

༄༅། །བྱང་ཆུབ་སེམས་དཔའི་གནས།

The Dwellings of Bodhisattvas

ཤིན་ཏུ་རྒྱས་པ་ཆེན་པོའི་མདོ་སངས་རྒྱས་པ་ལ་པོ་ཆེཞེས་བྱ་བ་ལས་བྱང་རྒྱབ་སེམས་པའི་གནས་ཀྱི་ལེན་སྟེ་སུམ་བུ་བརྒྱད་པ།

shin tu rgyas pa chen po'i mdo sangs rgyas phal po che zhes bya ba las byang chub sems pa'i gnas kyi le'u ste sum cu brgyad pa

“The Dwellings of Bodhisattvas,” Chapter 38 of the Extensive Sūtra “A Multitude of Buddhas”

· Toh 44-38 ·

Degé Kangyur, vol. 36 (phal chen, kha), folios 394.b–396.a



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co.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- ti. Title
- im. Imprint
- co. Contents
- s. Summary
- ac. Acknowledgements
- i. Introduction
- tr. The Translation
 - 1. Chapter on the Dwellings of Bodhisattvas
- n. Notes
- b. Bibliography
 - Tibetan
 - Chinese
 - Western Languages
- g. Glossary

SUMMARY

s.

- s.1 *The Dwellings of Bodhisattvas* is the thirty-eighth of the forty-five chapters in *A Multitude of Buddhas*. As the title indicates, the focus of this chapter is the locations of bodhisattvas. It enumerates twenty-three dwelling places, giving the names of the bodhisattvas who reside in the first nine while omitting the names of those who reside in the remaining fourteen.

ac.

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INTRODUCTION

i.

i.1 *The Dwellings of Bodhisattvas* is the thirty-eighth of the forty-five chapters in *A Multitude of Buddhas*. This chapter continues the series of dialogues in *A Multitude of Buddhas* that take place in Magadha not long after the Buddha's awakening. It enumerates twenty-three dwelling places of bodhisattvas, giving the names of the bodhisattvas who reside in the first nine while omitting the names of those who reside in the remaining fourteen. Throughout *A Multitude of Buddhas*, the Buddha Śākyamuni remains silent, and it is through his blessings that other prominent bodhisattvas offer these teachings. *The Dwellings of Bodhisattvas* and the two preceding chapters are taught by a bodhisattva named King of Mind.

i.2 In *A Multitude of Buddhas*, we find that the Buddha Śākyamuni who lived in our world is just one of countless manifestations of the Buddha Vairocana. Śākyamuni is even referred to as the Buddha Vairocana. Śākyamuni is simultaneously present in various locations in our universe—at the Bodhi tree, in the Trāyastriṃśa paradise of Śakra on the summit of Sumeru, in the Yāma and Tuṣita paradises high above Sumeru, and in the highest paradise in the realm of desire, the Paranirmitavaśavartin paradise. Not only is he said to be simultaneously present in all these locations in our own world system, he is also said to be simultaneously present in countless other worlds.

i.3 This proliferation of locations connected with the Buddha and his teachings allowed for Buddhist holy sites beyond India to assume greater significance. Notably, along with sites in northern India listed in this chapter we also find sites located in China, Kashmir, Gandhara, and Khaśa, here used as another name for the Central Asian city-state of Khotan that flourished during the first millennium CE. As with other canonical works that feature Khotan, including *The Prophecy on Mount Gośṛṅga* (Toh 357)¹ and *The Quintessence of the Sun* (Toh 257),² this reflects the importance of Khotan in

the spread of Buddhism. It is notable that there are significant parallels between the sacred sites listed here in *The Dwellings of Bodhisattvas* and those found in the final chapter of *The Quintessence of the Sun*.³

