

The Bathang Manuscript of the *Buddhāvataṃsakasūtra*

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0. Introduction The Bathang (*'ba' thang*) manuscript Kanjur kept in the Newark Museum (Newark, New Jersey) is one of the local Kanjurs, which belongs to neither the Tshal pa nor Them spangs ma tradition. Chapter 44 (*'jig rten las 'das pa'i le'u*) and chapter 45 (*sdongs pos brgyan pa'i le'u*) of the Tibetan *Buddhāvataṃsakasūtra* (*Sangs rgyas phal po che zhes bya ba shin tu rgyas pa chen po'i mdo*, henceforth *TBA*) are contained in volume *Phal po che, nga* (acc. no. 20.476) and *a* (acc. no. 20.471) of this Kanjur.

Recently, a catalogue of the Bathang Kanjur was published by Helmut Eimer (2012). He also engaged in foundational research on the *TBA* by comparing it with the Derge edition (1729–1733), which belongs to the Tshal pa line in the catalogue.

In this paper, while referring to his scholarship, I will analyze and compare the *bam po* divisions, initial title, and translation of the Bathang Kanjur's *TBA* with the other versions.

1. Texts Utilized Bathang manuscript (sigla Bth, acc. no. 20.476: vol. 7, nga 1b1–315a6, acc. no. 20.471: vol. 8, a 1b1–351a8); Phug brag manuscript (sigla F, no. 28: vol. 43, ka 1b1–vol. 47, ca 190a6); Derge xylograph (Karmapa edition, sigla D, no. 44: vol. 35, ka 1b1–vol. 38, a 363a6), Lithang xylograph (or 'Jang Sa tham, sigla J, no. 299: vol. 73, kha 1b1–vol. 77, cha 281a6), and Peking xylograph (Otani Reprint, sigla P, no. 761: vol. 25, yi 1b1–vol. 26, hi 253a6) of the Tshal pa group; London manuscript (or Sher dkar, sigla L, no. 642: vol. 89, ka 1b1–vol. 94, cha 247a7), Stog Palace manuscript (sigla S, no. 10: vol. 29, ka 1b1–vol. 34, cha 310a7), and Ulan Bator manuscript (sigla V, no. 32: vol. 42, ka 1b1–vol. 47, cha 280a7) of the Them spangs ma group.

2. *bam po* Divisions The *TBA* is divided into 45 chapters, but the number of *bam pos* differs in the various versions: 113 *bam pos* in the Tshal pa group (DJP), 115 *bam pos* in the Them spangs ma group (LST), and 114 *bam pos* in F.¹⁾

As shown in the table below, the *TBA*'s chapter 44 consists of 11 *bam po* (in Bth, there are two *bam po lnga pa* [Part 1]), but Tshal pa (DJP) and Them spangs ma (LSV) differ in their *bam po* divisions ([Part 2]). Bth (and F) agrees with Tshal pa, and not Them spangs ma.

In chapter 45 of the *TBA*, *bam po* divisions differ among the versions. Bth agrees with Them spangs ma (and F) and not Tshal pa in Part 3 and Part 5, matches Tshal pa and Them spangs ma in Part 4, and sides with F in Part 6. In general, Bth is closer to Them spangs ma than to Tshal pa.

Table: *bam po* divisions (bp. = *bam po*)

Part	Local Kanjurs		Tshal pa	Them spangs ma
	Bth	F	P	V
	Chapter 44			
	11 bp.	11 bp.	11 bp.	11 bp.
	nga 2a1 (bp. 1)	ga 247b7 (bp. 75)	śi 142a4 (bp. 13)	nga 171b1 (bp. 75)
	17a4 (bp. 2)	262a2 (bp. 76)	155b8 (bp. 14)	187b8 (bp. 76)
	31b8 (bp. 3)	276b7 (bp. 77)	168b3 (bp. 15)	203b5 (bp. 77)
	45a8 (bp. 4)	290a1 (bp. 78)	180a7 (bp. 16)	219a2 (bp. 78)
1	59b1 (bp. 5)	304b1 (bp. 79)	192a8 (bp. 17)	234a7–8 (bp. 79)
	72a3 (bp. 5)	318a2 (bp. 80)	204b1 (bp. 18)	249b1 (bp. 80)
	84b5 (bp. 6)	332a7 (bp. 81)	216a5 (bp. 19)	264b1 (bp. 81)
	96b8 (bp. 7)	346b8 (bp. 82)	227b5 (bp. 10)	279a1 (bp. 82)
	109 ^{son} a6 (bp. 8)	361a5 (bp. 83)	si1b1 (bp. 1)	293b1 (bp. 83)
2	119b1–	376a3–	14b1–	308a8 (bp. 84)
	119b2 (bp. 9)	376a4–5 (bp. 84)	14b2 (bp. 2)	308b1–
	131b2 (bp. 10)	392b3 (bp. 85)	27a2 (bp. 3)	ca1b1 (bp. 85)
	Chapter 45			
	29 bp.	29 bp.	31 bp.	30 bp.
	145b7 (bp. 11)	411a5 (bp. 86)	42a5 (bp. 4)	20b8 (bp. 86)
	160b7 (bp. 12)	430a8 (bp. 87)	58a3 (bp. 5)	38b2 (bp. 87)
	174b8 (bp. 13)	nga 2a2 (bp. 88)	73a3 (bp. 6)	54b4 (bp. 88)
	187b8 (bp. 14)	21a7 (bp. 89)	86b1 (bp. 7)	69a1 (bp. 89)
	202a2 (bp. 15)	38b5 (bp. 90)	101a1 (bp. 8)	85a7 (bp. 90)
	215b1 (bp. 16)	58a3 (bp. 91)	115a7 (bp. 9)	102a4 (bp. 91)
3	230a5–	80a2–	131a7 (bp. 10)	120b5–
	236b3 (bp. 17)	89b (bp. 92)	138b3 (bp. 11)	129a3 (bp. 92)
	251a2 (bp. 18)	111a3 (bp. 93)	154b5 (bp. 12)	147b3–4 (bp. 93)
	265b2 (bp. 19)	132b5 (bp. 94)	170b8 (bp. 13)	166a3 (bp. 94)

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