

MAREK MEJOR

Quotations from Vasubandhu in the HOR CHOS 'BYUNG

For Professor Klaus Sagaster

§1. In his brief systematic description of the Tibetan historical literature, A. Vostrikov devoted one chapter to the special class of this literature which is called "history of Religion or Doctrine" (*chos 'byung*).¹

To this very important category of texts belong such famous books like Bu ston's "History of Buddhism in India and Tibet" (*Chos 'byung*) from 1322 A.D., Tāranātha's "History of Buddhism in India" (*Rgya gar gyi chos 'byung*) from 1608 A.D., and "History of Buddhism in Mongolia" (*Hor chos 'byung*) from 1819 A.D.

§2. The last named, the *Hor chos 'byung*, is a well-known work² compiled by a Mongolian scholar 'Jigs med rig pa'i rdo rje (Gu shrī Dka' bcu Su dhī Āyu warta alias Dbyangs can sgeg pa'i blo gros 'Jigs med rig pa'i rdo rje).³ Its full title is *Chen po hor gyi yul du dam pa'i chos ji ltar byung ba'i tshul bshad pa rgyal ba'i bstan pa rin po che gsal bar byed pa'i sgron me*, i.e. "The account of the origin of the Holy Doctrine in the country of Great Mongolia, called the «Lamp Illuminating the Precious Doctrine of the Victorious One»".⁴ The "History of Buddhism in Mongolia" was composed in the monastery Bkra shis dga' ldan bshad sgrub gling, on the 11th of the 8th month (Bhādrapada, Khrums zla ba) of the year earth-hare (sa-yos), i.e. in 1819 A.D., at the request of the Amōdo bla ma Zam tsha sku zhabs rin po che 'Jigs med nam mkha' (1768–1821).⁵ The two scribes were Gu shrī Blo bzang legs bshad dar rgyas and Gu shrī Legs bshad chos 'dzin.

¹ Vostrikov III §7, pp. 88–108. Cf. also Dietz 435 n. 1.

² For the details see Vostrikov, pp. 101–102, nn. 477–481; Roerich; Bira, pp. 50–55; Sagaster, pp. 68–70 and n. 63.

³ On the author see Vostrikov, loc. cit.; Roerich; Ligeti HCB_L, *Introduction*, p. 2ff.

⁴ Cf. Roerich, p. 226.

⁵ Vostrikov, n. 479.

§3. The Tibetan text of the *Hor chos 'byung* accompanied with a German translation was published by Georg Huth in 1892–1896 in two volumes. For his edition Huth used A. Schiefner's transcript of the xylograph kept in the Asiatic Museum in St. Petersburg (No. 438b). Huth also knew about another xylograph kept in St. Petersburg (Cat. no. 505).⁶ The editor announced the third volume, never to appear, in which he planned to give the critical notes, corrections to the text, indices, etc.

It was A. Vostrikov, who first gave the correct names of the author of the *Hor chos 'byung* and his patron, and also clarified some other of Huth's mistakes (e.g. wrong chronology).⁷ During his research trip to Inner Mongolia in 1928–31, L. Ligeti acquired a xylograph copy of the *Hor chos 'byung*. It was printed at his request in 1930 in the monastery Ch'ao yang (Tumed territory) where the printing blocks of that rare text have been preserved. The xylograph is kept now at the Oriental Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.⁸ It was reprinted by Lokesh Chandra in 1981 in the Šata-Pitaka Series as vol. 271.

Recently (1993) the text of the *Hor chos 'byung* was published in Zi Ling (Xining).

§4. The *Hor chos 'byung* is divided into two main parts: the first part consists of the description of Mongolian royal family; the second part has two large chapters: the general history of Buddhism in Mongolia, and the spread of Buddhism after Tsong kha pa's reform.⁹

⁶ Huth I, p. vii. Vostrikov (Vostrikov, n. 475) identified three copies of the xylograph which were available in St. Petersburg: one kept in the Institute of Asiatic Nationalities (old collection, no. 438b) [= that one was the basis of Huth's edition], another in the Asiatic Department (no. 505), and the third in the University Library. In addition to these, Vostrikov mentioned a manuscript copy which was kept in the latter Library, made from the xylograph.

⁷ See esp. Vostrikov n. 481: Roerich.