- i.4 *The Dwellings of Bodhisattvas* is found in the second of the four volumes of *A Multitude of Buddhas* in the Degé Kangyur. There is no colophon specific to this chapter, nor a colophon consistent across Kangyurs to the entire text of *A Multitude of Buddhas*, but it is generally accepted that it was translated by the Tibetan master-translator Yeshé Dé, together with Jinamitra and Surendrabodhi, indicating a translation made under Tibetan imperial sponsorship in the late eighth or early ninth century. This dating is confirmed by the fact that it is listed in both the Denkarma (Tib. *ldan dkar ma*) and Phangthangma (Tib. *'phang thang ma*) imperial catalogs. While the colophons of the Narthang, Lhasa, Stok Palace, Ulaanbaatar, and Phukdrak Kangyurs mention only that the text was edited by Vairotsana, the catalog (Tib. *dkar chag*) of the Degé Kangyur mentions the three translators as above, but adds that Lochen Vairotsana acted as the editor.⁴
- i.5 *The Dwellings of Bodhisattvas* is unavailable in Sanskrit, but is preserved in Chinese and Tibetan translation. A complete English translation of *A Multitude of Buddhas* has been published by Thomas Cleary based on Śikṣānanda's Chinese version, with the English title *The Flower Ornament Scripture*.
- i.6 This, to our knowledge, is the first English translation from Tibetan. It was made from the Tibetan text in the Degé Kangyur, in consultation with the versions found in the Stok Palace Kangyur, the Lhasa Kangyur, and the Comparative Edition (*dpe bsdur ma*).

Chapter on the Dwellings of Bodhisattvas

1.

The Translation

[F.394.b]

- 1.1 Then the bodhisattva King of Mind spoke again to those bodhisattvas, “O children of the Victorious One! In the east, there is a mountain called Appearance of a Sage, where bodhisattvas in the past have resided. In this dwelling place a bodhisattva called Vajraśrī teaches Dharma surrounded by a retinue of three hundred bodhisattvas.
- 1.2 “O children of the Victorious One! In the south, there is a mountain called Heap of Glory, where bodhisattvas in the past have resided. [F.395.a] In this dwelling place a bodhisattva called Dharmamati teaches Dharma surrounded by a retinue of five hundred bodhisattvas.
- 1.3 “O children of the Victorious One! In the west, there is a mountain called Possessed of Vajra Radiance, where bodhisattvas in the past have resided. In this dwelling place a bodhisattva called Walks with the Gait of a Lion teaches Dharma surrounded by a retinue of three hundred bodhisattvas.
- 1.4 “O children of the Victorious One! In the north, there is a mountain called Heap of Incense, where bodhisattvas in the past have resided. In this dwelling place a bodhisattva called Gandhahastin teaches Dharma surrounded by a retinue of three thousand bodhisattvas.
- 1.5 “O children of the Victorious One! In the east, there is a mountain called Mountain of Meadows,⁵ where bodhisattvas in the past have resided. In this dwelling place a bodhisattva called Mañjuśrī teaches Dharma surrounded by a retinue of ten thousand bodhisattvas.
- 1.6 “O children of the Victorious One! In the northeastern direction, there is a mountain called Vajra Mountain, Site of Four Great Oceans, where bodhisattvas in the past have resided. In this dwelling place a bodhisattva called Dharmodgata teaches Dharma surrounded by a retinue of twelve hundred bodhisattvas.

