🥯। । ५५०७ मी खें स्र्येत्स्यक्ष्यं पशुः विदेशाय।

The Twelve Names of the Goddess Śrī

dpal gyi lha mo'i mtshan bcu gnyis pa

 \cdot Toh 741 \cdot Degé Kangyur vol. 94 (rgyud 'bum, tsha), folios 235.a–235.b



First published 2024

Current version v 1.0.0 (2024)

Generated by 84000 Reading Room v2.26.1

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SUMMARY

s.1 The Twelve Names of the Goddess $\acute{S}r\bar{\imath}$ is a short text revealed to Avalokiteśvara in the pure land of Sukhāvatī. In essence, it is a dhāraṇī centered on twelve epithets of the goddess of wealth. The spell is said to provide prosperity.

s.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ac.1 The text was translated from Tibetan by the Buddhapīṭha Translation Group (Gergely Hidas and Péter-Dániel Szántó).

ac.

ac.2 The translation was completed under the patronage and supervision of 84000: Translating the Words of the Buddha. Andreas Doctor edited the translation and the introduction, and Laura Goetz copyedited the text. Martina Cotter was in charge of the digital publication process.

INTRODUCTION

i.1 The Twelve Names of the Goddess Śrī is a short text revealed to Avalokiteśvara in the pure land of Sukhāvatī. In essence, it is a dhāraṇī centered on twelve epithets of the goddess of wealth and a short ritual instruction concerning its recitation. Lists of the epithets of a deity are a common type of dhāraṇī, and such texts can sometimes be extremely long (for example, Reciting the Names of Mañjuśrī). An alternative version of this text is The Sūtra of Mahāśrī, from which it differs in only minor details.

i.

i.3

i.4

i.5

i.2 Mahāśrī, or simply Śrī, or commonly Lakṣmī, is a goddess who is perhaps more prevalent in the brahmanical tradition, where she is said to be the great god Viṣṇu's consort. She is associated with well-being and prosperity. Here her names constitute the inner core of the dhāraṇī, which is promised to provide prosperity. This text styles her a bodhisattva.

The text is extant in Sanskrit in the old palm-leaf Nepalese Compendium of Dhāraṇīs (*Dhāraṇīsaṃgraha*). Two such witnesses have been published by Hidas.³ The first is unfortunately fragmentary, and we cannot determine what the end of the text looked like. The second witness concludes the text with the application of the dhāraṇī, which is not mirrored in the Tibetan but is paralleled by the penultimate section of *The Sūtra of Mahāśrī*. Another difference is that in the Sanskrit, the name-dhāraṇī is revealed not only to Avalokiteśvara, but also to Mañjuśrī.

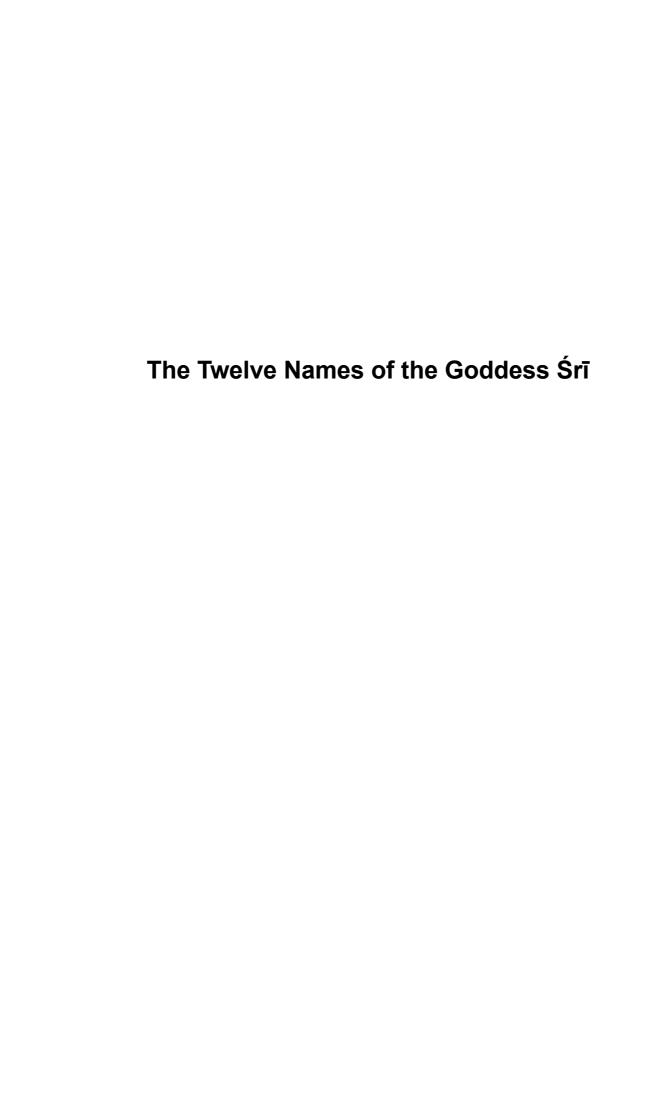
The Tibetan translation dates from the imperial period, sometime in the early ninth century. It is listed in both imperial catalogs, ⁴ and the colophon attributes it to the famous translator-duo Jinamitra and Yeshé Dé. We know of at least one Dunhuang copy of the Tibetan translation; ⁵ this was copied on the back of a Chinese scroll in a somewhat unusual way, in columns.