⁸ Ligeti 1977, p. 56; Ligeti HCBL, *Introduction*. The present author was able to consult the microfilm of the xylograph in Budapest (MTAK No. 3565/ix): Title page: *Chen po hor gyi yul du dam pa'i chos ji ltar byung ba'i tshul bshad pa rgyal ba'i bstan pa rin po che gsal bar byed pa'i sgron me zhes bya ba bzugs so//* Short title: *Hor chos 'byung*. Illustrations: fol. 1 (left): *bstan pa'i bdag po sākya'i rgyal*; (right): *rgyal ba gnis pa blo bzang grags*; fol. 2 (left): *'jam mgon sa skya pañdi ta*; (right): *rgyal dbang bsod nams rgya mtsho rje*. Begins: *na mo gu ru mañdu nā tha ya/* Fol. 2a3-2b1: */bstan pa zhes gsungs pa ltar skye rgu'i 'phral dang phugs kyi phan ba de ma lus pa 'byung ba'i gnas rgyal ba'i dam chos bstan pa rin po che sog po'z yul du ji ltar byung tshul bshad pa la gnis / rgyal po'i rabs ji ltar byung tshul dang / rgyal ba'i bstan pa bstam 'dzin dang bcas pa ji ltar byung tshul dngos bshad pa'o//* Fol. 31a1-2: */gnis pa rgyal ba'i bstam pa bstam 'dzin dang bcas pa chen po hor gyi yul du ji ltar byung tshul dngos bshad pa la gnis / rgyal ba'i bstam pa rin po che ji ltar byung tshul spyir bshad pa dang / khyad par du 'jam mgon rgyal ba gnis pa btsong kha pa chen po'i bstam pa rin po che ji ltar byung tshul bshad pa'o//* Colophon: fol. 160b6-161b4 [= reproduced and translated in Roerich, pp. 226–228; cf. also Vostrikov, n. 481 on p. 273ff.]. Fol. 161b4-162a3: closing stanzas.

⁹ See preceding note. Cf. Huth II, pp. xi–xviii.

The edition of the text from 1993 gives the following divisions into chapters:

1. *gleng gzhi* (subject of discussion).
2. *rgya gar dang bod kyi rgyal rabs rim byung gi skor* (about succession order of royal dynasties of India and Tibet),
3. *sog po'i rgyal rabs rim byung gi skor* (about succession order of royal dynasty of Mongolia),
4. *min dang ching rgyal rabs rim byung gi skor* (about succession order of royal dynasties of Ming and Ch'ing),
5. *rgyal ba'i bstan pa sog yul du dar tshul* (the way the teaching of the Victorious One spread in Mongolia),
6. *'jam mgon rgyal ba gnis pa'i bstan pa sog yul du dar tshul* (the way the teaching of the Second Victorious One, Mañjunātha [= Tsongkhapa], spread in Mongolia),
7. *ching rgyal rabs skabs sog yul du bstan pa lhag par dar tshul* (the way of further spread of teaching in Mongolia at the time of the Ch'ing royal dynasty),
8. *sog yul du skyes chen dam pa rnam byon tshul* (how the great learned men appeared in Mongolia),
9. *rgyal dbang bdun pa'i legs bshad sogs* (the elegant sayings of the seventh Dalai Lama [Blo bzang bskal bzang rgya mtsho], etc.),
10. *mjug byang* (colophon).

§5. Thanks to Schiefer's materials and notes, Huth was able to identify numerous quotations from Sa skyā pāṇḍita's and Nāgārjuna's works.¹⁰ Of the former, they come from the *Subhāṣitaratnānidhi* (*Legs par bshad pa rin po che'i gter*),¹¹ of the latter, they come from two works: the *Prajñāśatakanāmaprakarana* (*Shes rab brgya ba zhes bya ba'i rab tu byed pa*, P Tanjur 5820, mdo, Go. 140b-145a),¹² and the *Nītiśāstraprajñādāṇḍa* (*Lugs kyi bcos shes rab sdong bu*, P Tanjur 5821, mdo, Go. 145a-156b).¹³

Among many quotations of sayings from Śrīnātha Nāgārjuna, Sa skyā pāṇḍita, and a few others (e.g. Śāntideva, Zhi ba lha), there are also found seven quotations from Vasubandhu (Dbyig gñen), a famous Buddhist philosopher of the fifth century.¹⁴

§6. The "History of Buddhism" by Bu ston (1290-1364) from 1322 A.D. is a well-known work of a great erudite.¹⁵

¹⁰ Huth II, pp. xxviii-xxxii.

¹¹ Cf. Ligeti 1948, p. vii.

¹² Not mentioned among the works ascribed to Nāgārjuna in Lindtner.

¹³ "Perhaps authentic...", Lindtner, p. 14 n. 29.

¹⁴ Dharmatāla in his "Rosary of White Lotuses" from 1889 A.D. three times quotes the Abhidharmakośa: VIII.39a-b, VIII.38c-d, and V.44. Two first quotations correspond to the *Hor chos 'byung* fragments 2 and 5, respectively (see below).

¹⁵ See Szerb, *Introduction*.

Bu ston quoted many texts, both canonical sūtras and exegetical śāstras, but especially often he referred to the two works of Vasubandhu: *Abhidharmakośa* and *Vyākhyāyukti*.¹⁶ It seems that the author of the *Hor chos 'byung* followed Bu ston's *Chos 'byung*, at least to some extent, and took also from Bu ston's work most of his references to Vasubandhu's works.¹⁷

The present contribution, dedicated in honour of Professor Klaus Sagaster on the occasion of his 65th birthday, is devoted to the identification and brief analysis of the seven quotations from Vasubandhu's works (and one from Śāntideva) which are found in the *Hor chos 'byung*. (It is needless to say that Huth failed to identify the quotations from Vasubandhu, and his translation of the passages is often unreliable.)

