**RGYAL RABS GSAL BA'I ME LONG** 

The Mirror of the Royal Genealogies

**INTRODUCTION** 

The rGyal rabs qsal ba'i me long is also referred to as the Chos 'byung qsal ba'i me long, The Mirror

of the Origin of Religion, in its own colophon.

The text is thought to have been composed by Lama Dampa Sonam Gyaltsen (bLa ma dam pa

bsod rnam rgyal mtshan, 1312-1375) and completed shortly before his death. Lama Dampa was a

Sakyapa (Sa skya pa) religious scholar and abbot of Sakya monastery from 1343 to 1347. He was the

religious teacher of the Pagmodrupa (Phag mo gru pa) Ta'i Situ Jangchub Gyaltsen (Byang chub rgyal

mtshan) in his early years and the two remained close. There is, however, some debate about this

attribution (van der Kuijp 1993).

The early fourteenth century was a period of conflict between the Sakya and the Pagmodru,

among others, and in 1353 Samye (bSam yas) monastery was badly damaged. The text of the royal

genealogies seems to have been compiled concurrently with its reconstruction. It was supposedly

written at the behest of a Rinchen pel (Rin chen dpal), but Sørensen (1994: 35) suggests that the

original motivation probably came from Jangchub Gyaltsen.

The author drew on many different sources and the text is presented as a compilation (bsgrigs).

The text, often referred to as Me long ma, became very popular among both historians and Tibetans

in general, and was frequently cited by later writers. Certain sections correspond closely to parts of

the Khrims gnyis Ita ba'i me long.

Tuttle (2013: 204) states that the narrative reinforced the Pagmodru efforts to revive imperial

Tibetan traditions by emphasizing the association of Songtsen Gampo (Srong btsan sgam po),

founding figure of the Tibetan empire, with the Buddhist deity Avalokiteśvara

Sources

*Xylographs:* 

rGyal rabs gsal ba'i me long. 1750-60. Edited by bLa ma chen po kun dga' 'phrin las rgya mtsho.

[This is generally known as the sDe dge edition. There is a copy in the British Museum

(19999b.9)]

TBRC: W00CHZ0103341

There are eight other xylograph versions of the text on the TBRC website.

Printed version:

rGyal rabs gsal ba'i me long. 1981 [2002]. Beijing: Mi rigs dpe skrun khang.

[This is a modern version of the sDe dge edition]

TBRC: W00KG09730

For other versions and secondary literature, see:

Martin, Dan. 1997. *Tibetan Histories: A Bibliography of Tibetan-language Historical Works.* London: Serindia, pp. 60–61.

#### References

**Translations:** 

Sørensen, Per. 1994. *Tibetan Buddhist Historiography: The Mirror Illuminating the Royal Genealogies*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag.

Sakyapa Sonam Gyaltsen. (T. McComas and Lama Choedak Yuthok, trans.) 1996. *The Clear Mirror: A Traditional Account of Tibet's Golden Age*. Ithaca: Snow Lion Publications.

Other References:

van der Kuijp, Leonard. 1993. Fourteenth Century Tibetan Cultural History III: The Oeuvre of Bla ma dam pa Bsod nam rgyal mtshan (1312–1375), *Berliner Indologische Studien* 7: 109–47.

Tuttle, Gray. 2013. The Clear Mirror's Account of Songtsen Gampo. In K. Schaeffer et al. (eds), Sources of Tibetan Tradition. New York: Columbia University Press.

# **OUTLINE**

The following outline and extracts follow the 2002 Beijing edition. They omit the glosses, which were probably added to the text published in the century following its composition (Sørensen 1994: 32).

The first six chapters concern the birth of Buddhism in India, its spread into China and Mongolia, and the birth and activities of Avalokiteśvāra.

Chapters seven and eight concern the early Tibetan kings.

Chapters nine to seventeen concern the emperor Songtsen Gampo, his queens, and their activities.

Chapter ten describes Tonmi Sambhota's (Thon mi sam bho ta) mission to India, the invention of the Tibetan script, and the making of the laws.

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Chapters twelve and thirteen concern the mission of minister Gar (mGar) to Nepal and China and the invitation of a princess from each to become a wife for Songtsen Gampo.

Chapters fourteen and fifteen concern the erection of Buddhist temples.