- 1.7 “O children of the Victorious One! In the southeastern direction, there is a mountain called Stūpa, where bodhisattvas in the past have resided. In this dwelling place a bodhisattva called Divine Aggregates teaches Dharma surrounded by a retinue of one thousand bodhisattvas. [F.395.b]
- 1.8 “O children of the Victorious One! In the southwestern direction, there is a mountain called Jyotiṣprabha, where bodhisattvas in the past have resided. In this dwelling place a bodhisattva called Bhadraśrī teaches Dharma surrounded by a retinue of three thousand bodhisattvas.
- 1.9 “O children of the Victorious One! In the northwestern direction, there is a mountain called Gandhamādana, where bodhisattvas in the past have resided. In this dwelling place a bodhisattva called Radiating Luminous Incense teaches Dharma surrounded by a retinue of five thousand bodhisattvas.
- 1.10 “O children of the Victorious One! In the great ocean, there is a place called Good Cave, where bodhisattvas in the past have resided.
- 1.11 “O children of the Victorious One! To the south of Vaiśālī, there is a place called Stable Roots, where bodhisattvas in the past have resided.
- 1.12 “In a land called Pāṭaliputra, there is a place called Golden Park of the Saṅgha, where bodhisattvas in the past have resided.
- 1.13 “In a land called Mathurā,⁶ there is a place called Satisfying Cave, where bodhisattvas in the past have resided.
- 1.14 “In a land called Relinquishing the Vase, there is a place called Dharma Seat, where bodhisattvas in the past have resided.
- 1.15 “In a land called Perfect Virtue, there is a place called Mucilinda Cave, where bodhisattvas in the past have resided.
- 1.16 “In a land called Vatsa, there is a place, established by nāgas, called Añcala, where bodhisattvas in the past have resided. [F.396.a]
- 1.17 “In a land called Kamboja, there is a place called Exalted by Love, where bodhisattvas in the past have resided.
- 1.18 “In a land called China, there is a place called Nārāyaṇa Cave, where bodhisattvas in the past have resided.
- 1.19 “In a land called Khaśa, there is a mountain called Gośṛṅga, where bodhisattvas in the past have resided.
- 1.20 “In a land called Kashmir, there is a place called Sudarśaka, where bodhisattvas in the past have resided.
- 1.21 “In a land called Increasing Joy, there is a place called Sthavira Cave, where bodhisattvas in the past have resided.
- 1.22 “In a land called Jalandhar, there is a place called Teaching with Hands Folded, where bodhisattvas in the past have resided.
- 1.23 “In the vicinity of the land called Gandhara, there is a place called Cave of Provisions, where bodhisattvas in the past have resided.”

1.24 *This concludes "The Dwellings of Bodhisattvas," the thirty-eighth chapter of the extensive sūtra, "A Multitude of Buddhas."*

n.

NOTES

- n.1 Dharmachakra Translation Committee, trans., *The Prophecy on Mount Gośrīṅga*, (<http://read.84000.co/translation/toh357.html>) Toh 357 (84000: Translating the Words of the Buddha, 2021).
- n.2 Dharmachakra Translation Committee, trans., *The Quintessence of the Sun*, (<http://read.84000.co/translation/toh257.html>) Toh 257 (84000: Translating the Words of the Buddha, 2022).
- n.3 Yi Ding has noted the close parallels between *The Dwellings of Bodhisattvas* and chapter 13 of *The Quintessence of the Sun* (Toh 257) 12.19, arguing that *The Dwellings of Bodhisattvas* drew from *The Quintessence of the Sun* and not the inverse. See Yi Ding 2017, pp. 3–7.
- n.4 Situ Pañchen, folio 120.a.6.
- n.5 Translated based on the Degé: *spang ri*. Stok Palace and Lhasa editions: *spong ri*.
- n.6 Stok Palace and Lhasa editions: *ma thu ra*. Degé: *ma dur na*.

b.

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Wutai and *The Buddhāvataṃsaka Sūtra*, Shanxi province, China, July 12–15,
2017.

GLOSSARY

· Types of attestation for names and terms of the corresponding ·
source language

AS	<i>Attested in source text</i> This term is attested in a manuscript used as a source for this translation.
AO	<i>Attested in other text</i> This term is attested in other manuscripts with a parallel or similar context.
AD	<i>Attested in dictionary</i> This term is attested in dictionaries matching Tibetan to the corresponding language.
AA	<i>Approximate attestation</i> The attestation of this name is approximate. It is based on other names where the relationship between the Tibetan and source language 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 Añcala

thu ba

ཐུ་བ།

añcala^{AD}

A dwelling place of bodhisattvas located in the region of Vatsa.