Acknowledgments

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(1) = VyY Si. 40b1ff.

[Huth I,61.8-62.1 = HCB 76. 16-77.1 = HCB_L 34b2-6] *de ltar na spyir chos zhes bya ba'i sgra ni don bcu la 'jug ste / kun mkhyen gñis pa Dbyig gñen gyi zhal nas /*

*chos ni shes bya lam dang ni /
mya ngan 'das dang yid kyi yul /
bsod nams tshe dang gsung rab dang /
'byung 'gyur nges dang chos lugs la'o /*

¹⁶ Bu ston mentioned eight treatises (*prakaraṇa*) of Vasubandhu, and among them he distinguished five independent treatises: *Trīṃśikā*, *Vīṃśatikā*, *Pañcaskandhaprakaraṇa*, *Vyākhyāyukti*, and *Karmasiddhiprakaraṇa*. He characterized VyY as a work on idealism, which shows the adequacy of preaching and learning of the doctrine. Bu ston [Ya. 21b7-22a2 = p. 674-5; Obermiller I, 57]: *dbyig gñen gyi rab tu byed pa sde bryad ni / chos thams cad sems tsam du ston pa sum cu pa / de rigs pas sgrub pa ñi shu pa / de'i gzhi phung po lnga 'thad par ston pa phung po lnga pa / de ltar yin yang bshad ñan 'thad par ston pa [/] rnam bshad rigs pa / sgo gsum gyi las 'thad par ston pa las grub pa'i rab tu byed pa ste </> rang rgyud du brtsams pa lnga /*.

¹⁷ On the sources of the *Hor chos 'byung* see Vostrikov, loc. cit.; Roerich; Ligeti HCB_L, *Introduction*; Sagaster, loc. cit.

zhes 'byung ba ltar la / de yang mdo las / chos rnams thams cad de 'drar shes par gyis / zhes pa shes bya dang / yang dag pa'i lta ba ni chos yin no // zhes pa lam dang / chos la skyabs su song ba zhes pa myang 'das dang / chos kyi skye mched ces pa yid yul dang / btsun mo'i 'khor dang gzhon nu rnams dang lhan cig chos spyod ces pa bsod nams dang / byis pa ni mthong ba'i chos gces par 'dzin zhes pa tshe dang / chos zhes pa ni 'di lta ste / mdo'i sde dang / dbyangs kyis bsñad pa'i sde dang zhes pa gsung rab dang / lus 'di rgas pa'i chos yin no zhes pa 'byung 'gyur dang / dge sbyong gi chos zhes pa nges pa dang / yul chos dang rigs chos zhes pa chos lugs te bcu la 'jug pa'o //

Translation

“Thus, in general, the word *dharma* is put into ten meanings, as it was said by the second Omniscient,¹⁸ Vasubandhu –

«[The word] *dharma* [is put] in [the meaning of] phenomenon of existence, the path, *nirvāṇa*, object of the mind, virtue, lifetime, [Buddha's] teachings, characteristic of becoming, religious vow, and religious tradition.»

Thus, it was said in the *Sūtra*: «Though [he] knows all the *dharma*s (phenomena) like that...» — [in the sense of] phenomena of existence (cognizable things, *jñeyā*);¹⁹ «...the right view is *dharma*» — [in the sense of the] path; «he went for refuge to the *dharma*» — [in the sense of final liberation,] *nirvāṇa*; «the basis of cognition of the *dharma*s» — [in the sense of the] object of mind; «the ladies attending the queen and young men mutually behave with *dharma*» — [in the sense of] virtue; «a fool holds dear the visible things (*dharma*s)» — [in the sense of the present] lifetime; «*dharma* means the religious discourses and the verse utterances» — [in the sense of the] Buddha's teachings; «this body is a *dharma* (characteristic of coming into being) of ageing» — [in the sense of the characteristic of] coming into being; «*dharma* (duties) of a monk ascetic» — [in the sense of] the religious vow; «*dharma* of the country and *dharma* of social class» — [in the sense of] the religious tradition.”²⁰

Comment

The passage is found in Bu ston's *Chos 'byung* as a quotation from Vasubandhu's VyY. The following explanations on the tenfold meaning of the word *dharma*, which were put at length in VyY, Bu ston took out in an abbreviated form (underlined are the words taken verbatim from VyY).

¹⁸ Cf. Yaśomitra, AKVy ad I.1.

¹⁹ It should be noted that the explanation of the first meaning of the word *dharma* is different in the *Hor chos 'byung* from the original in VyY.

²⁰ Cf. Huth II.92.16-93.1.