Chapter sixteen describes the conversion of Tibetan subjects to Buddhism and includes the tale of two Khotanese monks.

Chapter seventeen concerns the departure of Songtsen Gampo and his queens, who merge into a statue.

Chapters eighteen to thirty-three<sup>1</sup> concern events that took place after the death of Songtsen Gampo. It lists subsequent emperors, including Tri Song Detsen (Khri srong Ide btsan), and describes the building of Samye, the debate held there, and the activities of Padmasambhava. It continues with events that occurred after the fall of the empire, up to and including the activities of Atiśa in the eleventh century.

#### **EXTRACTS**

# Chapter 10: How Minister Tonmi modified the Indian script and how the laws of the ten virtues were established by the king.

चकु'चा ब्रॅंब'र्रा व्रंब'क्रीका'कु'ग्नर'व्रवाधी'गे'चश्चर'च'ववा कुव'र्यवार्'व्याद्वे'च'चवरुवे'व्रिक्षव'चठका'चिरे ब्रॅंब

# [p. 66]

Then, because there was no written language in Tibet with which to create royal laws based on the ten religious virtues, in order to propagate the five desirable objects, to distribute gifts to everyone, and to impart religious precepts to his subjects, [Songtsen Gampo] dispatched seven clever ministers to India to learn the script. However, they returned, having encountered three kinds of demons at the border. Next, the son of Thon mi a nu, Thon mi Sambho ta, who was perceptive, clever, and had many good qualities, was sent to India, carrying a quantity of gold with him, in order to learn the script. There, having gone to the south of India, the minister heard about an expert in the written language, the brahmin Li byin. He went to meet the brahmin and reverently offered his respects to him and said:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In other editions, chapter eighteen is the final chapter, combining what is contained in chapters eighteen to thirty-three in the 2002 edition.

विवाया हे . रया में या देया तर्राया है . या में या या विवाय है . या में या या विवाय है . या में या या विवाय है . य र्ण्य म्य स्व राया श्वयः श्रेत रेग्या स्व राया श्वा कें क्षेत्र पॅत मृत्र श्रुट्य पार्य सेंट प्रदेश सहया। जिट्ट. र्यायाची योदा श्चाला स्वार ट्राष्ट्रीय। याययायायार्थ्यातह्य विष्याचे क्षेत्र चें हिन्। कृट' चट्रा प्यान्य प्रान्तित्य क्षेट वायव प्रान्तिया। चन्गान्ते'सम्बद्धार्यार्वन'र्चन्'ग्री'र्स्नेत्र'र्ये'धेत्र॥ चन्या'यी'कुथ'र्चे'श्रुयाष'हे'क्रेत्र'र्चे'श्यवाषा। पळु'ग्रासुस'र्सेद'द्रस'कुल'र्स'रूप'र्पञुद'ङ्गी। र्नेब क्रेब वि धे श्रेट र प्वम्य प्रति र न्या प्रवित्रःप्रचर्मः ४य्याः अर्थः श्रीयः क्रियः प्राप्तः ४चन्वा वी खुवा व 'खी वोदी 'ब्रॅवा ब्रेन् 'चन्ना। नन्याः अवास्त्रेवः क्रुं केवः नभ्गरः वद्याः वी। ब्रिट्र ग्री खुव्य ट्र 'थे 'वे 'श्रूंच 'तृ 'च तृ ट ॥ भावयान्याचिन् गीयाञ्चा सन् प्यानीते स्वाया। अ.जेब्य.चर्वा.ज.वोबर.चर.भह्र.रं.वोब्रुजा

Of the class of gods, being the most miraculous and abounding in compassion,

Since you are endowed with qualities, you have been born as a brahmin.

By virtue of these endowments, which have been refined in previous lives,

Accomplished in scripture, logic, and written language,

You, great Brahmin, knowledgeable and learned,

Please be considerate and listen to me.

I am a minister from Tibet, a barbarous borderland,

My king is Thugs rje chen po,

Who assumed the throne at the age of thirteen.

When he was sitting on his bejewelled throne,

In order to satisfy his subjects with religious doctrine,

And to create the royal law of the ten virtues,

Since the custom of writing was absent in my country,

He entrusted a large quantity of personal gifts to me,

And sent me to your country to learn the written language.

So, learned one, please teach me grammar and letters,

Without holding anything back.

The narrative continues with a description of the new Tibetan script.

