LETTER FROM DPAL DBYANGS TO THE TIBETAN KING
gCes pa bsdus pa'i ’phrin yig btsun pa chen po dpal dbyangs kyis bod rje ’bangs la brdzangs pa
Sārasamgrahalekha

INTRODUCTION
dPal dbyangs (also known as Śrīghoṣa) is thought to have been a member of the gNyan clan, who was active in the mid to late ninth century.

Tucci (1958: 151) suggests that the letter is written on the example of the two famous letters attributed to Nagarjuna, which contain summaries of the doctrine for practical purposes.

The letter is addressed to all Tibetan people, but contains different sections relative to the activities of the king, the ministers, and the monks. There are numerous citations from Indic texts, often to finish off a section.

Sources
TBRC: W1PD95844
[Modern edition]

bsTan ‘gyur (Tenjur), sDe dge edition (18th century. Vol. 204 (co), folios 226r–236v.
TOH 4355.
[Xylograph]

References
Transliteration and translation:

Summary and analysis:
On Māṭrceṭa’s Letter to Kaniṣka:

On the authorship:

**OUTLINE**

The text primarily consists of verses of seven- and nine-syllable lines, interspersed with extracts from Indic texts. It can be divided into six sections.

1. Prologue
2. General advice
3. Advice for the king
4. General advice for subjects, ministers, and monastics
5. Extract from the *Bodhi caryāvatāra*
6. Conclusion

**EXTRACTS**

1. **Prologue**
The text contains general advice to follow the *dge ba bcu* (ten virtues), the *bcu drug* (*mi chos bcu drug*, sixteen moral duties), the *bsam pa bcu* (ten things to be remembered), the *chos spyod bcu* (ten practices), and the *pha rol phyin drug* (six perfections).

2. **General advice**
This section contains twenty-seven verses, explaining the ten virtues, the sixteen moral rules (*mi chos*), the ten *bsam pa*, the ten practices (*chos spyod*) and the six perfections, interspersed with short extracts from Indic texts.
3 Advice for the king

This section contains three excerpts. The first is from Māṭrceṭa’s letter to King Kaniṣka. The Tibetan text consists of twenty verses of seven-syllable lines. It contains advice to the king on moral conduct, including matters of virtuous behaviour, attending to the doctrine, his relations with other people, and contemplation of death.

Verse nineteen:


[Note: this section does not appear in Māṭrceṭa’s text]

།དམ་ཆོས་བསྐྱང་བའི་ཁྲིམས་རྣམས་མཛད།།
།དམ་ཆོས་འཇིག་པའི་སྐྱེ་བོ་དང།།
།བཀའ་ཁྲིམས་འདྲལ་བའི་ངན་པ་རྣམས།།
།ལོ་ཐོག་རྒྱས་པ་ལ།།
།ཐོག་དང་སེར་བ་བཞིན་དུ་ཕོབ།།
།འོན་དང་ངན་མིག་འགག་པར་འགྱུར།།
།ལེ་ལོ་ཉམ་བུ་ཤད་མ་མཛད།།

Make laws (khrims) to protect the true doctrine (dam chos).

Those who would destroy the true doctrine,
And bad people who would break the laws (bka’ khrims ‘dral ba),
As if on the ripening cereal and vegetable harvests,
By hail and thunderbolts, let them be struck.
Let deafness and short-sightedness be ended.
Do not allow laziness and faint-heartedness to prevail.