(*Bu ston*, Ya. 7a4-7b1 = p. 645; *Obermiller I.18 n. 142*, cf. n. 144): *chos shes pa'i sgra de don bcu la 'jug ste / rnam bshad rigs par / chos ni shes bya lam dang ni // mya ngan 'das dang yid kyi yul // bsod nams tshe dang gsung rab dang // 'byung 'gyur nges dang chos lugs la'o // zhes pas / chos gang la la 'dus byas sam 'dus ma byas sam zhes pa shes bya dang / yang dag pa'i lta ba ni chos yin no zhes pa ltar lam dang / chos la skyabs su song ba zhes pa myang 'das dang / chos kyi skye mched ces pa yid yul dang / btsun mo'i 'khor dang gzhon nu rnams dang lhan cig chos spyod ces pa bsod nams dang / byis pa ni mthong ba'i chos gces par 'dzin pa yin zhes pa tshe dang / chos shes pa ni / 'di lta ste / mdo'i sde dang zhes pa lta bu gsung rab dang / lus 'di rgas pa'i chos yin no zhes pa 'byung 'gyur dang / [Ya. 7b1; 646] dge slong gi chos bzhi zhes pa lta bu nges pa dang / yul chos rigs chos shes pa chos lugs te / bcu la 'jug go /.*

And here is the full text from the *Vyākhyāyukti*, P Tanjur, Si. 40b2-41a2:

*chos ni shes bya lam dang ni /
mya ngan 'das dang yid kyi yul /
bsod nams tshe dang gsung rab dang /
'byung 'gyur (3) nges dang chos lugs la'o //*

chos kyi sgra <shes bya> zhes bya ba la ni chos gang la la 'dus byas sam 'dus ma byas sam de rnams kyi mchog ni 'dod chags dang bral ba yin par bshad do zhes 'byung (4) ba lta bu'o // lam la ni dge slong dag log pa'i lta ba ni chos ma yin la yang dag pa'i lta ba ni chos yin no zhes rgyas par 'byung ba lta bu'o // mya ngan las 'das pa la ni chos la skyabs su song (5) ba zhes 'byung ba lta bu'o // yid kyi yul la ni chos kyi skye mched ces 'byung ba lta bu ste / de ni yid kho na'i yul yin zhing yul kho na yin gyi rten ni ma yin no // bsod nams la ni btsun mo'i (6) 'khor dang gzhon nu rnams dang lhan cig tu chos spyod ces rgyas par 'byung ba lta bu'o // tshe 'di la ni mthong ba'i chos la myong bar 'gyur ba dang / byis pa ni mthong ba'i chos gces par 'dzin pa (7) yin zhes 'byung ba lta bu'o // gsung rab la ni 'di la dge slong chos shes pa ni 'di lta ste / mdo'i sde dang / dbyangs kyis bsñad pa'i sde dang zhes rgya cher 'byung ba lta bu'o // 'byung bar 'gyur (8) ba la ni 'du byed kyi rdzas rnams ni de'i chos so zhes 'byung ba dang / de ltar 'di lta ste / lus 'di ni rga ba'i chos yin no zhes 'byung ba lta bu'o // nges pa la ni dge slong gi chos bzhi rnam<s zh>es 'byung ba dang / [41a1] de bzhin du dge slong dag srog geod pa ni chos ma yin la srog geod pa spong ba ni chos yin no zhes rgya cher 'byung ba lta bu'o // chos lugs la ni yul chos dang rigs chos (2) zhes 'byung ba lta bu'o //

Translation

"The word *dharma* [can be used in the following ten meanings, viz.] (1) in the sense of the *cognizable* [objects, *jñeya* = phenomena, *dharma*], like in [the sentence] «The most excellent among any one of the *dharma*s [= cognizable phe-

nomena], are they conditioned (*samskṛta*) or unconditioned (*asamskṛta*), is said to be free from passion.»

(2) [In the sense of the] *path*, like in [the sentence] «Monks, the false view is not the *dharma*, the right view is the *dharma*.»

(3) [In the sense of the final liberation,] *nirvāna*, like in [the sentence] «He went for refuge to the *dharma*».

(4) [In the sense of the] *object of mind*, like in [the expression] «The basis of cognition of the *dharmas*»; [therefore] it is just the object of mind, and, while it is just the object, it is not the basis (support).

(5) [In the sense of] *virtue*, like in [the sentence] «The ladies attending the queen and young men mutually (with one another) behave with virtue.»

(6) [In the sense of] *this lifetime*, like in [the sentence] «What is experienced in the visible world [= present life]», and «A fool holds dear the visible world.»

(7) [In the sense of the] *Buddha's teachings*, like in [the sentence] «Here, monks, *dharma* means religious discourse(s) (*sūtra*) and verse utterance(s) (*geya*).»²¹

(8) [In the sense of the characteristic of] *coming into being*, like in [the sentence] «The substances of the conditioned factors are its *dharma*», and therefore it is said that «This body is a *dharma* of ageing».

(9) [In the sense of the] *religious vow*, like in [the sentence] «There are four duties of a monk», and therefore it was said «Monks, taking of the life is not *dharma*, [whereas] abandonment of taking of the life is *dharma*».