# [p. 73] [Note, the 2002 edition gives many alternatives in brackets]

At that time, among the three hundred very famous ministers, there were sixteen ministers of high reputation; four indispensable great ministers; those who served the king's body, speech and mind; those who conducted exterior, interior, and intermediate affairs; they were headed by sixteen ministers of the lineage of the Bodhisattvas. There were also six powerful ministers of the exterior, six excellent ministers of the interior, and four ministers of wise counsel.

As regards the six excellent interior ministers, they were 'Phrul gyi sna chen rigs bzang, Zhang po rgyal gyi khram bzang, Cog ro rig pa'i skad bzang, IHar gzigs shog po bstan bzang, Ka'i gnyags ston 'phel bzang, and sBas lcang dpal gyi legs bzang. In all, one hundred ministers served the king's person and conducted internal affairs.

As regards the six powerful ministers of the exterior, they were Khyung po sbu na bzang tsan, Lam khri bde Ihag khri btsan, Mu khri rdo rje gnam btsan, mThing gi byang chub mchog btsan, Thar pa klu'i dpal btsan, and Rong po phrul gyi sde ba tsan. In all, one hundred ministers conducted external affairs.

# [p. 74]

होट. ग्री.व.चू. क्रैय. तपु. क्रेय. त्यु. क्यंत्र. शहट. ट्री जूटक. ब्रैट. ग्री.व. केट. क्रेयंक. क्रूय. टेट. खे.व. प्रच्या. त्या. यथ. व्रिक्य प्रच्या. क्रिय. यथ. व्रिक्य क्रिय. व्रिट. व्रिय. श्रीट. यथ। व्रह्म. ब्रैट. व्रिय. क्रिय. व्रिय. व्रिय. क्रिय. व्रिय. व्र

To the east, from China and Xi-xia (*mi nyag*) were taken the examples of handicrafts and arithmetic; to the south, from India, religious texts were translated; in the west, from Swog po and Nepal, were created treasuries of food, wealth, and possessions; to the north, from Mongolia and Uighur, laws and the organization of labour were taken. In this way, by dominating and profiting from what lay in all four directions, the king ruled over half the world.

Ton mi Sambho ta, mGar srang btsan yul bzung, 'Bri se ru gong ston, and Nyang khri bzang yang ston, and others—amounting to one hundred ministers, in all—levelled differences and, in

accordance with the king's orders, made the laws of the ten virtues.

यु: ब्रॅस्ट क्रेट त्यां तम्मकारा जात्वक्रेट जिह्न जाहू या टेट ट्यां क्रेडिका तापु जाव जावा, यो स्वयः तक्ष्य तिका विषयः यो क्रिया क्ष्या तक्ष्य त्या क्ष्या विषयः विषयः

Rewards to be given to the good; punishment to be inflicted on the bad; the high to be subdued by laws; the low to be protected by various means; the bodyguards to be divided into four; the highland water to be collected in reservoirs; the lowland water to be conducted into channels; weights and measurements to be established; fields to be divided into plots; men to be taught to write; horses to be marked; exemplary customs to be established; those who instigate quarrels to be punished; proportionate compensation to be paid by those who kill; thieves to pay back eight-fold, making nine with the object itself; those guilty of sexual misconduct to be banished, having had limbs cut off; liars to have their tongues cut.

# [p. 75]

Further: to seek refuge in the Three Jewels, to have faith and show them devotion; to repay the kindness of one's parents by treating them with respect; not to reject gracious people (benefactors), older male relatives, and elders, but to repay them well; not to quarrel with nobles and members of the upper classes, but to yield (*du len pa*), and to follow their noble works and deeds; to concentrate on religion and its texts, so as to understand their meaning; to have faith in the law of karma; to avoid completely the non-virtues; to help friends and neighbours and not to harbour malicious thoughts towards them; to be honest and bear witness to one's thoughts; to consume food and *chang* appropriately and to act modestly; to repay debts on time; not to be dishonest with weights and measures; not to enter into reflection on matters to which one has not been appointed or commissioned; to not listen to advice given by women, but to act independently; if a case is incomplete, because the facts are not certain, to take the local and protector deities as witnesses and swear an oath.