The Chinese translation dates to the Tang dynasty and holds the distinction of being the earliest attestation of the text, which thus must have been in circulation before the middle of the eighth century. Although some catalogs list this translation as one item (Taishō 1252),⁶ in fact, what we have

here is not one, but two translations of the same text. Both are attributed to Amoghavajra, arguably the most influential master to propagate esoteric Buddhist lore at the Tang court. A part of the dhāraṇī portion is also included here in the *siddham* script. There are some differences when compared to the Sanskrit and the Tibetan: the male bodhisattva to whom the name-dhāraṇī is revealed is Samantabhadra, and this version also transmits some passages on the application of the spell, as well as another dhāraṇī, which is quite similar to the famous dhāraṇī of the Heart Sūtra, (gate gate, etc.)

i.6

This translation was made principally on the basis of the Tibetan translations of the text found in the Tantra Collection (rgyud 'bum) and the Compendium of Dhāraṇīs (gzungs 'dus)^Z in the Degé Kangyur, in consultation with the editions of two Sanskrit witnesses, the Dunhuang version, the Stok Palace Kangyur, and *The Sūtra of Mahāśrī*.



The Translation

[F.235.a]

1.

1.1 Homage to the Three Jewels.

Homage to the noble Avalokiteśvara.

Homage to Vajrapāņi.

Homage to the great goddess Śrī.⁸

- Thus did I hear at one time. The Blessed One was residing in the realm of Sukhāvatī. Then the bodhisattva mahāsattva, the noble Avalokiteśvara, set out to where the Blessed One was residing. Having arrived, he bowed his head at the feet of the Blessed One, circumambulated the Blessed One thrice, and sat down on one side. Then the bodhisattva mahāsattva, the great goddess Śrī, also set out to where the Blessed One was residing. Having arrived, she bowed her head at the feet of the Blessed One and sat down on one side.
- 1.4 Then the Blessed One looked at Mahāśrī and said this to the noble Avalokiteśvara: [F.235.b] "Avalokiteśvara, whosoever, including monks and nuns, laymen and laywomen, gets to know, upholds, recites, accomplishes, or speaks of the twelve names of Mahāśrī here will escape destitution and become very wealthy." ⁹
- 1.5 Then the entire host of spirits $\frac{10}{2}$ said, "May it be so!"
- "These are the twelve names of the great goddess Śrī: "It is thus—Welfare, Splendor, She Who Is Wearing a Garland of Lotuses, Mistress of Wealth, White One, 11 She of Great Fame, Lotus-Eyed One, She of Great Radiance, She Who Accomplishes, Bestower of Nourishment, She of Jewel-Like Gleam, 12 Great Splendor. Homage to all buddhas! Homage to

Avalokiteśvara! Homage to the great goddess Śrī! It is thus—*jini ghriṇi*, O Accomplisher of All Goals, *simi simi nimi*, $\frac{13}{15}$ remove my destitution completely, $\frac{14}{15}$ *svāhā*. $\frac{15}{15}$

- 1.7 Thus spoke the Blessed One, and the bodhisattva, the noble Avalokiteśvara, was gladdened and praised the speech of the Blessed One.
- 1.8 Here ends "The Twelve Names of the Great Goddess Śrī."

