PADMA BKA'I THANG YIG

The history of Padmasambhava

INTRODUCTION

The Pema Katang (Padma bka'l thang yig) was created by the treasure-revealer Urgyan Lingpa (O

rgyan gling pa, born c. 1323). He is said to have been the seventh incarnation of a Lhase Muruk

Tsenpo (Lha sras mu rug btsan po), a son of King Tri Song Detsen (Khri Srong Ide btsan). At the age of

twenty-three he discovered an extensive treasure inventory at Samye Monastery (bSam yas). He

revealed twenty-eight different treasure troves, amounting to over one hundred volumes.

The Pema Katang, also known as rNam thar shel brag ma, was created in around 1352. The work

purports to be authored by Yeshe Tsogyel (Ye shes mtsho rgyal), the Tibetan princess consort to

Padmasambhava. It was among the earliest biographies of Padmasambhava, contributing

significantly to the development of the legend.

Sources

The text exists in many block print editions (for more information, see Martin 1997: 56).

Modern edition:

U rgyan gling pa. 1987. Padma bka' thang. Chengdu: Si khron mi rigs dpe skrun khang.

TBRC: W17320

Xylograph:

lCang skya rol pa'i rdo rje (ed.) 1779. *Padma bka'i thang yig*. Pe cin: Pe cin par ma.

TBRC: W1KG16912

Translations

Toussaint, Gustave-Charles. 1933. Le Dict de Padma: Padma thang yig. Paris: Libraire Ernest Leroux.

Toussaint, Gustave-Charles. (K. Douglas and G. Bays, trans.) 1978. The Life and Liberation of

Padmasambhava. Berkeley: Dharma Publications. (2 vols.)

Schlagintweit, Emil. 1991. Die Lebensbeschreibung von Padmasambhava: dem Begründer des

Lamaismus 747 N. Chr. Ulm: Fabri.

References

- Bischoff, F.A. 1975. La grande légende de Padmasambhava, (notes bibliographiques), *Mongolian Studies: Journal of the Mongolia Society* 2: 25–39.
- ___. 1979. Le'u Titles and Epitome of 'Le Dict de Padma', Zentralasiatische Studien 13: 409.
- Jackson, David. 1979. Review of 'The Life and Liberation of Padmasambhava', *Journal of Asian Studies* 39: 123–25.
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 Serindia Publications

OUTLINE

The text is divided into one hundred and eight chapters (le'u).

- Chapters 1 –53: The emergence and development of the Buddhist doctrine in India in terms of 'emanations of Buddha Amitabha', with a focus on Padmasambhava's previous lives; the conversion of different regions and their rulers (including Emperor Aśoka).
- Chapter 54–59: The birth of Tri Song Detsen (Khri Srong Ide btsan) and activities of his early reign, leading to the deputations he sends to Padmasambhava in India.
- Chapter 60–65: Padmasambhava's travels to Tibet and his activities there; the completion of Samye Monastery.
- Chapter 66: The king, Tri Song Detsen, persuades Padmasambhava to stay in Tibet.
- Chapter 67: The introduction of laws by the king.
- Chapter 68: Padmasambhava's prediction of three lo tsa wa (translators).
- Chapter 69–88: Vairocana and his activities in Tibet, the activities and translations of other religious teachers, the suppression of Bön, the establishment of sacred texts and temples, and commentaries on the doctrine.
- Chapter 89–90: Predictions of a degenerate age, including conquest by the Mongols, ending with the re-emergence of Tibetan power.
- Chapter 91–95: The treasures and their concealment.
- Chapter 96: Further prediction of the decline of the doctrine, leading to conflict, epidemics and famine, followed by the re-birth of Maitreya and adoption of the ten virtues.
- Chapter 97–106: Death of Tri Song Detsen and the activities of his son, Mutig Tsenpo (Mu tig btsan po).
- Chapter 107–08: Departure of Padmasambhava from Tibet.

EXTRACTS

The extracts are based on the 1987 edition, checked against the xylograph, with occasional reference to other editions. The page references are from the 1987 edition and the folio references are from the xylograph.

