्य

Furthermore, on the rocky mountain to the back [of this place] is an image of Vajravidāraņa and the natural manifestation of his *maṇḍala*. The central mountain is the sacred mountain throne ('base seat') of the planet Rāhu and, behind that, there is the lake of the trinity of Gold, Coral and Conch which is destined to be opened by a future heir of the herdsman, but I will not elaborate on the details of this just now.

पश्चित्रः विचानाश्च्याः विचानाः क्षेत्रः त्राचानाः क्षेत्रः त्राचेत्रः त्राचेत्रः विचान् विचानाः क्षेत्रः विचानाः विच

At a spot within earshot<sup>25</sup> to the east of that place, on a rocky mountain which is the abode of the buddha Maitreya, is the site of a treasure which encapsulates the meaning of all the 84,000 doors of Dharma. It is prophesied that [this treasure] will be taken out by a future heir of the herdsman. To be precise concerning his name and birth-year: it will be extracted at the time of the third generation from the present rTogs ldan dpa' bo of the Rig 'dzin 'jam dbyangs Hūm ri family, but I will not elaborate here on all the details of the family and time.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Blockprint reads tsan.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> A distance of one krośa (rgyang grags), about 500 yards. Blockprint reads rgyangs grags.

देश यहार श्री का श्री राज रे त्या का वा त्री का का विकास के कि त्या का त्या क

द्रिः भर क्रियं श्र. क्रियं त्रायः च्यां द्रियः स्था क्रियः च्याः क्रियः च्याः क्रियः च्याः क्रियः स्थाः क्रिय क्रियं क्रियं श्र. क्रियं स्थाः क्रियं स्थाः च्याः क्रियः च्याः क्रियः च्याः क्रियः स्थाः क्रियः स्थाः क्रियः

On the rocky mountain that lies to the east of there are countless naturally produced images of buddhas and bodhisattvas.

त्सूचा श्रिभा मधि देवा श्रित्त मधि देव देवा श्रित्त मधि स्वाप्त श्रीत स्वाप्त स्वाप्त

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Blockprint reads spyi.

दे-दुबार्यपुद्र-व्यं व्यव्या श्रुक्त हे-वार्द्रव दुः मे निकृत्वित्र राज्य दे-वायव वायव वाद्वित सुक्त क्रिकार्दे कूँद ची तका द्वारा पर क्रीदारा दे नार त्यापर सामित्व क्रिंग विकास क्रिंग विकास क्रिंग विकास क्रिंग विकास क्रिंग

Travelling to the north of that place, the dakini Ye shes mtsho rgyal presented a vast mandala of assembled offerings and made this request: During the final period of 500 years, when the six auspicious medicines<sup>28</sup> do not cure disease, when skilled doctors cannot diagnose illnesses, when holy mantra-holders fail to eradicate enemies and obstructors, and so on, for such a time as this [may the guru please bestow] his special means of subjugation.' When she had made this request, from the spot where [Padmasambhava of] Oddiāyna had planted his staff, there flowed out a healing stream of nectar possessed of eight virtues, and the guru said: 'Ema ho! During the period of the [last] 500 [years], this [stream] here will be more effective than even the six auspicious medicines. It is a river Ganges, beneficial when the elemental sprites (bhūta) are in turmoil, spreading [everywhere] in the guise of the eight classes of demons, [an antidote] to the 360 suddenlyarising mental injuries and the 404 contagious diseases - especially to all leprous diseases caused by the demon Rāhu and nāgas. IIt is an antidote to] any [problem] whatsoever except the maturation of former deeds.' Thus he spoke.

वर्तःवसःविरःह्सःस्वित्त्व्यःम्यात्रात्त्रावर्तःग्वरःद्वःभक्त्वान्त्रःस्वान्त्रःभः व्यवःवस्यान्त्रः हैन् विवस सेस अहन् परि क्वस देंगा हु। यह देगा एह्या ह पर सेंदा ग्रासु अ ग्री सेंगा से वा द्वार गर To the north of this, should one enter just once beneath the feet of the supreme heruka Samantabhadra, king of wrath, who enacts emptiness and compassion, wisdom and skilful means, in union with his consort, the sins and obscurations of the three lower realms will be purified.

