

Gāndhārī Stotras

British Library Kharoṣṭhī Fragment BL 5C and Bajaur
Collection Kharoṣṭhī Fragment 8

Text, Translation and Glossary

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Introduction

The present edition is the first publication of two stotras in the Kharoṣṭhī script and a Sanskritized version of the Gāndhārī language. One (BL 5C = CKM 8 in Baums and Glass 2002–) is currently kept in the British Library, the other (BC 8 = CKM 271) is part of the Bajaur Collection of Gāndhārī manuscripts currently stored at the University of Peshawar. Both are products of the early Gandhāran manuscript culture described in Salomon 1999 and Baums 2014. As is typical for the genre, both of these short texts are written on single sheets of birch bark and on one side only. Both stotras appear to be original compositions, and no parallels for the whole or part of them could be identified in extant Buddhist literature in other languages. As such, they constitute valuable witnesses for the early development of the Buddhist genre of writing hymns of praise to the Buddha in the linguistic transitional period from Middle Indian to Sanskrit.

Below, the two texts are presented one after the other in the same format. A diplomatic transliteration is followed by a reconstruction that here, in contrast to reconstructions of other Gāndhārī texts, also indicates the metrical pattern of the stanza in question by putting macrons and breves on top of syllables. It should be emphasized that these signs do not represent any feature of the original Kharoṣṭhī script, and that they indicate whether a syllable is heavy or light, rather than necessarily implying a long vowel. Entirely lost or unintelligible syllables are likewise represented by metrical symbols in the reconstruction. This is then followed by a Sanskrit *chāyā* for the convenience of the reader, then an English translation, and finally a glossary for each of the two texts.

British Library Fragment 5C

The first of the two stotras is accompanied by several other small and heavily damaged fragments containing similar material, but written by different scribes and in different meters, that will form the subject of future study. It was first briefly discussed in Salomon 1999, 39, 46, and mentioned in Strauch 2012, 140, Falk and Strauch 2014, 67, and Baums 2014, 212.

The scroll fragment is 24 cm wide.

The metre of the stotra is Vasantatilakā, with fourteen syllables per pāda. The original layout of the manuscript appears to have fitted five pādas in each line, with the first pāda of the first verse starting towards the end of a line following what may have been an introductory statement. The fragment is very heavily damaged, but the left margin appears to be preserved in line 3. This means that most of the damage to the manuscript appears to have been sustained on the right-hand side, leading to the loss of between one and two pādas in each line. Stanzas are numbered, and a total of six stanzas is preserved. It is unclear whether this is the end of the poem, or whether it continued into further stanzas.

As is the general practice with poetry composed in the Gāndhārī language, word-final syllables can be scanned either short or long, but no other poetic licenses are taken. No caesura is regularly observed.

The combination of Vasantatilakā meter and each stanza starting with the words *ajavi* (Skt. *adyāpi*) strongly remind one of Bilhaṇa's Caurapañcāśikā, but the historical implications of this – if any – remain unclear.

ājāvī śōgānī ~ – nī mähāmūnīsā ·
 thūbānī svārnāmānījālātālācītānī ·
 kēlāsāhāsādhrūśācāyāpāḍārābhāṃ ·
 bhrāyāṃtī mērūśīkhārānī vā ūnādānī 3

[4] (ājāvī) – ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ (*·)
 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ bhōyānāgāṃ ·
 bhrēgāyōhōdārāsāgā ~ ~ ~ .ī bhārāṃ ·
 tārāyā ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ khātālā sāgāsā 4

ājāvī nāsā vīmālō vī yā bhākārābhā ·
 ~ ~ mähājānā ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ (·)
 [5] ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ (·)
 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ 4 1

ājāvī pālī ? ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ (·)
 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ dhādū māyā jīnāsā ·
 cā dū yū māḍālā tā lā jā lā sā n. ~ ~ (·)
 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ (4 2)