Chapter 67

[p. 397, f. 243v]

क्र्याविश्वान्तर्भः अर्ट्टात्स्यान्यः वावेवास्यान्धः स्रीक्षेत्रः मैनाविश्वयः वाव्यः मी. वावेषः क्षेट्टास्यः स्रीत्यः न्यस्याद्वे क्र्याविश्वयः न्यः मी. श्वर्ट्टाराः स्रे. स्यः न्यस्ययः ट्राय्वामिनाः स्राचिशायवाः स्ववाः श्वर्षः व्यामिनाः स्य

Then the king was happy and made many prostrations;

He established the religious law, like a silken knot.

The royal law, like a heavy and bulky golden yoke,

And the religious law, [like] a soft silken knot; he bound the two together.

ज्याय निया केया निया क्या क्या क्या क्या स्टाम स्टाम

From the four horns of Tibet, he gathered together all the people under his power;

And he promulgated the terms of a law code, mother and son, white and black.

There were three types of law: religious law, royal law, and thang khrims (general laws).

'I, Khri Srong Ide'u btsan, king of Tibet;

I am now a religious king (chos rgyal).

All the people who are subject to my power,

Their good deeds and bad deeds should come to fruition.'

[p. 397, ff. 243v-244r]

ঀ৾য়ৢয়৽য়ৼয়ৢ৾ঢ়৽য়৽ঢ়য়৽য়য়৾য়য়য়য়ৢয়য়য়

क्र्यानिवाया,वाष्ट्रयाया,क्रायाया,क्रायान्याच्याया,क्रायाया,क्रायाया,क्रायाया,क्रायाया,क्रायाया,क्रायाया,क्राय स्याजित्याच्याया,क्रायाया,क्रायाया,क्रायाया,क्रायाया,क्रायाया,क्रायाया,क्रायायायायायायायायायायायायायायायायाया

Since acting well is [a requirement of] the sacred doctrine,

[There shall be] an established community of fully ordained monks, and an established community of tantric practitioners (*sngags pa*).

Let people choose whichever they prefer of these two systems.

[pp. 397-8, f. 244r]

All men and women should learn letters and numbers (reading and arithmetic).

They should write, recite, train in, and explain the doctrine,

[And] children should learn how to understand, write, and read.

Tantric practitioners should attend at birth rituals.

Nurses should give assistance and medical treatment to the sick.

Do not allow old people to become sad, but treat them with respect.

Religious and tantric ceremonies should be performed at death rituals (shi bar bum chog).

Those who have [wealth] should give loans on interest to those who do not.

The latter should repay the money gratefully.

Reduce the amount by half for those who [cannot] repay.

[p.398, ff. 244r-244v]

स्.श्र.वाट.श्र.ट्वाप.जास्.स्यात्र (सूर्) ह ताचप.कु.वा.ट्याय.ज्ञ.च्य.च्या.य्या.व्यक्ष स्.श्रट.ता.क्ष्या.स्.श्रूट.व्य.च्या.य्यक्ष स्.श्रट.च्ये.द्रश्र.वाचु.चट.वे.क्र्या.ग्रुवह स्या.जा.च्यं.क्ष्या.वाचुचेत्र.ला.यट.वाचुचे ग्रुवह ट्या.जा.च्यं.क्ष्या.वाचुचेत्.ला.यट.वाचुच ग्रुवह Be careful about enemies and create a good household for relatives.

The young and inexperienced should listen to the advice of the old.

If there are several sons, the elder should marry and the younger should go into religion.

If there are no sons, whoever is to be the husband for their daughter

Should not promise to become a husband [without] consulting the parents.

If the man and woman are not happy, reject the bride-price.¹

Rise early, go to sleep late, and be assiduous in what you do.

A husband should not rely on control and coercion without consulting his wife.

After consulting: the childless, those borne by the wind, those who have not preserved their wealth,

Those banished to the borders, do not abandon them [but] be a good friend.

The modest³ and the shameless, these two are straightened out.

Common people⁴ should conduct their lives wisely.

Noble men and women should be restrained and balanced.

Do not steal, do not rob, do not strike, and do not kill.