(10) [In the sense of the] *religious tradition*, like in [the sentence] «[There are two kinds of religious tradition, viz.] tradition of a country, and tradition of a [social] class.»

(2) = AK VIII.39a-b

[Hu th I, 63.3-9, 64.3-7 = HCB 78.18-79.6, 80.2-6 = HCB_L 35b1-3, 36a1-3] *dam pa'i chos sangs rgyas kyi bstan pa de la dbye na / slob dpon Dbyig gñen gyis / ston pa'i dam chos rnam gñis te / lung dang rtogs pa'i bdag ñid do // zhes gsungs pa ltar lung gi bstan pa dang / rtogs pa'i bstan pa gñis yod / lung gi bstan pa la sangs rgyas kyis gsungs pa'i bka' dang / mkhas grub dam pa rnams kyis brtsams pa'i bstan bcos gñis yod / bka' la sde snod gsum dang / rgyud sde bzhi yod la / (...) / rtogs pa'i bstan pa la ni / tshul khriims kyi bslab pa dang / ting nge 'dzin gyi bslab pa dang / shes rab kyi bslab pa ste lhag pa'i bslab pa gsum dang / mtshan bcas mtshan med kyi rnal 'byor dang / bskyed rim dang rdzogs rim gyi rnal 'byor dang / sa bcu dang / lam lnga la sog pa rnams 'jog go /*

²¹ Cf. VyY Si. 96b8-97a3.

Translation

"When classifying the Good Law, the Doctrine of the Buddha, so — as it was said by Vasubandhu — it is twofold: Doctrine and Spiritual Realization —

«The Good Law of the Teacher is twofold, consisting of Doctrine (*āgama*) and Spiritual Realization (*adhigama*).»²²

(a) [Now] the two kinds of Doctrine are: the words spoken by the Buddha (*buddhavacana*), and the treatises (*sāstra*) composed by the excellent scholars. The words [of the Buddha] consist of the three baskets (*tripitaka*) and the four tantras. (...) [Here comes the explanation of the word *sāstra* — see below, fragment no. 3.]

(b) Spiritual Realization consists of three kinds of higher training (*śikṣā*)²³, viz. [training] in moral conduct (*sīla*), in meditation (*saṃādhi*), and in wisdom (*prajñā*); [moreover, training] in yoga with signs (*sanimitta*), in yoga without signs (*animitta*), in yoga of generation stage (*utpattikrama*), and in yoga of completion stage (*sampannakrama*), [as well as in] ten stages (*daśabhūmi*), five paths (*pañcagati*), etc."

Comment

The passage comes from Vasubandhu's AK VIII.39a-b. The AKBh explains that *āgama* means Sūtra, Vinaya, and Abhidharma, i.e. the Tripitaka, and *adhigama* means the factors of enlightenment (ed. Pradhan 459.9 [= P Ngu. 93a6]):

saddharmo dvividhah sāstur āgamādhigamātmakah /
 [10] *tatrāgamaḥ sūtravinayābhidarmā adhigamo bodhipakṣyā ity esa dvividhah saddharmah /.*²⁴

It is also quoted and explained in Buzton's *Chos 'byung*²⁵ (Buzton, Ya. fol. 8a7, 8b5 = p. 647, 648; Obermiller I, 21, 22, nn. 164, 165): *de la dbye na / rtogs pa'i chos dang / lung gi chos gñis te / mdzod las / ston pa'i dam chos rnam gñis te // lung dang rtogs pa'i bdag ñid do // zhes pas / rtogs pa'i chos kyi mtshan ñid / gang zhig gang gis 'dod chags dang bral ba ste / (...) / lung gi chos kyi mtshan ñid ni / rtogs pa'i chos la 'jug pa'i rjod byed do //*

²² Cf. Huth II, 97.6-11. On these two terms see BHSD s.v.

²³ Cf. BHSD s.v.: *adhiśīla*, *adhicitta*, *adhiprajñā*.

²⁴ Cf. LVP, Kośa, VIII, p. 218 & n. 5, 6; p. 219 n. 1, 2.

²⁵ The stanza was also quoted by Dharmatāla (Tibetan text, fol. 83b6-83a2 = p. 166-167; Romanized text, p. 80; Klafkowski 1987, p. 152). [The references to page numbering of the Tibetan xylograph edition should be corrected both in the Romanized text edition and in Klafkowski's translation (Klafkowski 1987) by adding one, e.g. instead of p. 166 read: p. 167, etc. Here I give the original folio numbers and the corrected page numbering.]

(3) = VY Si. 143a5ff.