र्गोप्पान्हुं स्पर्ये द्वाराप्यान्या वॅर्प्तिश्वराष्ट्रे शु श्चेर्प्त्रे श्वराष्ट्रिया श्वेर्प्त श्वेर्पत श्वेर्य श्वेर्पत श्वेर्पत श्वेर्य श्वेर्पत श्वेर्य श्वेर श्वेर्य श्वेर

seals of the kings and ministers were affixed, and they were promoted widely, like the light of the sun and the moon.

# Chapter 12: Concerning the invitation of the Nepalese Princess, Khri btsun

चलार्के.चचराष्ट्री.चर्थ्य.वार्य.टेर्यातपुरास्त्रीमी

Tibetan minister Gar (mGar) visits Nepal to invite the Princess, Tritsun (Khri btsun), to Tibet as Songtsen Gampo's wife. He has an audience with the Nepalese king. Gar hands over a bejewelled helmet and promises that it will protect the kingdom and make the king victorious.

The king talks of his Buddhist heritage and tells the minister to return and ask the Tibetan king if he is capable of enacting laws in accordance with the ten virtues:

[p. 88]

क्र्यान्वीयाच्छुरन्याच्छुर्याचीअवायकतात्रुवायायाज्ञात्र्वात्र्वाचीयाच्छुर्याचीअवायकतात्रुवायाचीयाचीयाचीयाचीयाची

'Ask if he is capable of enacting laws in accordance with the ten religious virtues. If he is, I will give the princess. If not, I will not give her', he said.

The minister then hands the king a letter from Songtsen Gampo, in which he praises the king for possessing the law of the ten virtues, acknowledges that Tibet is a barbarous borderland, which does not have such laws, and promises that if the king grants him the princess, he will enact laws based on the ten virtues. The letter continues:

[88.q]

टयः भ्रा.लेबा.मी.कैवा.ता.कं.कूंट. टे.कैवा.कंबा ट्या.ता.वर्थ. टेट.कंब. तपु. मिश्रवा.कं.ट्र. त्यञ्चता.वा.पच्य. ये बारा रामे

I will create five thousand bodily emanations and I will be able to create laws endowed with the ten virtues in one morning.

Later, the king tells the princess to go to Tibet and she asks how she should behave. He talks of the qualities of Tibet, its natural resources, its statues, the fact that the king is a god, and says that although the *dharma* is lacking, the king possesses a code of law.

[p.92]

मिजार्, कें लाथ पर्यूर क्ष्या चेट क्या श्रेष्या। ८४.क्र्य.ब्रट.गीट.मैज.त्रुप.र्यपु.ट्याप.व्रिष्य.लूटी

The king is a god and his retinue are Bodhisattvas.

Although he does not have the holy doctrine (dam chos), the king has laws (bka' khrims).

# Chapter 13: Chapter thirteen, concerning the invitation of the Princess Kong jo

मुं,श्र.तचयं,ग्रंट.ह्.विटवं,टेटबं,तपुं,श्रूरी

The minister Gar then travels to China to ask the king to give his daughter, then princess Kong jo, to Songtsen Gampo in marriage. The king asks Gar whether Songtsen Gampo is capable of enacting royal law based on the ten virtues.

[p. 99]

ब्रिट्-रट-वी-क्रुय-र्र-टे-प्य-ट्वी-च-चर्र-ट-:ह्य प्रति कुय-व्रिअव-एक्टर-छो-द्वय-प-र्विव टे-ह्यय-द-स्व द्वर-विक्य-प्रवा

'Ask your king whether he is capable of creating royal laws endowed with the ten virtues. If he is, I will give my daughter. If not, I will not give her', he said.

Gar opens a letter from Songtsen Gampo in which he promises to enact such laws in a single day. It concludes with:

ट्याञ्जालियाजी पर्माद्रपाट्राञ्चेद्रप्राच्या द्रवापायल्य विषयाजी स्वापित्राचित्राची स्वापित्राची स्वापित्राची

I will create five thousand emanations from my body, and I will be able to create laws of the ten virtues in a single day.

The king then sends the princess to Tibet, telling her of the great qualities of Tibet and of its king.

[p. 113]

ब्री-द्रयो-दानु-स्था-द्रयो-दानुद्रते-द्रियमा-वा-वा

He rejects the non-virtues and observes the laws of the ten virtues.