[pp. 398-99, ff. 244v-245r]

ट्यो.पट्यं.भूषा.ट्रं.ट्योम्.ट्ट्ःवाषूर्यः,ट्यो इ.सूट्र्यायिषा.यय.ह्रं.क्षेत्र.त्यचेट्र्यायुष्यः,व्याय स्य.चिष्याययं,त्या.भूषा.सूत्रा.सूत्रा.त्युषयः,त्यव्यः,

¹ 'Reject' implies that the marriage will not occur. *Bor* could also be read as 'return', implying a divorce.

² Read as 'then. Roughly half the editions have this; the others have 'theb'. 'thib in the 1987 edition appears to be an abberation.

³ Literally, 'the shame-faced', but the concept has positive moral connotations.

⁴ Kha nyen could mean 'inarticulate' or 'those who labour'. It seems to contrast with the nobility of the following line.

कट. येच. से. टेट. 'झैट. 'डक. ट्रा. डुच! व्यथ्य. से. व्यक्ति. जवा, वट. ड्रीच. क्य. शहूट. ट्राटीबायः व्यथ. से. शहट. सेश. टेट. ड्रीचा. क्य. शहूट. ट्रावी ड्य. से. पर्वी. टेट. सेट. ड्रीट. वर. श्रीट. वाष्ट्रकाः

Renunciates and religious scholars should act according to the rules of their vows

And according to the explanations given in the three classes of scripture (piţaka).

Members of the sangha should quench their thirst with milk and tea.

For food, they should eat the best barley, honey, and soft cheese.

For clothing, they should wear saffron lower garments.

They should live in monastic communities.

They should avoid alcohol (chang nag) and adulterated food.

[p. 399, f. 245r]

यक्षेत्र.स.चब्रीट.क्षेप्र.क्षेत्र.स.ट्ट..टे.जूट.ह योष्य.क्षे.च्रीय.तिट.वोच्चट.ज.जूब..घेष्र.क्षेत्रह वूषा.क्षे.ट्योप्र.ट्षप्र.वेबा.चू.क्षेत्राक्ष.च्या.क्षेश्च च्रम.क्षे.कु.ट्वाप्र.जूट्य.क्षेट्र.टेबा.च.च्ह क्षेत्र.टे.क्ट.वाजूल.ट्वा.पटेब.टेब्य्य.च.क्यंत्राक्षह क्षेत्र.वेषा.ह..हेप्र.त्यंत्र.स.च्वेत्.च.च्येव्यंत्र.स.टंट.ह क्षेत्र.वेषा.ह..हेप्र.त्यंत्र.च्यंत्र.च्येव्यंत्र.स.टंट.ह

The tantric masters should act according to their proclaimed vows,

And the explanations of the tantras.

They should quench their thirst with *chang* and not misappropriate the property of the sangha.

For food, they can enjoy whatever pleases them, as long as it is not poisonous.

For clothing, their tantric garments should be white, red, and black.

They should live in places of meditation, in order to increase their good qualities.

In order to protect the teachings, they should make time for spiritual accomplishments.

[ff. 245r-245v]

च्यायात्त्र्यात्यायात्र्यात्त्र्यात्त्र्याः प्राप्तेत्रात्त्रायात्र्यायात्र्य्यात्त्र्यात्त्र्याः प्राप्तायात्रेत्रायात्र्याय्यात्र्याः अत्याप्तायात्र्याः चत्रयाः चत्र्याः च्यायः च्यः च्यायः च्य The golden sutras should be taught to virtuous monks.

The mandalas and mantras (dkyil 'khor sngags) should be taught to virtuous tantric practitioners.

Virtuous laymen should be directed to collections of the two teachings.

Be kind to those who are incapable.

Give sufficient to the poor.

Protect common people (kha nyen mi) and let the waste of words be stopped.

Be even-minded about the many things that are said and those that happen.