[Huth I, 63.14-64.3 = HCB 79.12-80.1 = HCB_L 35b5-36a3] *bstan bcos zhes pa* (HCB: *zhes bya ba*) *ni 'chos dang skyob pa'i yon tan gñis dang ldan te / slob dpon Dbyig gñen gyis /*

ñon mongs dgra rnames ma lus 'chos pa dang /
ngan 'gro'i srid las skyob pa gang yin pa /
'chos skyob yon tan phyir na bstan bcos te /
gñis po 'di dag gzhan gyi lugs la med (Huth: sed) /
ces gsungs pa ltar rgyu'i skabs su rang ñams su blang ba'i skye bo'i dug [64]
gsum dang ñes spyod las 'chos zhing (HCB: shing) / 'bras bu ngan song 'khor bas
mtshon pa'i rgud pa mtha' dag las skyob pas na bstan bcos zhes bya ba'o // des
na bka' yang bstan bcos su shes par bya'o //

Translation

"It has two qualities of making (*sās*, ruling) and protecting (*trā*), [that is why] it is called *sāstra* (treatise), as it was said by Vasubandhu:

«What makes ('chos pa) without remainder the foes, i.e. the afflictions, and protects (skyob pa) from existence and poor destiny, this is called *sāstra* (*bstan bcos*) ['treatise'], because it has the qualities of making-and-protecting. These two [qualities] are not [to be found elsewhere] in the other systems of thought.»

It is called *sāstra* (treatise), because — when [it is] a cause — it makes [free] from the committed moral faults and three moral poisons of a sentient being which takes it to the heart itself, and because — [when it is] a result — it protects from all [kinds of] decline marked by the round [of transmigration] of those gone into damnation. Therefore also the words [of the Buddha] (*buddhavacana*) should be known as a *sāstra*.»²⁶

Comment

The passage comes from VyY and it is found in Bu ston's *Chos 'byung*. It corresponds *verbatim* to VyY P Si. 143a4-6 (Bu ston, Ya. 16b1-3 = p. 664; Obermiller I, 42, nn. 398, 399): / **rnam bshad rigs par** / *sangs rgyas kyi gsung bstan bcos kyi mtshan ñid du 'thad pa'i phyir ro // nges pa'i tshig du [ma] (VyY om. ma) 'chos pa dang (VyY: /) skyob par byed pas (VyY: /) de'i phyir bstan bcos so // ñon mongs dgra rnames ma lus 'chos pa dang // ngan 'gro srid las skyob pa gang yin te // 'chos skyob yon tan phyir na bstan bcos te // gñis po*

²⁶ Cf. Huth II, 98.12-99.5.

*'di dag gzhan gyi lugs la med // de lta bas na sangs rgyas kyi gsung kho na don
dam par bstan bcos yin pas 'chos pa dang (VyY: /) skyob pa'i yon tan gyi phyir
yang don gzung (VyY: bzung) ba la 'bad pa dang ldan par bya'o // zhes gsungs
so //*

Translation

"The sayings of the Buddha [are *sāstra*], because they conform to the characteristic of the *sāstra*. (Stanza.) Therefore, the sayings of the Buddha, because they are the *sāstra* in the highest sense, due to the quality of making (*sās*, ruling) and protecting (*trā*), should be assiduously applied. So it was said in the *Vyākhyāyukti*."²⁷

Comment

Obermiller (loc. cit.) noticed that the stanza was quoted by Candrakīrti in his *Prasannapadā* (ed. LVP, 3. 3-4).²⁸ Moreover, the stanza is also found in Sthiramati's gloss on the *Madhyānta-vibhāga* (ed. Pandeya 4.11-20):

*yacchāsti ca kleśaripūn aśeṣān
santrāyate durgatito bhavāc ca /
tacchāsanāt trāṇagunāc ca śāstram
etad dvayam cānyamateṣu nāsti //*²⁹

(4) = AK VIII.43

[Huth I, 277.8-13 = HCB 353.5-9 = HCB_L 156b5-6] *slob dpon Dbyig gñen gyis/*

*de ltar thub pa dag gi (AK: gis) bstan pa ni /
lkog mar srog phyin 'dra dang dri ma rnams /
stobs dang ldan pa'i dus su rig nas ni /
thar ba (Huth: pa) 'dod pa dag gis bag yod gyis (Huth: kyis) /
ces gsungs pas so //*

²⁷ Cf. Vasubandhu's definition in AKBh I.1: *śiṣyaśāsanāc chāstram*, and Yaśomitra's gloss (AKVy ad I.1): *arthaviśeṣābhidyotako nāmasamūhah śāstram*.

²⁸ Cf. Stcherbatsky 1927, p. 84: "It rules over all our enemies, our passions. It saves us from the misery and from phenomenal existence (altogether). Those two advantages are not to be found in other philosophic doctrines."

²⁹ Identified in Stcherbatsky 1936, p. 7, n. 47.