g.2 Appearance of a Sage

drang srong 'byung ba

དང་སྲོང་འབྱུང་བ།

—

Dwelling place of the bodhisattva Vajraśrī.

g.3 Bhadraśrī

bzang po'i dpal

བཟང་པོའི་དཔལ།

bhadraśrī^{AD}

“Glorious Goodness,” the bodhisattva who resides at a place called Jyotiṣprabha.

g.4 Cave of Provisions

brgyags kyi phug

བརྒྱལ་ས་ཀྱི་ཕུག

—

A dwelling place of bodhisattvas located in Gandhara.

g.5 children of the Victorious One

rgyal ba'i sras

རྒྱལ་བའི་སྲས།

jinaputra^{AD}

An epithet of bodhisattvas. See [g.47](#) for the definition of Victorious One.

g.6 China

rgya ba

རྒྱ་བ།

cīna^{AD}

The two Chinese translations of this text render the name as *zhendan* 眞旦 (Taishō 278) and *zhendan* 震旦 (Taishō 279), both of which refer to China. In this chapter, it is the region in which the dwelling place of bodhisattvas called Nārāyaṇa Cave is located.

g.7 Dharma Seat

chos kyi stan

ཚོས་ཀྱི་སྐྱོན།

—

A dwelling place of bodhisattvas located in the region called Relinquishing the Vase.

g.8 Dharmamati

chos kyi blo gros

ཚོས་ཀྱི་བློ་གྲོས།

dharmamati ^{AD}

“Intelligence of Dharma,” the bodhisattva who resides at a place called Heap of Glory.

g.9 Dharmodgata

chos kyi 'phags pa

ཚོས་ཀྱི་འཕགས་པ།

dharmodgata ^{AD}

“Nobility of Dharma,” the bodhisattva who resides at a place called Vajra Mountain, Site of Four Great Oceans.

g.10 Divine Aggregates

lha'i phung po

ལྷ་འི་ཕུང་པོ།

—

The bodhisattva who resides at a place called Stūpa.

g.11 Exalted by Love

byams pas 'phags pa

བྱམས་པས་འཕགས་པ།

—

A dwelling place of bodhisattvas located in Kamboja.

g.12 Gandhahastin

spos kyi glang po

སྤོས་ཀྱི་གླང་པོ།

gandhahastin ^{AD}

“Elephant of Incense,” the bodhisattva who resides at a place called Heap of Incense.

g.13 Gandhamādana

spos kyi ngad can

སྣོས་ཀྱི་རད་ཅན།

gandhamādana^{AD}

“Fragrant Mountain,” the dwelling place of the bodhisattva Radiating Luminous Incense.

g.14 Gandhara

sa 'dzin

ས་འཛིན།

gāndhāra^{AD}

The present-day Gandhara region was located in northwest Pakistan and northeast Afghanistan. This region was historically important for the development of Buddhism. In this chapter, Gandhara is identified as the region in which the dwelling place of bodhisattvas called Cave of Provisions is located.

g.15 Golden Park of the Saṅgha

dge 'dun gyi kun dga' ra ba gser

དགེ་འདུན་གྱི་ཀུན་དགའ་ར་བ་གསེར།

—

A dwelling place of bodhisattvas located in Pāṭaliputra.

g.16 Good Cave

phug bzang po

ཕུག་བཟང་པོ།

—

Dwelling place of bodhisattvas located in the great ocean.

g.17 Gośṛṅga

ba lang gi mgo bo

བ་ལང་གི་མགོ་བོ།

gośṛṅga^{AD}

A hill in the Central Asian oasis city-state of Khotan. According to *The Prophecy on Mount Gośṛṅga* (Toh 357), it is here that the Buddha prophesied that this area would one day become a great Buddhist kingdom. Gośṛṅga

means “cow horn” in Sanskrit, and the hill is said to have received this name due to having two pointed peaks. Note that in *The Prophecy on Mount Gośṛṅga* this place name is rendered *ri glang ru*.