[pp. 399–400, f. 245v]

चिद्दः ट. हुत्र :तकाट्चुयं स्वावः ख्रेयः चोचाकः द्र्यं : द्रायः क्षेट्रं : कूट्टं हुत्यं :तकाळ्चां स्वटः हिटः ह द्र्यं : द्रायः अत्रायः त्रायः क्षेयः स्वटः स्वटः ह द्र्यं : तद्रा : क्षेयां त्रायः त्रायः स्वटः ह्र्यः स्वायः स्वटः हि चक्षेयं : ता : त्रायः स्वतः स्वतः स्वत्यायः क्षेयः स्वतः स्वत

Seek doctrinal teachings from afar, wherever they may be, with respectful reverence.

Do not mix the doctrines, but act according to your own dharma tradition.

Do not act like a Bönpo or a heretic.

The Bönpos will not see bSam yas; they have been banished.

The Bönpos who have come to Skyid shod, have withdrawn to Yog thang (the lower plains);

They have gone to gTsang, to the place known as the dBen tsa kha.⁵

[p. 400, ff. 245v-246r]

(For) those who have not acted in accordance with the religious law I have established,

⁵ Jackson (1979) suggests this is an alternative spelling for dBan sa kha, which is an old Bönpo monastery.

The royal law will certainly take effect.

[If] monks (sdom bu) to scholars, disciples to masters,

Servants to masters, sons to fathers and mothers,

Younger brothers to older, wives to husbands,

Are hostile, or kill, or act in opposition,

Then they should be burned in a fire or thrown into water.

The wicked should be struck by fear of the law, torture instruments and prison.

If there is no law in the land (yul khrims), the wicked oppress others.

Banish them by beating them with sticks [or] fetter them with neck ropes.

[pp. 400-01, ff. 246r-246v]

चूत् चै. चीट. ताट. ताचे चीचामा स्टिट. झैट. टे. श्रुच डे भूट. चिश्रमा मा चिश्रमा चेश्व भाषांचर , खिश्रमा न्टिट. ट्येडेड भू. चीश्रमा चीश्रमा च. चंश्व मा चिश्रमा न्याचेडेड म्. चीश्रमा चीश्रमा च. चंश्व मा चीश्रमा न्याचेड्ड म्. चीश्रमा च. चीश्रमा च्याचेश मा च्याचे मा चिश्रमा चीश्रमा च्याचेडा मा चीश्रमा चिश्रमा चीश्रमा चीश्रमा चीश्रमा चिश्रमा चीश्रमा चीश्यम चीश्रमा

[There are] three, five, seven, nine, eleven, thirteen laws,

Fifteen, seventeen, nineteen, twenty-one laws,

Twenty-three, twenty-five, twenty-seven, twenty-nine laws,

Thirty-one, thirty-three, thirty-five, thirty-seven and -nine,

Forty-one, forty-three, forty-five, forty-seven and -nine,

Fifty-one, fifty-three, fifty-five, fifty-seven and -nine,

Sixty-one, sixty-three, sixty-five, sixty-seven and -nine.

[There are] four laws of fire, wind, water, and iron,

Laws of wood, earth, and sky, making seven.

Let the consequences weigh on the mind.

[p. 401, f. 246v]

ति.श्वम्.पर्यम्.पर्यम्,पर्वयक्षःसःचक्क्षःस्टःपर्वयः यभीकात्रःपर्टकाःपर्ट्यःच्चैःचैश्वःचुःमुत्रः जुत्रः यभ्यनःत्रःक्ष्रंटःपर्ट्यःस्वाकात्रःश्वाःक्ष्रेट्रःपर्ट्याः

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श्र. क्ट्रट्रें डेट. तथा. प्टूड्र क्या. ड्या. टश्चिया. यूर्ड
श्र. पट्टेंचे. ता. जा. चश्चया. कट्ट. जू. जूता. चूट. ड्र
क्ट्य. ता कूट. श्रच च. श्री. ड्रेट. (श्री. चया. पटीट. इ
क्ट्य. ता ब्राया. पटीट. श्री. डेच. चे. च. पटीं ता. र पटी
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Those who kill are to pay compensation (*stong*); those who rob are to have eyes and knees removed;

Those who steal are to pay compensation ('jal); those who commit adultery are to pay compensation (byi rin);

On liars (khra) an amount ('bor) is to be imposed; those who fight are to be imprisoned;

The violent are to have reciprocal punishment (*gses 'ded*); the disobedient are to have their ears removed;

Those who do not act in accordance with the religion (*chos lugs*) are to be expelled from the community;

Those who lie are to be driven away; pledges are to be taken from those who do not repay; Those who are not truthful are everywhere to be turned from deceit.