# Chapter 16: The concealment of treasures and the conversion of all Tibetan subjects to Buddhism, in order to give rise to benefit and happiness

सब त्रान्द्र चर्ने चात्र हुन वाहेर श्रुवा वाहेर श्रुवा चाहेर स्वापान्द्र चेंद्र त्रव्यवा वर्षा कर केंवा वाहेर चित्र स्वापान स्

[p.159]

Then the king, in order to make his subjects observe the laws of the ten virtues, created a law court of fear and horror. He proclaimed that those harming the Buddhist doctrine or disobeying the Tibetan law would be punished. Then he created apparitions, non-humans who were bound, beaten, had their eyes removed and limbs cut off, and so on. Although these things were not real, it terrified the people. [In this way] he established the laws of the ten virtues.

[p.159]

चाहुकान्ट-१८६८ म्हणान्यात्र स्वाप्त स्व स्वाप्त ता.कृथ.चुम.त्यम.ट्यी.क्ष्याचीयुका.कूची.क्षे श्रुका.ध्री श्रीयम्भी श्रीयम्भी श्रीयम्भी श्रीयम्भी श्रीयम्भी श्रीयम्भी श्रीयम्भी श्रीयम्भी श्रीयम्भी स्वाप्तास्य स्वाप्तास्तास्य स्वाप्तास्य स्वाप्तास्य

At that time, there were two novice monks in ICang ra smug po in Li yul (Khotan). For eight years they had been trying to propitiate 'Phags pa 'jam dpal without success. A voice came from the sky, 'dge tshul (novice monks), between you two and 'Jam dbyangs there is no karmic bond, which is why it is hard for you to accomplish anything. Your deity is sPyan ras gzigs. That deity is now residing in the snow-land of Tibet, where he has emanated as the king. Go there and pay your respects to the king'. It was a disembodied prophecy. On hearing this, the novice monks' hair stood on end. Without concern for their own safety, they took provisions of flour and went to Tibet. There, they arrived at a precipitous valley at sTod lung. Along the river bank, they saw corpses without heads, many without eyes, and some that had been eaten by dogs. Then the two novice monks began to have doubts. They asked a Tibetan man where the king was staying and why the corpses were there. The man told them that the king was in Lhasa and the corpses were people who had broken the laws and who the king had punished. The two monks became sceptical. They thought that sPyan ras gzigs must be a devil, having killed all those people. They decided to turn back.

#### [p.161]

चानुकार्यर-इन्ट.चीकारायः क्रिस्टो। क्रिकार्यर-इन्ट.चीकानुबर-जाका-इन्ट.पाणेबर-पाका-हिवारपानु-पानुका-पाणेबर-वानुक्त-पान्त्र-दिवाराचा-इस्टर-जान्य-इस् इन्ट.चानुका-पान्त्र-पानुका-जानुका-जानुका-इक्ट.चीका-इक्षा-पानुका-प्रचर-दिवारों कान्ना-पान्त्र-दिवाराचा-इस्टर-जान्य-इस्टर-जीका-इस्टर-जीका-इस्टर-जीका-इस्टर-जीका-इस्टर-जीका-जान्य-पानुका-जान्य-जीका-इस्टर-जीक

The king gave them both food and drink. He took off his turban and revealed the face of A mi de ba (Amitabha). He said, 'I am the king of Tibet, the great compassionate one. Ever since establishing royal power, I have cared for sentient beings by leading them to the path of liberation and enlightenment. I have not harmed any of them, even with so much as a pin prick. Since the Tibetan people are descendants of a monkey and a rock-demon, I have created powerful apparitions (*sprul pa*).' Clicking his fingers, the corpses disappeared like a fading rainbow. Then the two novice monks regained their faith and trust [in the king].

Chapter 17: Concerning the departure of the king and his queens.

The king, Songtsen Gampo, is giving lengthy instructions to his grand-son about the Buddhist doctrine, ritual practices, and good rulership. In a passage said to be based on the *bKa'* chems ka khol ma, he says:

[p. 181]

र्याया:ग्री:स्:प्यादी:स

Son of the royal family, I have transformed the royal law into religious law.

# Chapter 18

A description of the reign of Mangsong Mangtsen (Mang slong mang rtsan) starts with a recapitulation of the reign of Songtsen Gampo.

[p. 192]

न्रॉव अर्केव विचय में वा प्राप्त विश्वय केंव विचय

Serving the Three Jewels and transforming royal law in line with the doctrine.