Sanskrit Chāyā

adyāpi – ~ ~ marudgaṇa – ~ ~ ~
 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ |
 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
 agrāṃ khalu garbham ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ surāsurīṇām || 1 ||

adyāpi jātaṃ nara – ~ ~ latābhilambināṃ
 guptaṃ sprśanti bhavane bhavasūdanasya |
 vātoddhuta ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ || 2 ||

adyāpi śoka ∪ ∪ – ∪ mahāmunes
 stūpāḥ suvarṇamaṇijālatalācitāḥ |
 kelāsahāsadhruvasaṃcayapāṇḍarābhām
 bhrājanti meruśikharāṇīva unnatāni || 3 ||

adyāpi – ∪ ∪ ∪ – ∪ ∪ – ∪ –
 – – ∪ – ∪ ∪ ∪ – ∪ ∪ – ∪ – – |
 – – ∪ – ∪ ∪ ∪ – ∪ ∪ – ∪ bhāram
 tārā ∪ – ∪ ∪ ∪ – khatalāt sakāśam || 4 ||

adyāpi nātho vimalo ∪ ∪ bhāskarābhaḥ
 – – mahājana ∪ – ∪ ∪ – ∪ – – |
 – – ∪ – ∪ ∪ ∪ – ∪ ∪ – ∪ – –
 – – ∪ – ∪ ∪ ∪ – ∪ ∪ – ∪ – – || 5 ||

adyāpi – ∪ ∪ ∪ – ∪ ∪ ∪ –
 – – ∪ – ∪ ∪ ∪ dhātur mayā jinasya |
 – – ∪ maṇḍala ∪ – ∪ ∪ – ∪ – –
 – – ∪ – ∪ ∪ ∪ – ∪ ∪ – ∪ – – || 6 ||

Translation

1. Even now + + + hosts of gods + + + +

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

the best womb indeed + + + + of goddesses or asurīs.

2. Even now, the + + man that was born hanging from a creeper,

the one hidden in the palace of the destroyer of existence, touch

+ + + + lifted by the wind + + + + +

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

3. Even now, the stūpas of the great sage + + grief + +
 on whose surfaces are piled nets of gold and jewels,
 emit the light brilliance of the whiteness and fixed heap of Kailāsa,
 reaching up like the peaks of Meru.

4. Even now + + + + + + + + + +
 + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +
 + + + + + + + + burden + + +
 stars + + + + + + from the surface of the sky.

5. Even now, the spotless protector + + shining like the sun
 + many people + + + + + + + + + +
 + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +
 + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

6. Even now + + + + + + + + + +
 + + + + + + by me the realm of the conqueror
 + + circle + + + + + + + + + +
 + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

Word Index

agra adj. *agra, agga*. “best.”

agra m. dir. sg. 1d.

acita in *svarnamani jalatalacita*.

aja ind. *adya, ajja*. “now.”

aja 1a, 2a, 3a, 4a, 5a, 6a.

abha in *kelasahasadhruasamcayapaṇḍarabha, bhakarabha*.

avi ind. *api, api*. “even.”

avi 1a, 2a, 3a, 4a, 5a, 6a.

avhilambi in *ladavhilambi*.

asuri in *surasuri*.

aho pron. *aham, ahaṃ*. “I.”

maya instr. sg. 6b.

udhuda in *vadudhuda*.

umnada adj. *unnata, unnata*. “reaching up.”

unada m. dir. pl. 3d.

kelasahasadhruasaṃcayapaṇḍarabha f. “light brilliance of the whiteness and fixed heap of Kailāsa.”

kelasahasadhruasacayapaṇḍarabhaṃ dir. sg. 3c.

gana in *marugana*.

garbha m. *garbha, gabbha*. “womb.”

garbhaṃ dir. sg. 1d.

guta adj. *gupta, gutta*. “hidden.”

guta m. dir. sg. 2b.

jada adj. *jāta, jāta*. “born.”

jado m. dir. sg. 2a.

jala in *svarnamani jalatalacita*.

jina m. *jina, jina*. “conqueror.”

jinasa gen. sg. 6b.

tala in *svarnamani jalatalacita*.

thuba m. *stūpa, thūpa*. “stūpa.”

thubani dir. pl. 3b.

dhadu f. *dhātu, dhātu*. “realm.”

dhadu dir. sg. 6b.

dhrua in *kelasahasadhruasaṃcayapaṇḍarabha*.

nara m. *nara, nara*. “man.”

nara- 2a.

nasa m. *nātha, nātha*. “protector.”

nasa dir. sg. 5a.

paṃdara in *kelasahasadhruasamcayapaṃdarabha*.

bhakarabha adj. Skt. *bhāskarābha*. “shining like the sun.”

bhakarabha dir. sg. 5a.

bhara m. *bhāra*, *bhāra*. “burden.”

bharaṃ dir. sg. 4c.

bhavana m. *bhavana*, *bhavana*. “palace.”

bhavana loc. sg. 2b.

bhavasudana m. *bhavasūdana*, *bhavasūdana*. “destroyer of existence.”

bhavasudanasya gen. sg. 2b.

bhrayadi v. Skt. *bhrājate*. “shine.”

bhrayaṃti 3rd pl. pres. 3d.

maṃḍala m. *maṇḍala*, *maṇḍala*. “circle.”