Colophon

c.1 This was translated, checked, and redacted by the Indian preceptor Jinamitra and the great editor-translator Bandé Yeshé Dé.

c.

n. NOTES

- n.1 Mañjuśrīnāmasaṃgīti ('jam dpal mtshan brjod, Toh 360).
- n.2 *Mahāśrīsūtra (dpal chen mo'i mdo,* Toh 740/1005). See <u>The Sūtra of Mahāśrī</u> (https://84000.co/translation/toh740.html).
- n.3 Hidas 2021, p. 33, item no. 3 and p. 52, item no. 40 in Cambridge University Library Ms Add. 1680.8.3 and Ms Add. 1680.8, respectively.
- n.4 Denkarma, folio 303.b; Herrmann-Pfandt 2008, pp. 247–48; Kawagoe 2005, p. 23. Interestingly, the former gives the length as 8 units, whereas the latter gives 10.
- n.5 <u>Pelliot tibétain 68.1 (https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b8303994x)</u>,
 Bibliothèque nationale de France, Département des Manuscrits, accessed through *Bibliothèque nationale de France Gallica*. Already identified in Lalou 1939, p. 23.
- n.6 Da jixiang tiannu shi'er ming hao jing 大吉祥天女十二名號經 (<u>CBETA T1252a</u> (<u>https://cbetaonline.dila.edu.tw/zh/T1252a</u>); <u>CBETA 1252b</u> (<u>https://cbetaonline.dila.edu.tw/zh/T1252b</u>)).
- n.7 Note that there is a discrepancy among various databases for cataloging the Toh 1006 version of this text within vol. 101 or 102 of the Degé Kangyur. See Toh 1006, n.7 (https://read.84000.co/translation/toh1006.html#UT22084-094-018-137), for details.
- n.8 Most if not all of these obeisance formulas are not part of the main text, but the so-called translators' obeisance ('gyur phyag').
- n.9 The Dunhuang version (lines 12–13) adds, "Such a person will become fortunate with many riches, much grain, much livestock, much treasure, many sons, and many retainers and servants" (nor mang ba dang 'bru mang po

- dang / phyugs mang po dang / bang mdzod mang po dang bu tsa mang po/+ +yog mang po phun sum tshogs par 'gyur ro//; illegible letters are marked with a + sign here; we expect that the lost part was something like 'khor g.yog).
- n.10 It is not at all clear where these spirits came from, and it is still less clear why they are in Sukhāvatī.
- n.11 Gaurī is given in the Sanskrit, but the Tibetan here has "Clad in White" (*dkar sham ma*).
- n.12 The Tibetan of *The Sūtra of Mahāśrī* has *rin po che rab tu sbyin ma*, suggesting an underlying reading of *Ratnapradā.
- n.13 The Sanskrit differs slightly: "Here the mantra-words are *jini jini glini glini kāyaviśodhani vāgviśodhani manaḥsaṃśodhani* ('Purifier of Body, Speech, and Mind'), *sisi sisi, nimi nimi*." The Sanskrit does not transmit the three obeisance formulas.
- n.14 Here we have adopted the Dunhuang reading (*myi shis pa*), mirroring the Sanskrit *alakṣmīṃ* more faithfully, instead of Degé and Stok, which, due to a scribal error, have "ignorance" (*mi shes pa*).
- n.15 The names or epithets translated into Tibetan are (1) Lakṣmī, (2) Śrī, (3) Padmamālinī (4) Dhanādhipati, (5) Gaurī, (6) Mahāyaśāḥ, (7) Padmanetrī, (8) Mahādyuti, (9) Kartrī, (10) Annadāyinī, (11) Ratnaprabhā (cf. note 11), and (12) Mahāśrī.

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

Attested in source text AS

This term is attested in a manuscript used as a source for this translation.

Attested in other text AO

This term is attested in other manuscripts with a parallel or similar context.

ADAttested in dictionary

> This term is attested in dictionaries matching Tibetan to the corresponding language.

Approximate attestation AA

> 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.

Reconstruction from Tibetan phonetic rendering RP

This term is a reconstruction based on the Tibetan phonetic rendering of the

term.

Reconstruction from Tibetan semantic rendering RS

This term is a reconstruction based on the semantics of the Tibetan

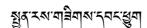
translation.

SU Source unspecified

> This term has been supplied from an unspecified source, which most often is a widely trusted dictionary.