मालक् त्यार कुर मानाका माने मानाका प्रति । प्र क्रजात्रश्चान्त्रेवोद्यातः रेटाशक्ष्ट्यातदुःर्टेन्द्र्येत्वेत्यरावोद्यम्याविशःसूर्यात्वः वोद्यरः

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Blockprint omits *las*.

<sup>28</sup> Nutmeg, cloves, camphor, sandalwood, saffron and cardamom. <sup>29</sup> Blockprint omits snying rje.

त्राचर.कृट.बुश.चड्ड्स.बीच.चुः कु.पट्झ.टु.लट.लेज.छेट.चखेतु.शोचप.पर्बेतु.बोचस.ट्ट.शड्ट्. सूर्यकात.र्ट्ट्र.ज.रूट.बूच.टि.लूट.टूः वायका.पट्टर.श्र.ट्र.टिब्र्ट्राचर.चखेया.गीट.कं.ट्र. वु.श्रीट.टट. चपु.टि.र.च्रिट.वे.शोचप.पर्बे.छेट.क्रंट्र.श्रीज.त.से.चे.चश्रीट.त.टटः श्र.सेवाब.वोलट.वाखे.

# रेशःशुःश्चेशःचरेःवयःचवेशः

Furthermore, travelling one *krośa* towards the northeastern corner, there are the three charnel grounds, outer, inner and secret, which are commensurate with Śītavana or Lańkakūta in India. Among these, in the secret charnel ground, arise elaborate emanations of the twenty-five *dākinīs*, with hides of human skin and so forth, spontaneously appearing on the boulders.<sup>34</sup> At this sacred site, when one places a corpse there in the evening, by early morning it will be completely gone, devoured by jackals and vultures. And it is promised, furthermore, that those deceased will be reborn in the sacred sites of the *dākinīs* of the twenty-four *pītha*<sup>35</sup> and in the upper realms.

To the northwest of this, at a distance of one *krośa*, there is a precipitous gorge, self-arising in the form of food for the gods (*naivedya*), a cloud of offerings of the five sensory types that bring delight to the *jinas* and their sons (buddhas and bodhisattvas).

<sup>30</sup> Blockprint reads rgyangs grags.

<sup>31</sup> Blockprint reads lang ka brtsigs pa.

<sup>32</sup> Blockprint reads g.yang bzhi.

<sup>33</sup> Blockprint reads gro.

<sup>34</sup> These hides of human skin are the seats of the goddesses.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> For a description of the 24 sacred places, see M. Boord, 'Buddhism', in, J. Holm and J. Bowker (eds.), *Sacred Places*, Pinter Publishers, London and New York, 1994, pp. 8-32.

मुजायदे बेट अर्केन रट र्चेन अर्के रहेन इस मास्या मी के विद्या के स्वर्ध मुजार र है में जिल्ला ग्रीक्षःर्क्षेणवाः अर्केद्रम् कुरकेराख्याने वदीः ब्रदः वेदाः व्यवस्थाने याववाः वदीयेः अर्क्दर्दे स्थूरः व्यवस्थ विषयास्यास्यास्यास्यान्त्र्यस्यास्य स्वरास्य स्य श्रेन्यम् वृक्ष्म्य वृक्ष्म्य विक्रात्वामा

With regard to the history of the three self-arisen stūpas of this supreme buddha-field, Ye shes mtsho rgyal and the herdsman made a request in these words as they both presented a vast array of assembled offerings: 'What are the characteristics of this place and what are the benefits of making pilgrimage, prostrations and circumambulations? May the guru who knows the past, present and future please tell us without concealing or keeping anything back.' Thus they requested.

ल्. मैंय. कुर. मुंच. मंत्राच वात. कैंय. ता किंट. वायुक्त. मी. मुंच. वाट. वेच. तयुः अकूट. हेव. च. च. च. संवर कूट. र्टि.चाड्रवा.चर्ष्ट्रस्य ८५८ देव.चाड्रद्रस्याविचा.धि.चेलाचि.चाट.ल.पत्तवाचाता.सीच.प्रसावाड्यवासा.पट. चुँदायबुद्दर्भायाः देवा वृक्षायाः वर्षेत्रायते दिरासके वृत्तर्भाष्ट्रवा द्वारा विद्यायाः विद्यायाः विद्यायाः व ब्रेटबर् अर्केन्या क्षेत्रका की वा निवा वा स्टब

And the great [master of] Oddiāyna said in reply: 'The two of you must each construct a stupa as it arises in your mind and one [built by both of you] together. For the relic to be inserted in the latter you must invite from the heaven 'Arrayed in Turquoise Leaves' (the paradise of Tārā), the one-cubit-high, self-begotten crystal image of the noble Avalokiteśvara for which you must prepare a welcoming party with a ritual procession of monks in yellow robes, offerings and so forth.'