# Chapter 21

During the early part of the reign of Tri Song Detsen, some ministers are against Buddhism:

[p. 202]

ब्रॅंब, र्रा. क्र्यां जा क्रा. ट्याप ता क्रयं गीया क्र्या विषया ता क्रया विषया ता क्रया विषया विषया विषया विषय

The ministers who were opposed to Buddhism made laws prohibiting religious practice.

Later, after the Bönpos are defeated in a debate with Buddhist scholars, Tri Song Detsen invites the Indian master Śāntarakṣita to Tibet. When he arrives at the palace, the king rushes to meet him without doing up the belt of his robe. The master declares:

[p. 203]

कवाया अ.तयत्रायः अ.यव्यव्यत्याच्या वयः पट्ट्यः मैनाः विश्वयाः श्रीयः २.पट्ट्याः वयः प्रति । मैनाः त्राष्ट्रितः ग्रीः प्रतिः त्राव्यत्यः यव्यव्याः त्राव्यत्यः अत्याः व्यव्याः प्रविष्यः भीवाः कवाया । व्यव्यत्यः स्वाः व्यव्याः स्वाः व्यव्याः स्वाः व्यव्याः स्व

King, the fact that you are wearing a turban (*la thod*) on your head indicates that in the upper land of mNga' ris—like your hat (*zhwa*)—the law is established. The fact that you are wearing slippers (*chag*) on your feet indicates that in the lower land of mDo khams—like your boots (*lham*)—the law is established. The fact that you have not tightened your belt around your body means that here at the centre, the law is in danger of being quickly destroyed.

The king then embarks on an extensive programme of temple construction and things go well for the

people. The chapter ends by declaring:

[p. 221]

दे.यथ.च्र्रे. (ययत्या वशवा कर दिवो पा पकुते विशवा व्यावा वा वा क्षेत्र पर क्षेत्र पर क्षेत्र पर क्षेत्र पर क्षेत्र वा वा विश्वेष कर क्षेत्र पर क्षेत्र पर क्षेत्र पर क्षेत्र पर क्षेत्र का विश्वेष कर क्षेत्र का विश्वेष कर का विश्वेष क

Then all the people observed the laws of the ten virtues, whereby they were endowed with happiness and good fortune.

# Chapter 22: On Prince Mune Tsenpo (Mu ne btsan po)

[p. 223]

र्गे'च'चर्द्धते'ध्रिअष'च्जुर'।

He maintained the laws of the ten virtues.

# **Chapter 25**

The later king, Ralpachan (Ral pa can), patronizes Buddhism, establishes temples and founds meditation colleges.

[p. 227]

र्गे'च'चळुते'ब्रिअष'चत्रूट'।

He maintained the laws of the ten virtues.

A long passage discusses Sino-Tibetan relations, recounting hostility and battles during previous centuries. It describes the early days of the reign of Mangson Mangtsen.

[p. 230]

मूँव 'र्. भगर मुँथ अघत 'यवित 'प्रैभय 'यश्र्रा

The minister, mGar, safeguarded the law in the territories on all four sides.

Later, after considerable conflict between Tibet and China, a peace treaty is concluded between them, recorded on a pillar erected at the border.

[p. 231]

शवे.ला.सूट.कु.टेशवा.शु.टेरवा पु.लवं.लाचेषु.टेशवा.शु.टेरबा लवं.क्वे.टेथ \ट्रेय \ट्रेय) अक्शवा.वर्डीट.कुं। य.वा.कार्च हुं.कुंग.टे.वोचवा.वया.व्या.सूट.ला.वे.चुंचे.चे. य.चे.तपु.क्र्याशक्षवा.बी.तक्वे.त्.टेतूवे.विट.वावेषा.कुंग.के.विट.चुंचावा त.सूट.ला.वे.चे.चुंचावा वायेषा.ला.कुं.चुंचाचा वायेषा.ला.कुं.चुंचाचा वायेषा.व्या.चुंचाचा चे.लीला.चुं. चुपु.चे.चेट.चेट.चं. तूर्ट.कुं.वायेषा.चंथा.चंथा.च्यांचाचेषा.४शयंप्र, त्येता.च्यं.च्यांच्यं.त्रुचाचा च्यांचाच्यं Chinese monks (ha shang) and Tibetan priests acted as mediators and oath-takers (mna' dpang). [The Chinese] offered presents to please the nephew (Tibet). Henceforth, they decided, there was to be no enmity. On the border, at rMe ru in China, each of the two, emperor uncle and nephew, erected a temple and drew a sun and a moon on a rock. [The treaty stated that] 'In the sky the sun and moon form a pair; on the earth the emperor uncle and nephew [are the same]. The Tibetan army will not be led beyond rMe ru in China; and the Chinese army will not be led to the other side. Each side will respect the border. The earth and stones shall rest in their own beds. Laws have been made ensuring that Tibetans will be content in Tibet and Chinese in China. The Three Jewels, the sun and the moon, the planets and stars, and the gods and spirits have been taken as witnesses.' The nephew and uncle bowed their heads and swore the oath (brobor).