Avalokiteśvara g.1

spyan ras gzigs dbang phyug



avalokiteśvara ^{AS}

Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:

One of the "eight close sons of the Buddha," he is also known as the bodhisattva who embodies compassion. In certain tantras, he is also the lord of the three families, where he embodies the compassion of the buddhas. In Tibet, he attained great significance as a special protector of Tibet, and in China, in female form, as Guanyin, the most important bodhisattva in all of East Asia.

g.2 Bandé Yeshé Dé

ban+de ye shes sde

Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:

Yeshé Dé (late eighth to early ninth century) was the most prolific translator of sūtras into Tibetan. Altogether he is credited with the translation of more than one hundred sixty sūtra translations and more than one hundred additional translations, mostly on tantric topics. In spite of Yeshé Dé's great importance for the propagation of Buddhism in Tibet during the imperial era, only a few biographical details about this figure are known. Later sources describe him as a student of the Indian teacher Padmasambhava, and he is also credited with teaching both sūtra and tantra widely to students of his own. He was also known as Nanam Yeshé Dé, from the Nanam (*sna nam*) clan.

g.3 Bestower of Nourishment

zas sbyin ma

annadāyinī ^{AS}

One of the twelve names or epithets of Mahāśrī in *The Sūtra of Mahāśrī* (<u>Toh</u> 740/1005) and *The Twelve Names of the Great Goddess Śrī*.

g.4 blessed one

bcom ldan 'das

bhagavat ^{AS}

Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:

In Buddhist literature, this is an epithet applied to buddhas, most often to Śākyamuni. The Sanskrit term generally means "possessing fortune," but in specifically Buddhist contexts it implies that a buddha is in possession of six auspicious qualities (*bhaga*) associated with complete awakening. The

Tibetan term—where *bcom* is said to refer to "subduing" the four māras, *ldan* to "possessing" the great qualities of buddhahood, and 'das to "going beyond" saṃsāra and nirvāṇa—possibly reflects the commentarial tradition where the Sanskrit *bhagavat* is interpreted, in addition, as "one who destroys the four māras." This is achieved either by reading *bhagavat* as *bhagnavat* ("one who broke"), or by tracing the word *bhaga* to the root √*bhañj* ("to break").

g.5 bodhisattva mahāsattva

byang chub sems dpa' sems dpa' chen po

 $bodhisattvamah\bar{a}sattva$ AS

Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:

The term can be understood to mean "great courageous one" or "great hero," or (from the Sanskrit) simply "great being," and is almost always found as an epithet of "bodhisattva." The qualification "great" in this term, according to the majority of canonical definitions, focuses on the generic greatness common to all bodhisattvas, i.e., the greatness implicit in the bodhisattva vow itself in terms of outlook, aspiration, number of beings to be benefited, potential or eventual accomplishments, and so forth. In this sense the <code>mahā-</code> is closer in its connotations to the <code>mahā-</code> in "Mahāyāna" than to the mahā- in "mahāsiddha." While individual bodhisattvas described as <code>mahāsattva</code> may in many cases also be "great" in terms of their level of realization, this is largely coincidental, and in the canonical texts the epithet is not restricted to bodhisattvas at any particular point in their career. Indeed, in a few cases even bodhisattvas whose path has taken a wrong direction are still described as <code>bodhisattva</code> mahāsattva.

Later commentarial writings do nevertheless define the term—variably—in terms of bodhisattvas having attained a particular level (*bhūmi*) or realization. The most common qualifying criteria mentioned are attaining the path of seeing, attaining irreversibility (according to its various definitions), or attaining the seventh bhūmi.

g.6 dhāranī

gzungs

বার্থ্যা

dhāranī ^{AS}

Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:

The term <code>dhāraṇī</code> has the sense of something that "holds" or "retains," and so it can refer to the special capacity of practitioners to memorize and recall detailed teachings. It can also refer to a verbal expression of the teachings—an incantation, spell, or mnemonic formula—that distills and "holds" essential points of the Dharma and is used by practitioners to attain mundane and supramundane goals. The same term is also used to denote texts that contain such formulas.

g.7 Great Splendor

dpal chen mo ma

mahāśrī ^{AS}

One of the twelve names or epithets of Mahāśrī in *The Sūtra of Mahāśrī* (Toh 740/1005) and *The Twelve Names of the Great Goddess Śrī. The Sūtra of Mahāśrī* gives the variant *dpal chen mo*.

g.8 Jinamitra

dzi na mi tra

ह्र.य.श्र.घी

jinamitra ^{AO}

Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:

Jinamitra was invited to Tibet during the reign of King Trisong Detsen (*khri srong lde btsan*, r. 742–98 cE) and was involved with the translation of nearly two hundred texts, continuing into the reign of King Ralpachen (*ral pa can*, r. 815–38 cE). He was one of the small group of paṇḍitas responsible for the *Mahāvyutpatti* Sanskrit–Tibetan dictionary.