g.18 Heap of Glory

dpal gyi phung po

དཔལ་གྱི་ཕུང་པོ།

—

Dwelling place of the bodhisattva Dharmamati.

g.19 Heap of Incense

spos kyi phung po

སྤོས་གྱི་ཕུང་པོ།

—

Dwelling place of the bodhisattva Gandhahastin.

g.20 Increasing Joy

dga' ba 'phel ba

དགའ་བ་འཕེལ་བ།

—

The region in which the dwelling place of bodhisattvas called Sthavira Cave is located.

g.21 Jalandhar

chu 'dzin

ཚུ་འཛིན།

jaladhara^{AD}

An ancient city in northern India, possibly the present-day Jalandhar in the Punjab region. Here it is identified as the region in which the dwelling place of bodhisattvas called Teaching with Hands Folded is located.

g.22 Jyotiṣprabha

ri skar ma'i 'od

རི་སྐར་མའི་འོད།

jyotiṣprabha^{AD}

“Starlight Mountain,” the dwelling place of the bodhisattva Bhadrāsī.

g.23 Kamboja

kam po tsa

ཀམ་པོ་ཙ་

kamboja ^{AD}

An ancient kingdom at the crossroads of present-day South Asia, Central Asia, and West Asia. In this chapter, it is the region in which the dwelling place of bodhisattvas called Exalted by Love is located.

g.24 Kashmir

kha che

ཁ་ཅེ།

kaśmīra ^{AD} . *kāśmīra* ^{AD}

The area known today as the Kashmir Valley, situated between the Himalayas and the Pir Panjal Range. In this chapter, it is identified as the region in which the dwelling place of bodhisattvas called Sudarśaka is located.

g.25 Khaśa

kha sha

ཁ་ཤ།

khaśa ^{AD} . *khasa* ^{AD}

The Central Asian city-state more commonly known in Tibetan as *li yul* and in English as Khotan. Here mentioned as the region in which the dwelling place of bodhisattvas called Gośṛṅga is located.

g.26 King of Mind

sems kyi rgyal po

སེམས་ཀྱི་རྒྱལ་པོ།

cittarāja ^{AD}

Name of the bodhisattva who teaches this and other chapters in *A Multitude of Buddhas*.

g.27 Mañjuśrī

'jam dpal

འཇམ་དཔལ།

mañjuśrī ^{AD}

Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:

Mañjuśrī is one of the “eight close sons of the Buddha” and a bodhisattva who embodies wisdom. He is a major figure in the Mahāyāna sūtras, appearing often as an interlocutor of the Buddha. In his most well-known iconographic form, he is portrayed bearing the sword of wisdom in his right hand and a volume of the *Prajñāpāramitāsūtra* in his left. To his name, Mañjuśrī, meaning “Gentle and Glorious One,” is often added the epithet Kumārabhūta, “having a youthful form.” He is also called Mañjughoṣa, Mañjusvara, and Pañcaśikha.

In this text:

Here the bodhisattva Mañjuśrī resides at a place called Mountain of Meadows.

g.28 Mathurā

ma dur na

མ་དུར་ན།

mathurā^{AD}

A city approximately fifty kilometers north of present-day Agra in what is now the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. In this chapter, Mathurā is the location of the bodhisattva dwelling place called Satisfying Cave.

g.29 Mountain of Meadows

spang ri

སྤང་རི།

—

Dwelling place of the bodhisattva Mañjuśrī.

g.30 Mucilinda Cave

btang bzung gi phug

བཏང་བཟུང་གི་ཕུག།

—

A dwelling place of bodhisattvas located in the region called Perfect Virtue.

g.31 Nārāyaṇa Cave

mthu bo'i che phug pa

མཐུ་བོའི་ཆེ་ཕུག་པ།

—

A dwelling place of bodhisattvas located in China.