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Blockprint reads lo brgyud.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> Blockprint reads ser sbreng.

Again, the herdsman questioned him crossly with the words: 'How can this be done? For I have not a single disciple, either male or female.' To which the guru replied: 'You must present boundless offerings emanated by your mind.' Thus he spoke.

ताबुद्धातः पाबुद्धातः पाबुद्धातः पाबुद्धातः पावुद्धातः पावुद

It is said that then the herdsman, with fervent faith and devotion, summoned assistants and arranged groups of males to his right and females to his left, and then presented boundless offerings of the five sensual qualities set out in front. On that occasion, just as the sun was rising, a golden five-pronged vajra appeared in the eastern sky in sight of the herdsman and, while he experienced boundless happiness and joy, the sun rose and the crystal 'basis of offerings' (i.e. the heart of the  $st\bar{u}pa$ ) came forth from the sky so that everything took place just as spoken of above. When they had positioned it as a relic, Ye shes mtsho rgyal and the herdsman together erected [the  $st\bar{u}pa$ ].

<sup>38</sup> Blockprint reads rdzi bos.

देर.बुंब.रचिर.इ.केर.चेबाब.बुंक चिर.शु.ध्वे.बुं.क्य.चचब.कुटक शक्य.वु.हेय.उन्नज.बुंट.बोबज.बुंट.बोबज.बुंट.बुंबज.बुंच.स्थ. चर्णटबा.त.उन्नुंबो.शू.शकूर.हेय.जुंबज.वे.चक है.चू.चर्णटबा.कुं.चू.पु.शकूर.हेय.टंटक शकू.मैंचल. रट.चूंय.चुंज.बुं.अकूर.हेय.उर्नु.छेर.टंटक है.चू.चर्णटब्य.त.है.चू.पु.शकूर.हेय.टंटक शकू.मैंज.

Moreover, when it came to the time of throwing grains in the air during the elaborate consecration ceremonies of that particular 'Stūpa of the Self-originated Crystal [image]' and the 'Stūpa of the Herdsman' constructed by the herdsman and the so-called 'Stūpa of the Nomad Woman' erected by Ye shes mtsho rgyal, a shower of flowers came down and, due to the auspicious circumstances made clear above, the names of the stūpas at the place called Vajra Sun (rDo rje nyi ma) came to resound [everywhere] like thunder.

ने त्रमार्भे मुन् छेन चिमासु श्रेण प्रमु सु सु येपमाने अर्थे प्रमु ये प्रम

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> Blockprint reads phyag gnas.

तुष् भिवास्त्री हेव दि तह्वा वावट शहर विता हैं विवाह वाह्य का है से है स्था वाह है से विवाह के कि वाह का विवाह के कि वाह के वाह का वाह

While he was uttering these words, the sky became filled with mother goddesses and dākinīs who arrived from the holy land of Tibet, the realm of snow, welcoming him with an invitation to the southwest. His mind engaged with thoughts of not having finished instructing the king and subjects [of Tibet], he stamped with his foot upon a boulder in front of [the spring] with eight qualities, leaving his footprint as the support of blessings. Turning his face and gazing towards the southwest, he said: 'ITI SAMAYA. Seal! Seal!'

वश्यः चान्यनेष्यं सुट्टे, जाङ्ग्रीं, वाश्येश क्रीश वाश्या चान्य चान्य चान्य क्रिक्ष क्रियः चान्य क्रियः चान्य च वृक्षः वाश्यट्यः चाः चूचः ट्रिट्ट् च्र्. ट्रियः च्रीश्वः अव्यः वाश्या चाः च्रीयः क्ष्यः व्यवा च्राः श्रीट्टः चाश्यः च्रीयः व्यवः वाश्यः च्रीयः च्राः च्रीयः च्रियः च्राः च्रीयः च्राः च्रीयः च्रियः च्राः च्रीयः च्राः च्रीयः च्रियः च्राः च्रीयः च्रियः च्राः च्रीयः च्रियः च्राः च्रीयः च्रियः च्राः च्रीयः च्राः च्रा