-maḍala- 6c.

mani in *svarnamani jalatalacita*.

mahajana m. *mahājana*, *mahājana*. “many people.”

-mahajana- 5b.

marugana m. *marudgaṇa*, *marugaṇa*. “host of gods.”

marugana- 1a.

jana in *mahajana*.

mahamuni m. *mahāmuni*, *mahāmuni*. “great sage.”

mahamunisa gen. sg. 3a.

muni in *mahamuni*.

meruśikhara m. *meruśikhara*, *merusikhara*. “peak of Meru.”

meruśikharani dir. pl. 3d.

ladavhilaṃbi adj. *latābhilambin*, *latābhilambi*. “hanging from a creeper.”

ladavhilaṃbiṃ m. dir. sg. 2a.

va ind. *iva*, *va*. “like.”

va 3d.

vadudhuda adj. *vātoddhuta*, *vātuddhuta*. “lifted by wind.”

vadudhuda- 2c.

vimala adj. *vimala*, *vimala*. “spotless.”

vimalo m. dir. sg. 5a.

śikhara in *meruśikhara*.

śoga m. *śoka*, *soka*. “grief.”

śoga- 3a.

saṃcaya in *kelasahasadhruasaṃcayapaṇḍarabha*.

surasuri f. *surāsuri*, *surāsuri*. “goddess or asurī.”

surasurina gen. pl. 1d.

sudana in *bhavasudana*.

svarnamanijalatalacita adj. *suvarṇamaṇijālatalācita*, *suvaṇṇamaṇijālatalācita*. “on whose surfaces are piled nets of gold and jewels.”

svarnamanijalatalacitani m. dir. pl. 3b.

hasa in *kelasahasadhruasaṃcayapaṇḍarabha*.

ho ind. *khalu*, *ho*. “indeed.”

ho 1d.

śviśadi v. *spṛśati*, *phusati*. “touches.”

śviśanti 3rd pl. pres. 2b.

Bajaur Collection Fragment 8

This short complete manuscript was first enumerated in Khan and Khan 2004, 14 (no. 8) and briefly described in Strauch 2008, 121 (as well as its expanded online version Strauch 2008, 10, 15, 36), Nasim Khan 2008, 29–30 (presenting an uncredited early transliteration by Strauch) and Falk and Strauch 2014, 67. All of these erroneously speaks of four verses, where in reality the manuscript (after a cryptic short line of eight unintelligible akṣaras) only consists of two stanzas laid out in two pādas per line, so that each stanza occupies two lines. Physical aspects of the manuscript were briefly discussed in Baums 2014, 200, 206, 210–211. The scroll measures 21.5 × 19 cm.

The meter of this two-stanza stotra is Śārdūlavikrīḍita, with the same poetic license of word-final vowels as in the British Library fragment edited above. In addition, the present fragment regularly observes a caesura after the twelfth syllable. Noteworthy is pāda 2a, which in an unetymological fashion treats the third syllable of *jadamatreṇa* as short. The same pāda resolves the metrically required heavy twelfth and thirteenth syllables (before and after the caesura) into two light syllables (*makhi* and *trisa*) each.

Transliteration

1. mu laṃ ṇa [ḍhem] ya va [ṣa] ?
2. yeṇa karpa [a]samkhea at[u]lia daṇāḥa diṇo sa[da] ◇ śila kṣ[a](m)[ti] + ? va viryo a ? lo
jāṇa sada bhavida
3. yeṇa praṇae d(r)iṭha k[a](m)[dha]v[a]śi[a savasama] ? ? ? [◇] + + + + + + + + + + +
+ + puyaraho

Translation

1. Who through uncountable eons has always given immeasurable gifts,
virtue, patience + + + bravery + + + meditation has always been developed,
who through understanding has seen under the power of the factors + + + + +
+ +
+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + is worthy of honor,
2. who, just born, illuminated the earth and made the three-thousand world trem-
ble,
+ + + + speech + + + + “I will liberate the beings from pain,”
who has abandoned his relatives, abode and region, has gone out into house-
lessness,
with all jewels of that Śākya sage are to be filled these three realms.

