Identifying the Last Three Fragments of Nepalese Sanskrit Manuscript in the Collection of Toyo Bunko Brought by Ven. Ekai Kawaguchi

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Foreword

Toyo Bunko has some Nepalese Sanskrit manuscripts in its vast possession of classical works written in various pre-modern languages. KANEKO, MATSUNAMI and SAITO [1979] serves as the comprehensive catalogue of this collection of priceless heritage of Nepal which was brought to Japan by Ven. Ekai Kawaguchi. This catalogue gives us titles of contents along with other bibliographical descriptions for almost all possessions in the collection, while 6 fragmentary manuscripts remained un-identified in it. KANO [2009] and HORI [2012] have served supplemental works respectively, thus, for now, only three manuscripts are to be identified yet\(^{(1)}\).

Those remaining fragments are so small without a bibliographical part like colophon that mere philologists would not even hit upon titles in them. It, however, would be provable that a expert / practitioner of Nepalese religious literature, who are familiar with various works that are used in daily ritual they perform of participate in, can come across hints of titles at a glance over lines in fragments however small they are\(^{(2)}\). So, our team of four, Dr. Shanker THAPA and Ms. Nirmala K. C. from Tribhuvan University, Nepal along with Dr. SHOJI Fumio and SASAKI Kazunori from Rissho University in Tokyo, observed Toyo Bunko collection\(^{(3)}\). We worked on manuscripts nos. 9, 22 and 23 as listed in the catalogue published by the Toyo Bunko refered above. We tried to identify exact titles of those fragments with discussion
among a practicing *Vajracarya* priest, a Professor of Sanskrit literature and a Buddhist historian in Nepal. The result is described below.

All these three fragments are tiny pieces of three manuscripts. The titles of those manuscripts nos. 9, 22 and 23 are identified respectively as *Tārā Stuti*, *Saṃkṣatā Stotra* and *Bhairava Stotra*. Thus the Catalogue of the collection is finally completed.

1. Toyo Bunko Manuscript no. 9

Ms. no. 9 has only one folio written in Pracalit Newārī script on both sides. It contains folio 3 recto and folio 4 verso sides. It has verse 56 of the Stuti supplemented with only a half line of verse 57 appearing there. Pagination appears on the top left. This was done later by the owner as pagination normally appears on the right edge of the folio. Its particulars are -

Title: Tārā Stuti  
Subject: Buddhist Stotra  
Folios: 1  
Size: 30.7 X 8.8 cms  
Material: Paper  
Margin: Four sides  
Right/left margins separated from the text with twin parallel lines  
Script: Pracalit Newārī  
Language: Sanskrit  
Writings: Six lines  
Ink: Black organic  
Provenance: Newār Buddhist Ms[Nepal]  
Writing: Fine  
Date: Not known
The first line of the extant folio thus goes -  

And it ends with -  
Huṃkāra purame deva huṃkāra siddhi bhānjanaḥ. Huṃkāraḥ caruve śunyaṁ Huṃkāraṁ tu namāmyahaṁ

2. Toyo Bunko Manuscript no. 22

Ms. no. 22 and 23 are kept together inside the same wooden book cover. This folio has folio 1 recto and verso and folio 2 verso. It has bold writing. Its details are -

Title: Saṅkaṭā Stotra  
Subject: Stuti of Goddess Durgā  
Folios: 2  
Size: 17.6 X 6 cms  
Material: Paper  
Margin: Four sides;  
Script: Pracalit Newāri  
Language: Sanskrit  
Writings: Five lines  
Ink: Black organic  
Provenance: Newār Hindu Ms [Nepal]  
Writing: Bold writing  
Date: Not known
The beginning line thus goes:

Om śri Saṅkṣataye namaḥ. Śrī Nārada uvāca. Jaigīṣavya muni śreṣṭha sarvajña sukha dāyaka.

Originally, this Stotra comes from one of the Purāṇas spoken by Vaisampāyana. Here it is recited in the Mahābhārata for mitigating crises. Folios numbered 1 and 2 do not seem to belong to the same book. If it does, folio 2 might have been wrongly numbered. If not, it could be a lost folio of another manuscript of the same title. This is because folio 1 and 2 have no textual connection.

3. Toyo Bunko Manuscript no. 23

Manuscript no. 23 contains only one folio no. 10 recto and folio 11 verso. The first section in the folio contains miniature painting of very popular Hindu deity Bhairava sitting on the body of a demon holding various attributes. This image is the wrathful emanation of Śiva (Fig. 1). It contain Ślokas 43 to 47 along with half a line from Śloka 48 at the end of folio 11 verso. Its details is -

Title: Bhairava Stotra
Subject: Hindu Stotra
Folios: 1
Size: 17.6 X 6 cms
Material: Paper
Margin: Four sides;
Script: Pracalit Newāri
Language: Sanskrit
Miniature: Bhairava
Writings: Five lines
Ink: Black organic
Provenance: Newār Hindu Ms [Nepal]
Writing status: Bold writing
Date: Not known

The recto side of folio 11 thus goes -
Om Bhailabhilaṁ lodaṁ ghora gambira rupinam nirājanam nibhaṁ dehaṁ mahākāya mahosarva.

There are explanatory notes written by Ekai Kawaguchi on wooden cover (Fig.2).

Notes
(1) Cf. KANEKO, MATSUNAMI and SAITO [1979]. Those 6 unidentified manuscripts in this catalogue are namely nos. 3-B, 9, 22, 23, 27 and 28. Further researches have been carried out by KANO [2009] (for no.3-B) and HORI [2012] (for nos. 27 and 28). Prof. HORI informed us on personal instruction the existence of three unidentified manuscripts, which we work on here.
(2) As to our stance for placing importance on ritual point of view with regard to studying Scripture Culture in Nepal Buddhism, See SASAKI and SHOJI [2019].
(3) Cf. THAPA, Sasaki and SHOJI [2018]. On related topic, See also to THAPA and SASAKI [2018].
References

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