After an anti-Buddhist revolt, Ralpachan re-establishes order:

# [p. 232-33]

ज्ञूर्य.त.सुब. १२ ऱ्यो.तर.क्रीर.सू। त्रूर. पटाटवा चशवा २८ .र्र्यो.त.चश्चेषु. मुशवा ना.च्यूर.प्री भी.र्यट.। ह्या.र्यट.। वालू. च्या. जूवा वाज्जेर.तर.क्रीर.यं वा चूंच .पटाटवा क्रूवा.ना.शु.र्यापा व्याप्त. क्रूवा मुशवा.र्यट.। मैंवा.मुशवा.योधेवा.योधेवे.ता.त्रायी ...

He re-established both the royal law and the religious law ... He established the laws of the ten virtues for the whole population, after which stealing, robbery, and fraud were eliminated, and all the ministers and subjects who were in opposition to the religion had their activities strictly curtailed.

The king also declares that those who oppose and accuse Buddhist monks shall have their eyes pulled out and their fingers cut off. Then the evil ministers decide to eliminate the religious law (*chos khrims*) by assassinating the king.

There follows an age of decline:

# [p. 234]

حراقِع ، پور. ا صحر، بقاد ، خو ، خراف ، خراف ، خرافو ، خرافو ، خرافو ، خرافو ، پور ، خوا ، خرافو ، پور ، خوا ، خرافو ، پور ، خوا ، خرافو ، خوا ، خوا

Then the power of the rulers diminished, like a waterfall in winter. The royal law of the ten virtues fell apart, like a rope made of rotten straw. The merit of the Tibetan people became like

a lamp in which the oil is exhausted. The prosperity and well-being of the kingdom faded away, like a rainbow in the sky.

# **Chapter 27**

After Langdarma come a number of rulers who try to revive Buddhism, but they are chased out by Yum brtan, who seizes power, with negative effects. The concluding verse declares:

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[b. 339]
द्रवाबात्त्व,ट्रांब,टी.टाङ्ग्रेबात्तव,त्यट्रेव,के.बात्तव्यात्त्रव,य्रेच,श्रीत्त्रव,त्यत्व,त्यत्व,त्यत्व,त्यत्व
श्रीत्तः,वेबा,वोक्ष्यत्त्रः,वाञ्च्यत्यः,व्यत्व,व्यत्व,व्यत्व,व्यत्व,व्यत्व,व्यत्व,व्यत्व,व्यत्व,व्यत्व,व्यत्व
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मैज.तमैट.शचप.ज.संट.तथ.ह.लु.वोटंट.र्यथ.कटी

When the lowly child was lovingly raised, the lord Yum brten emerged.

When [this person] of low birth was appointed as lord, there were no royal laws based on the ten virtues.

The noble flesh was diminished, and the sun of prosperity and well-being was obscured.

The royal line was exiled to the borders and the lineage of rulers ceased to exist.

# Chapters 28 to 33

The text continues by describing events under later rulers and the demise of the royal house, leading up to the revival of Buddhism with the invitation to western Tibet of the Bihari scholar Atiśa.

#### Colophon

In the concluding remarks and colophon the author looks to the future and hopes that the teaching of the Buddha will spread and flourish in Tibet.

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[p. 249]
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May their two accumulations [of merit and wisdom] be as sublime as Mount Meru is high, And, resolving to preserve the two laws (*khrims gnyis*) in accordance with the dharma, May the patrons of the teaching, the sovereign rulers,

Exercise their worldly power for the abundance of prosperity and well-being.