Translation

“It was said by Vasubandhu:

«Thus, having known [that] the teaching of the Ascetic is, like the life, gone into throat, and the impurities are strong at that time, those desiring liberation are being conscientious (diligent).»”³⁰

Comment

The passage comes from AK VIII.43 (ed. Pradhan 460.12-13 [P Ngu. 83b5-6]):

*iti kan̄thagataprāṇam viditvā śāsanam muneḥ /
balakālam malānām ca na pramādyam mumukṣubhiḥ //*

“Thus, after having known [that] the teaching of the [Great] Ascetic is, like the lifebreath, going out through the throat, and [that it is] the time of [growing of] the power of the impurities, those who are striving for liberation should not be negligent.”³¹

(5) = AK VIII.39c-d

[Huth I, 279.18-280.4 = HCB 357.2-8 = HCB_L 158b3-5] *dam pa'i chos de 'dzin tshul ni / slob dpon chen po Dbyig gñen gyis /
de 'dzin byed pa smra byed dang /
sgrub par byed pa kho na yin /*
[280] *zhes gsungs pa ltar lung gi dam chos phyin ci ma log par gzhan la (Huth:
gzhal) smra ba'am 'chad par byed pa de lung gi dam chos 'dzin pa'i tshad yin la /
rtogs pa'i dam chos phyin ci ma log par sgrub par byed pa de rtogs pa'i dam chos
'dzin pa'i tshad yin no //*

Translation

“As regards the way of keeping the Holy Doctrine, as it was said by the great master Vasubandhu:

«Its supporters are those who preserve [it] and those who remember [it].»”³²

³⁰ Cf. Huth II, 436.12.

³¹ Cf. LVP, Kośa, VIII, p. 224 & n. 1: *evaṁ kan̄thagataprāṇam viditvā muniśāsanam / malānām balakālam ca na pramādyam mumukṣubhiḥ //* “Voyant que la loi du Muni est à son dernier souffle, que c'est l'heure de la force des vices, ceux qui désirent la délivrance doivent être diligents.”

³² Cf. Huth II, 440.1-11.

[Those who] explain or relate to the others correctly the Holy Doctrine, are the right measure (norm) of keeping the Holy Doctrine (*āgama*); [those who] realize correctly the Spiritual Realization (*adhigama*), are the right measure (norm) of keeping the Spiritual Realization.”

Comment

The passage comes from AK VIII.39c-d (ed. Pradhan 459.11 [= P Ngu. 93_{a7}]:

dhātāras tasya vaktārah pratipattāra eva ca //

[12] *āgamasya hi dhārayitāro vaktārah / adhigamasya pratipattārah /*³³

“Its supporters are those who preach [it] and those who practice [it].”

For the supporters of the Doctrine are the preachers, and [the supporters of] the Spiritual Realization are the practitioners.”

The stanza is found in Bu ston’s *Chos ’byung*³⁴ (Bu ston, Ya. 5b7 ≈ p. 642; Obermiller I, 15 n. 116): / *bshad ñan ni / bstan pa’am chos ’dzin par ’gyur te / mdzod las / de ’dzin byed pa smra byed pa // sgrub par byed pa kho na yin // zhes so // chos ’dzin pa’i phan yon bsam gyis mi khyab ste /*

(6) = AK IV.125a-b; Śikṣāsamuccaya ad 26

[Huth I, 280.4-11 = HCB 357.8-15 HCB_L 158b5-6] / *de yang chos bshad pa’i phan yon ’thob pa la / slob dpon Dbyig gñen gyis /*

chos sbyin ñon mongs can min pas /

mdo sogs yang dag ji bzhin ston/

zhes dang / slog dpon chen po Zhi ba lhas kyang /

chos kyi sbyin pa zang zing med /

bsod nams ’phel ba’i rgyu yin no //

zhes gsungs pa ltar rñed bkur la chags pa sogs kyi ñon mongs pa dang ma ’dres shing / gang bshad par bya ba’i chos de’i tshig don ma nor bar ston pa dgos so //

Translation

“They also obtain the benefit of preaching the Doctrine, as it was said by the master Vasubandhu:

«The gift of Doctrine it is undefiled right teaching of the sūtras, etc.», and also it was said by the great master Śāntideva:

³³ Cf. LVP, *Kośa*, VIII, p. 219 & n. 2.

³⁴ The stanza was also quoted by Dharmatāla (Tibetan text, fol. 85b1 = p. 170; Romanized text, p. 81f.; Klafkowsky 1987 p. 155 [translation misses the point]).

«The gift of Doctrine which is free from worldliness is the cause of increase of virtue.»

Being not mixed with the misery of attachment to the riches and honours, etc., [they] should teach without mistake the meaning of the words of the Doctrine (Scripture) which is to be explained.”³⁵

Comment

The first passage — by Vasubandhu — is found in AK IV.125a-b (ed. Pradhan 274.15 [= P Gu. 263b7-8]):

*dharmañānam yathābhūta(m)sūtrādyakliṣṭadeśanā //
sūtrādīnām yathābhūtam akliṣṭadeśanā dharmadānam /³⁶*

“«The gift of Doctrine it is undefiled right teaching of the *sūtras*, etc.», i.e. the gift of Doctrine it is undefiled teaching according to the truth of the *sūtras* and other [religious predicts].”