g.9 layman

dge bsnyen



upāsaka ^{AS}

An unordained male practitioner who observes the five precepts not to kill, lie, steal, be intoxicated, or commit sexual misconduct.

g.10 laywoman

dge bsnyen ma



upāsikā ^{AS}

An unordained female practitioner who observes the five precepts not to kill, lie, steal, be intoxicated, or commit sexual misconduct.

g.11 Lotus-Eyed One

pad+ma spyan mnga' ma

प्रज्ञुमुख्यरतःस्रा

padmanetr $\bar{\imath}^{AS}$

One of the twelve names or epithets of Mahāśrī in *The Sūtra of Mahāśrī* (Toh 740/1005) and *The Twelve Names of the Great Goddess Śrī. The Sūtra of Mahāśrī* gives the variant *padma'i spyan*.

g.12 Mahāśrī

dpal chen mo

न्यत्य के द र्शे।

mahāśrī ^{AS}

Name of a goddess more prevalent in the brahmanical tradition, where she is a consort of Viṣṇu. The subject of *The Sūtra of Mahāśrī* ($\underline{\text{Toh } 740/1005}$) and *The Twelve Names of the Great Goddess Śrī*, where twelve of her epithets are listed.

g.13 Mañjuśrī

'jam dpal

तहस्र र्थया

mañjuśrī ^{AO}

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.

g.14 Mistress of Wealth

nor bdag ma

र्वेर:यद्या:सा

dhan \bar{a} dhipati AS

One of the twelve names or epithets of Mahāśrī in *The Sūtra of Mahāśrī* (Toh 740/1005) and *The Twelve Names of the Great Goddess Śrī. The Sūtra of Mahāśrī* gives the variant *nor gyi bdag mo*.

g.15 monk

dge slong



bhiksu ^{AS}

Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:

The term *bhikṣu*, often translated as "monk," refers to the highest among the eight types of prātimokṣa vows that make one part of the Buddhist assembly. The Sanskrit term literally means "beggar" or "mendicant," referring to the fact that Buddhist monks and nuns—like other ascetics of the time—subsisted on alms (*bhikṣā*) begged from the laity.

In the Tibetan tradition, which follows the Mūlasarvāstivāda Vinaya, a monk follows 253 rules as part of his moral discipline. A nun (*bhikṣuṇī*; *dge slong ma*) follows 364 rules. A novice monk (*śrāmaṇera*; *dge tshul*) or nun (*śrāmaṇerikā*; *dge tshul ma*) follows thirty-six rules of moral discipline (although in other vinaya traditions novices typically follow only ten).

g.16 nun

dge slong ma



bhiksun $\bar{\iota}^{AS}$

Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:

The term <code>bhikṣuṇī</code>, often translated as "nun," refers to the highest among the eight types of prātimokṣa vows that make one part of the Buddhist assembly. The Sanskrit term <code>bhikṣu</code> (to which the female grammatical ending <code>ṇī</code> is added) literally means "beggar" or "mendicant," referring to the fact that Buddhist nuns and monks—like other ascetics of the time—subsisted on alms (<code>bhikṣā</code>) begged from the laity. In the Tibetan tradition, which follows the Mūlasarvāstivāda Vinaya, a bhikṣuṇī follows 364 rules and a bhikṣu follows 253 rules as part of their moral discipline.

For the first few years of the Buddha's teachings in India, there was no ordination for women. It started at the persistent request and display of determination of Mahāprajāpatī, the Buddha's stepmother and aunt, together with five hundred former wives of men of Kapilavastu, who had themselves become monks. Mahāprajāpatī is thus considered to be the founder of the nun's order.

g.17 preceptor

mkhan po

আনব:র্যা

upādhyāya ^{AO}

Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:

A person's particular preceptor within the monastic tradition. They must have at least ten years of standing in the saṅgha, and their role is to confer ordination, to tend to the student, and to provide all the necessary requisites, therefore guiding that person for the taking of full vows and the maintenance of conduct and practice. This office was decreed by the Buddha so that aspirants would not have to receive ordination from the Buddha in person, and the Buddha identified two types: those who grant entry into the renunciate order and those who grant full ordination. The Tibetan translation *mkhan po* has also come to mean "a learned scholar," the equivalent of a *paṇḍita*, but that is not the intended meaning in Indic Buddhist literature.