As for the herdsman of that period, he was one man with three names. To the glorious Hayagrīva and to the world in general, he was known as 'the herdsman'. The great [guru of] Oddiāyna gave him the name Padma chos 'phel, the supreme leader, and the speaking statue of the crowned buddha in Byang phug gave him the name mThu thobs and declared him the [incarnation of the] mahāsiddha Kṛṣṇacārī. In reality he was the genuine embodiment of the monk Nam mkha'i snying po who lived to be 100 years old, and if one prays to him with

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> Also known as Kānhapāda, one of the 84 mahāsiddhas. See: David Templeman, Tāranātha's Life of Kṛṣṇācārya/Kānha, LTWA Dharamsala, 1989.

body, speech and mind, it has the blessing power of 100 individual rites of longevity.

अवर श्रु तहर त्युक्ष वादा है परे पा उद वी बेट र सावर दर्वेर केंग्र विदार सर्दि अक्ट्र-हेब-इअ-वाश्वअ-८८-८५-श्रुवे-श्वर-चक्र्व-व-चत्वाकामः वाश्वर-चक्र्व-म-८८-वर्षे-चवे-र्देव दुःश्चे प्रदे देद प्राया चुँव प्रार्थेण बालया चुँब प्रदेश प्रदेश

At the end [of his life], his body attained the form of a rainbow ('realized the rainbow body'), and he became the recipient of offerings for an assembly of dakinis in the buddhafield of Sukhavatī. His mind took up residence in the three stūpas and within images in his likeness, and when he spoke he promised to return in a succession of births for the benefit of the doctrine and sentient beings, and so on.

दे लदः रदः वृदः अर्केदः हेवः इस ग्रम्थाया स्वायतः वर्षेतिः चर्मेदः चः चेदः चः स्वावः स्वायः स्वीवः चीकाः अर्केन्-न्युद्रश्रास्यान्यर्थः निहेन्-निन्न्यायः देवे न्युन्न्यते श्राम्यते । निहेन्-निन्न्यायः

It is said, furthermore, that circumambulations of dakinis are made around the three self-arisen stūpas, and that non-human spirits offer songs of worship. [Such things] are made clear in the pilgim's guide taken from the treasure site of dGa' ri'i brag (Rock of the Mountain of Joy).

न्वत्र,र्ना,म.पूर्मात्रात्मेत्र,सूर्याचामिक्ष्यम् क्षेत्र,नाश्चरमात्त्र,म.रनामिक्षात्त्र,पन्यास् गुरुट्यते गुरुष्य धेग्राप्त यात्र गुरुष

Apart from this, the words of the original manuscript, which speak extensively of prophesies and so on, are clarified in the Secret Guide to the Holy Places of the Hidden Land of Sikkim (sBas yul 'bras mo ljong su gsang ba'i gnas vig).41

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> By Lha btsun 'jigs med dpa' bo, one of the three religious preceptors responsible for the enthronement of the first king of Sikkim at Yuk bsam.

पत्नेदः भक्ष्म् क्ष्यं प्रमान्त्र स्वाः स्वः स्

The navel of the sacred land is Brag dkar bKra shis sding. To the east is the concealed cave called the Secret Cavern of the Dākinī where ma mo goddesses and dakinis gather like clouds. In the west is the Cave of Great Happiness [which is a place for] the accomplishment of a lifespan free of death. To the north is the Heart Cave of lHa ri rin chen (Precious Peak of the Gods) where many treasure sites of the five treasures<sup>43</sup> are destined to be opened. The sacred places in eight directions from there are: gSang sngags chos gling (Dharma Isle of Guhyamantra), Padma g.yang rtse (Peak of Lotus Happiness), Rab Idan rtse mo (Peak of the Supreme Seat),44 the plain of Yuk bsam and the stūpa of Nur gang which are twin sites of the doctrine of the four great yogas, Ri rgyal (Mountain King) [covered with] sandalwood, the king of trees, dPa' bo Hūm ri (Warrior Mountain Hūm), the protecting lord of the intermediate area, Phag mo rong (Ravine of Vajravārāhī) and Khrag 'thung rong (Ravine of Heruka), rDo rje 'threng (Vajra Garland) and lCags sgrog 'threng (Garland of Iron Fetters), the 109 great lakes and so on, and all of those comprise the servants headed by Gangs chen mdzod lnga (the Great Snow Mountain of Five Treasures, the most sacred site in Sikkim).