Let the intransigent (mi chod) be seized with fear. Thus [Padmasambhava] proclaimed.

[ff. 246v-247r]

ल्ट.त्यःचवाः कृषाःश्रट्यः स्ट्राः श्रूटः यहवाः व्याः व्यवः कृषाः यद्वाः व्याः व्यवः कृषः व्याः व्याः व्यवः व्याः व्यः व्याः व

Barley is to be sold by the *bre* and a monetary equivalent should be established according to the weight;

Fix the prices for merchandise and let gold not be adulterated;

Let dogs guard against thieves throughout the night.

Keep the body bowed, and bring the heads together [with other] people.

Political decisions should be made according to the domains of religion (*chos srid*), tantrism (*sngags srid*), and ministerial government (*blon srid*).

Pronounce them once to each person, and repeat them to the non-virtuous.

There should be no wicked people in the mountains, on the paths, or on the plains.

The ten non-virtues are to be rejected and the ten virtues disseminated.

Let the desires of the weak be satisfied, and make a broad yoke for animals.

Let those who have be content and those who do not get what they seek.

[pp. 401–02, f. 247r] હા કુલ્વ, ત્યું કુલ, ત્યું કુલ, ત્યું કુલ્વ, ત્યું કુલ્ય, ત્યું કુલ્ય, ત્યું કુલ્ય, ત્યું કુલ, ત્યું કુલ્ય, ત્યું કુલ, ત્યું કુલ, ત્યું કુલ, ત્યું કુલ્ય, ત્યું કુલ, ત્યું કુ

From the expansively arranged biography of the lifetimes of the Urgyan guru Padmasambhava, The 67th chapter, on Tibetan king Khri Srong Ide'u btsan's establishment of the religious law.

Chapter 92

This chapter concerns the hiding of treasure and the later treasure-revealers.

[pp. 564–65, ff. 355r–355v]
कु. पानः अः कुनः गानः गानः सं विषः संनः गीः आयवा पार्कुनः व्यवसः विषः कुनः प्रमानः अर्केनः विष्यवसः विषः कुनः प्रमानः पार्कुनः व्यवसः विषः कुनः प्रमानः प

Even those who have not been to India will be called lotsāwa.

All the learned Tibetan monks will be dispatched to distant places.

The new laws of the Mongols and of the donor-priest relations (*yon mchod*) will be bound together.

They will resemble a conch shell or an ear of grain, black on the inside and white on the outside.

It will be a time in which merit will diminish in Tibet.

This treasure has been hidden in the crystal cave, Padma shel phug;

When a sign appears that it should be extracted,

The treasure-revealer called Ra mo shel sman will come.

[p. 565, ff. 355v-356r] ন্টান্ 'ঝিন্'ঝ্ৰ'বাৰ্ঝ'ফ্ৰ'ন্ব 'এন্ঝ'র্মণ্ট্র

Then, after his nirvana,

A nose-rope was made by the Sa [skya] so the Mongolian army arrived in Tibet.

Even [compared to] the lower realms, such sufferings have never been seen;

For men, society was destroyed, and there were [too] many protectors of society;

It was a time in which sentient beings in the lower world were oppressed.

This treasure has been hidden by the river at the castle of gNam skos;

When a sign appears that it should be extracted,

The treasure-revealer Chos kyi dbang phyug will come.

[p. 565, f. 356r]

Then, after his nirvana,

The army will beat the drum of the law (khrims rnga) at Bya rog fortress;

Faint-hearted men will throw gold dust into the river.

This treasure has been hidden in the rock of Zang yag;

When a sign appears that it should be extracted,

The treasure-revealer Gu ru jo tshe will come.

The chapter continues with further verses about the hiding of other treasures.