g.18 She of Great Fame

grags chen ma

ব্যবাধ্য:ক্রব:মা

mahāyaśas ^{AS}

One of the twelve names or epithets of Mahāśrī in *The Sūtra of Mahāśrī* (Toh 740/1005) and *The Twelve Names of the Great Goddess Śrī. The Sūtra of Mahāśrī* gives the variant *grags pa chen mo*.

g.19 She of Great Radiance

'od chen ma

 $mah\bar{a}dyuti$ AS

One of the twelve names or epithets of Mahāśrī in *The Sūtra of Mahāśrī* (Toh 740/1005) and *The Twelve Names of the Great Goddess Śrī. The Sūtra of Mahāśrī* gives the variant 'od chen mo.

g.20 She of Jewel-Like Gleam

rin chen 'od ldan ma

ratnaprabh \bar{a}^{AS}

One of the twelve names or epithets of Mahāśrī in *The Sūtra of Mahāśrī* (<u>Toh</u> 740/1005) and *The Twelve Names of the Great Goddess Śrī*.

g.21 She Who Accomplishes

byed pa mo

ब्रेन्स्स्र्

 $kartr\bar{\imath}^{AS}$

One of the twelve names or epithets of Mahāśrī in *The Sūtra of Mahāśrī* (Toh 740/1005) and *The Twelve Names of the Great Goddess Śrī*.

g.22 She Who Is Wearing a Garland of Lotuses

pad+ma'i phreng thogs ma

ধ্রুরস্থিস্র্রিক্রিক্রম্যমা

padmamālinī AS

One of the twelve names or epithets of Mahāśrī in *The Sūtra of Mahāśrī* (<u>Toh</u> 740/1005) and *The Twelve Names of the Great Goddess Śrī. The Sūtra of Mahāśrī* gives the variant *padma'i phreng ba can*.

g.23 spirit

'byung po

वहर:र्स्)

bhūta ^{AS}

Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:

This term in its broadest sense can refer to any being, whether human, animal, or nonhuman. However, it is often used to refer to a specific class of nonhuman beings, especially when bhūtas are mentioned alongside rākṣasas, piśācas, or pretas. In common with these other kinds of nonhumans, bhūtas are usually depicted with unattractive and misshapen bodies. Like several other classes of nonhuman beings, bhūtas take spontaneous birth. As their leader is traditionally regarded to be Rudra-Śiva (also known by the name Bhūta), with whom they haunt dangerous and wild places, bhūtas are especially prominent in Śaivism, where large sections of certain tantras concentrate on them.

g.24 Splendor

dpal ldan ma

र्ययाः ख्रेषः स्रा

śrī ^{AS}

One of the twelve names or epithets of Mahāśrī in *The Sūtra of Mahāśrī* (<u>Toh</u> 740/1005) and *The Twelve Names of the Great Goddess Śrī*.

g.25 Sukhāvatī

bde ba can

नदेन्य उद्

sukhāvatī ^{AO}

Sukhāvatī (Blissful) is the buddhafield to the west inhabited by the buddha Amitābha, who is also known as Amitāyus. It is classically described in The Display of the Pure Land of Sukhāvatī (*Sukhāvatīvyūha*).

g.26 Three Jewels

dkon mchog gsum

triratna ^{AO}

Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:

The Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha—the three objects of Buddhist refuge. In the Tibetan rendering, "the three rare and supreme ones."

g.27 Vajrapāņi

phyag na rdo rje

ध्याः दः ईः हो।

vajrapāni ^{AO}

Definition from the 84000 Glossary of Terms:

Vajrapāṇi means "Wielder of the Vajra." In the Pali canon, he appears as a yakṣa guardian in the retinue of the Buddha. In the Mahāyāna scriptures he is a bodhisattva and one of the "eight close sons of the Buddha." In the tantras, he is also regarded as an important Buddhist deity and instrumental in the transmission of tantric scriptures.

g.28 Welfare

bkra shis ma

laksmī ^{AS}

One of the twelve names or epithets of Mahāśrī in *The Sūtra of Mahāśrī* ($\underline{\text{Toh}}$ $\underline{740/1005}$) and *The Twelve Names of the Great Goddess Śrī*.

g.29 White One

dkar sham ma

<u> र्गारः</u>नुसःसा

gaur $\bar{\imath}^{AS}$

One of the twelve names or epithets of Mahāśrī in *The Sūtra of Mahāśr*ī (<u>Toh</u> 740/1005) and *The Twelve Names of the Great Goddess Śrī. The Sūtra of Mahāśrī* gives the variant *dkar mo*.