The second passage comes from Śāntideva's commentary on his kārikā 26 of the *Śikṣāsamuccaya* (ed. Bendall, p. 350.25): *dharmañānam nirāmiṣam punyavṛddhinimittam bhavati /*. It is not a verse here, but the Tibetan authors deemed it to be such (see below)! The kārikā 26 is as follows (ibid. p. xlvii):

*sarvāvasthāsu sattvārtho dharmadānam nirāmiṣam /
bodhicittam ca punyasya vṛddhīhetuh samāsatah//
dus rnam kun tu sems can don /
chos kyi sbyin pa zang zing med /
byang chub sems ni mdor bsdu na /
bsod nams 'phel ba'i rgyu yin no //*

“The gift of Doctrine, free from worldliness (*nirāmiṣa*)³⁷, is the gain of living being in all situations (conditions). In short: the thought of enlightenment is the cause of increase of virtue.”

The quotation from Śāntideva is found in Bu ston's *Chos 'byung* (Bu ston, Ya. fol. 5a6 = p. 641; Obermiller I, 13 & n. 96): *bslab btus las / chos kyi sbyin pa zang zing med // bsod nams 'phel ba'i rgyu yin no // zhes so //*.

(7) = AK VI.5a-b

[Huth I, 280.11-18 = HCB 357.15-258.5 = HCB_L 159a1-4] *dam pa'i chos de thos bsam sgom pa'i sgo nas ñams su blang bar byed pa rnam kyang / slob dpon Dbyig gñen gyis /*

³⁵ Cf. Huth II, 440.12-27.

³⁶ Cf. LVP, *Kośa*, IV, p. 252 & n. 1.

³⁷ See BHSD s. v. and sub *āmiṣa*.

*tshul gnas thos dang bsam ldan pas (AK: pa) /
 sgom (AK: bsgom) pa la ni rab tu sbyor /
 zhes gsungs pa ltar rnam par mi gyeng ba'i rgyu so thar gyi tshul khrims la legs
 par gnas te / mi rmongs pa'i rgyu dam pa'i chos tshul bzhin du ñan nqas thos
 byung gi shes rab bskyed / de nas gtan la 'bebs pa'i rgyu bsam byung gi shes rab
 dang ldan pas / sgrib pa dang bral ba'i rgyu sgom pa la ni rab tu sbyor ba las
 sangs rgyas kyi sar thogs pa med par bgrod par 'gyur ro //*

Translation

“The Holy Doctrine is to be taken to the heart by means of listening, thinking and meditating, as it was said by the master Vasubandhu:

«One who is established in practice, learned and reflecting upon, can apply oneself to meditation.»³⁸

One who is well established in the moral duties of the code of discipline (*prātimokṣa*)³⁹, which is the cause of not being disturbed by anything, [he] produces wisdom originated from listening duly to the Holy Doctrine, which is the cause of non-delusion; then, possessed with wisdom originated from thinking, which is the cause of putting [all things] in order, after having applied into meditation, which is the cause of separation from the defilements, one comes unimpeded to the Buddha’s sphere.”

Comment

The passage is found in AK VI.5a-b (ed. Pradhan 334.15 [= AK Ngu. 9a6-7]):
*vṛttasthāḥ śrutacintāvān bhāvanāyām prayujyate //*⁴⁰

“One who is firm in practice, listening and thinking [about the Doctrine], applies into meditation.”

Abbreviations and Bibliography

AK(Bh) = *Abhidharmakośa(-bhāṣya)*

AKBh (Pradhan) = *Abhidharmakośabhāṣyam of Vasubandhu*. Deciphered and edited by Prahlad Pradhan. Revised with Introduction and Indices by Aruna Haldar. Patna 1975. Tibetan Sanskrit Works Series 8.

AKVY = *Abhidharmakośa-vyākhyā* (Yaśomitra)

³⁸ Cf. Huth II, 440.28-441.7.

³⁹ Cf. BHSD s.v.

⁴⁰ Cf. LVP, Kośa, VI, p. 142 & n. 4: “Fixé dans son devoir professionnel, muni de l’enseignement et de la réflexion, il sera capable de s’adonner à la contemplation.”

BHSD = *Buddhist Hybrid Sanskrit Dictionary*, by F. Edgerton, New Haven 1953.

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HCB_L = *Chen po Hor gyi yul dam pa'i chos ji ltar byung ba'i tshul bshad pa Bstan pa rin po che gsal bar byed pa'i sgron me*, Xylograph 162 ff. Ligeti Collection 6 = MTAK Tib. 259, Budapest.

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Huth II = *Geschichte des Buddhismus in der Mongolei*. Mit einer Einleitung: Politische Geschichte der Mongolen. Aus dem Tibetischen des 'Jigs-med nam-mk'a herausgegeben, übersetzt und erläutert von Dr. Georg Huth. Zweiter Teil: Nachträge zum ersten Teil. Übersetzung. Strassburg 1896. S. xxxii + 456.

Index AKBh = Hirakawa Akira, et al., *Index to the Abhidharmakośabhaṣya*. Part III. Tibetan-Sanskrit. Tokyo 1978.

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