<sup>42</sup> Blockprint reads dbus.

44 Site of the palace of the earliest kings of Sikkim.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> This may refer to the ' five treasures' of Rig 'dzin rgod ldem. See M. Boord, *The Cult of the Deity Vajrakīla*, pp. 25-26, for details.

म्रमास्यायम् मृत्यात् की विरास्ति अस्य स्थाय की स्थास्य स्थास्य की स्थास्य स्थाय की स्था की स्थाय की

This hidden land of a hundred and a thousand lesser peaks of snow, together with lHo nag po (Black South) and the one called rDo rje nyi ma, 45 comprise the portico of the northern entrance to the entire hidden land of Sikkim.

इस.चर्वा.हे.वर.वासर.वास्त्रा.र्टाः वाचर.प्रकृत.द्वीर.हः साम्राल.मिः

May the three, the outer, inner and secret protectors of the Dharma – Rāhu the supreme planet and the Seven Blazing Brothers ('Bar ba spun bdun) and the Goddess of Long Life (Jo mo tshe ring ma) – be powerful! May they be like the sun and moon bringing benefit to sentient beings! SAMAYA rGYA rGYA!

यद्रतः सूची, क्षेत्रका, सूट्, सूची, शि. त्यारः स्वतः श्रद्दं, ट्रे, ट्वटः त्यक्षेत्रः श्रवः ट्वी, ब्वतः सुः क्षेतः सूच्, श्रक्षाका क्री, हूं, हुं, श्रेर श्रवः सूच, सूच, व्यवः सूच, व्यवः

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> The two tallest peaks in this area (Lhonak and Chorten Nyima) are seen as the gateposts to the pass which does not, however, run between them, but is situated further east along the ridge.

यहेर-मु:अरतःवाक्ष्यः मुक्षः धरः अर्दः श्रूपकः गुरः वयः अवतः वाषतः नवाः ररः वदा से हें वाः वीः

## करण्यदाचनशास्त्रः इंगाफ्रिसङ्ग्रीः

This having been written down by Ye shes mtsho rgyal in accordance with the pronouncements of the guru, it was concealed as treasure. Later, this treasure was taken from the right-hand side of a rock shaped like a lion on Hum ri [mountain] by Rig 'dzin tshe dbang II, a descendant of the herdsman and the incarnation of his speech. It is said to have existed in the form of writing in symbolic characters in vermilion ink on sky blue paper. Then, at a time when the auspices of former prayers and the continuity of karma came together, the teachings came down, as prophesied, to the vidyādhara rGod kyi ldem 'phru can. Approaching by way of rDo rje nyi ma, the northern gateway between Tibet and the south, at the time when he opened the mouth of that passage to the holy land of Sikkim, he transcribed the symbolic letters into Tibetan script. Then, having bestowed in profound form the empowerments and oral instructions whilst performing an elaborate consecration of the treasures, a rain of flowers came down from the space of a clear sky. May it be auspicious for the world!

ट्रे.फेर.क्रै. रु.वर्थिट.चर्केट.वर्था रहूब.त. रुवा रहूब. हूंबाब.कंब. ट्राय.चूब.तर.वाबर.चर्षेव.

אבליטן

This new print was published by Rig 'dzin rtogs Idan dpa' bo, the encumbent heir to the seat of Hūrh ri.

¶ न्यवाय्व न्नायते श्रुके चह्व यान्ता।

त्रावदःशवेत्रःस्यःवःचर् श्रीतःवद्वरःचःतः॥

चर्ना न्वत्र अ: अक्ष क्रेंच व्यवस्था क्षेत्र क्षेत्र क्षेत्र क्षेत्र क्षेत्र क्षेत्र क्षेत्र क्षेत्र क्षेत्र क

क्षेत्र.री.सरस्यम्बस्यायत्र द्वेष क्षेत्रमूर्यस्य | रिग्रेद्री

May the lives of the glorious *gurus* be stable,

May happiness arise everywhere reaching to the sky,

May I and all others without exception gather an accumulation [of merit] and may our sins be purified.

Thus may we quickly be blessed with the attainment of buddhehoo.

Thus may we quickly be blessed with the attainment of buddhahood. Let virtue abound!