g.32 Pāṭaliputra

pa ta la'i bu

པ་ཏ་ལའི་བུ།

pāṭaliputra ^{AD}

The capital of Magadha was moved to the city of Pāṭaliputra during the Mauryan expansion, after which it served as the capital of Aśoka's empire. It is identified with the modern Indian city of Patna. In this chapter, Pāṭaliputra is the location of the bodhisattva dwelling place called the Golden Park of the Saṅgha.

g.33 Perfect Virtue

dge ba'i phul du phyin pa

དགེ་བའི་ཕུལ་དུ་ཕྱིན་པ།

—

The region in which the dwelling place of bodhisattvas called Mucilinda Cave is located.

g.34 Possessed of Vajra Radiance

rdo rje'i 'od 'phro ba can

རྡོ་རྗེའི་འོད་འཕྲོ་བ་ཅན།

—

Dwelling place of the bodhisattva Walks with the Gait of a Lion.

g.35 Radiating Luminous Incense

spos kyi 'od zer rab tu 'gyed pa

སྤོས་ཀྱི་འོད་ཟེར་རབ་དུ་འགྱེད་པ།

—

The bodhisattva who resides at a place called Gandhamādana.

g.36 Relinquishing the Vase

ril ba gtong ba

རིལ་བ་གཏོང་བ།

—

The region in which the dwelling place of bodhisattvas called Dharma Seat is located. Thomas Cleary translates this (from the Chinese) as Kuchara.

g.37 Satisfying Cave

tshim par byed pa'i phug

ཚེས་པར་བྱེད་པའི་ཕྱག

—

A dwelling place of bodhisattvas located in Mathurā.

g.38 Stable Roots

rtsa ba shin tu brtan pa

རྩ་བ་ཤིན་ཏུ་བརྟན་པ།

—

A dwelling place of bodhisattvas, located south of Vaiśālī.

g.39 Sthavira Cave

gnas brtan gyi phug

གནས་བརྟན་གྱི་ཕུག

—

A dwelling place of bodhisattvas located in the region called Increasing Joy.

g.40 Stūpa

mchod rten

མཚོད་རྟེན།

stūpa^{AD}

Dwelling place of the bodhisattva Divine Aggregates.

g.41 Sudarśaka

shin tu ston pa

ཤིན་ཏུ་སྟོན་པ།

sudarśaka^{AD}

A dwelling place of bodhisattvas located in Kashmir.

g.42 Teaching with Hands Folded

khyor po ston pa

ཁྱོར་པོ་སྟོན་པ།

—

A dwelling place of bodhisattvas located in Jalandhar.

g.43 Vaiśālī

shin tu yangs pa

ཤིན་ཏུ་ཡངས་པ།

vaiśālī^{AD} . *viśāla*^{AD}

Capital of the Licchavī republic and an important city during the life of the Buddha. An attested Sanskrit equivalent of the Tibetan *shin tu yangs pa* is Viśāla, which is synonymous with Vaiśālī.

g.44 Vajra Mountain, Site of Four Great Oceans

rgya mtsho chen po bzhi'i gnas rdo rje'i ri

ཀླུ་མཚོ་ཚེན་པོ་བཞིའི་གནས་རྩ་རྗེའི་རི།

—

Dwelling place of the bodhisattva Dharmodgata.

g.45 Vajraśrī

rdo rje dpal

རྩ་རྗེ་དཔལ།

vajraśrī^{AD}

“Glorious Vajra,” the bodhisattva who dwells on the mountain called Appearance of a Sage.

g.46 Vatsa

be'u

བེའུ།

vatsa^{AD}

One of the sixteen great kingdoms of ancient India. The region in which the dwelling place of bodhisattvas called Añcala is located.

g.47 Victorious One

rgyal ba

རྒྱལ་བ།

jina^{AD}

An epithet of buddhas.

g.48 Walks with the Gait of a Lion

seng ge'i 'gros su 'gro ba

སེང་གེའི་འགོས་སུ་འགོ་བ།

—

The bodhisattva who resides at a place known as Possessed of Vajra Radiance.