Glossary

akampida adj. *ākampita*, *ākampita*. “made tremble.”

akampida f. dir. sg. 2a.

aṅgaria m. P *anāgāriya*, BHS *anāgāriya*. “houselessness.”

aṅgario dir. sg. 3c.

atulia adj. *atulya*, *atulya*. “immeasurable.”

atulia m. dir. pl. 1a.

aya pron. *ayam*, *ayam*. “this.”

ime f. dir. pl. 2d.

apurya in *sarvaradanapurya*.

araha in *puyaraha*.

asaṅkhea adj. *asaṅkhyā*, *asaṅkheyya*. “uncountable.”

asaṅkhea m. dir. pl. 1a.

aho pron. *aham, ahaṃ*. “I.”

aho dir. sg. 2b.

ujīda adj. *ujjhita, ujjhita*. “abandoned.”

ujīta m. dir. pl.

oḥasida adj. *avabhāsita, obhāsita*. “illuminated.”

oḥasida f. dir. sg. 2a.

kaṃdhavaśīa adj. Skt. *skandhavaśya*. “under the power of the factors.”

kaṃdhavaśīa m. dir. sg. 1c *kadhavaśīa*.

karpa m. *kalpa, kappa*. “eon.”

karpa dir. pl. 1a.

kṣaṃti f. *kṣānti, khanti*. “patience.”

kṣaṃti dir. sg. 1b *kṣa(ṃ)ti*.

ca ind. *ca, ca*. “and.”

ca 1a, 2a *ya*.

jadamatra adj. *jātamātra, jātamatta*. “just born.”

jadamatreṇa m. instr. sg. 2a.

jāṇa m. *dhyāna, jhāna*. “meditation.”

jāṇa dir. sg. 1b.

ñādivasadiśa m. *jñativāsadiś, ñātivāsadisā*. “relatives, abode and region.”

ñātivasadiśa dir. pl. 2c.

ṇikhanta adj. *niṣkrānta, nikkhanta*. “gone out.”

ṇikhanta m. dir. sg. 2c *ṇikhato*.

trae num. *trayaḥ, tayo*. “three.”

trae f. dir. sg. 2d.

trisahasa f. BHS *trisahasrā*. “three-thousand world.”

trisahasa dir. sg. 2a.

dana m. *dāna, dāna*. “gift.”

dana dir. sg. 1a.

dina adj. *datta, dinna*. “given.”

dino m. dir. sg. 1a.

diśa in *ñadivasadiśa*.

duha m. *duḥkha*, *dukkha*. “pain.”

duha abl. sg. 2b *duhe*.

driṭha adj. *dr̥ṣṭa*, *diṭṭha*. “seen.”

driṭha m. dir. pl. 1c *d(ri)ṭha*.

dhadu f. *dhātu*, *dhātu*. “realm.”

dhadue dir. pl. 2d.

puyaraha adj. *pūjārha*, *pūjāraha*. “worthy of honor.”

puyaraho m. dir. sg. 1d.

prañña f. *prajñā*, *paññā*. “understanding.”

prañae instr. sg. 1c.

bhavida adj. *bhāvita*, *bhāvita*. “developed.”

bhavida dir. sg. 1b.

makhi f. *mahī*, *mahī*. “earth.”

makhi dir. sg. 2a.

matra in *jadamatra*.

muṇi in *śakamuṇi*.

moyedi v. *mocayati*, *moceti*. “liberates.”

moyiśa 1st sg. fut. 2b.

yo pron. *yad*, *yo*. “who.”

yeṇa m. instr. sg. 1a, 1c, 2a, 2c.

radana in *sarvaradanapurya*.

vaya f. *vāk*, *vācā*. “speech.”

vaya dir. sg. 2b.

vaśa in *kaṃdhavaśia*.

vasa in *ñadivasadiśa*.

virya m. *vīrya*, *virīya*. “bravery.”

viryo dir. sg. 1b.

śakamuṇi m. *śākyamuni, sakkamuni*. “Śākya sage.”

śakamuṇisa gen. sg. 2d.

śīla m. *śīla, sīla*. “virtue.”

śīla dir. sg. 1b.

satva m. *sattva, satta*. “being.”

satva dir. pl. 2b.

sada ind. *sadā, sadā*. “always.”

sada 1a, 1b.

sarvaradanapurya adj. Skt. *sarvaratnāpūrya*. “to be filled with all jewels.”

sarvaradanapurya f. dir pl. 2d.

sahasa in *trisahasa*.

so pron. *saḥ, so*. “this.”

tasa m. gen. sg. 2d.

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