

text in **red** (my editorial additions, which you **might not know**)

XZ 3.1

i.121* White River

Spring of *naga* Apalala (source of the White/Subhavastu River)
during *kalpa* (eon) of **Kashyapa** Buddha (3rd **Buddha**) - Gangi becomes *naga-rajā*
during *kalpa* (eon) of Shakyā Tathagata (4th **Buddha**, i.e. Gautama)
used mace of **Vajrapani** (**weapon of Gautama Buddha's protective deity**)
undertakes conversion/redemption of the *naga-rajā*
etiology: Fountain of the Naga Apalala; flooding every 12th year
redemption of animals (*naga*)
Shakya - clan name of Gautama Buddha
Tathagata – epithet (“come & gone”) of the Buddha
kalpa - eon

i.125 Shakya snake

when **Tathagata** (Gautama Buddha) was the *bodhisattva* Shivika-rajā
cut his body into pieces to save a dove from a hawk
Buddha as Lord Shakya ends famine and disease
offers self as food/cure form of great serpent Suma
etiology: Serpent Medicine Monastery, Suma *stupa*
redemption of animals
jataka – animal fable, Buddha's past lives

i.126 peacock foot

time when Tathagata was the King of the Peacocks
struck rock, stream flowed out, formed a lake
etiology: lake source, peacock footprint in stone
jataka – animal fable, Buddha's past lives

i.127 elephant rock

Tathagata promised Uttarasena-rajā of Udyana body relics
arrived late, but *devas* published his words, and saved him a bit of Buddha
rode great white elephant that fell and died
etiology: elephant-form rock *stupa*

i.128* Longbolu dragon-lake (*naga* maiden)

Virudhaka-rajā of Kosala attacked Shakyas, four brothers fled
one transported by wild goose to a *naga*-lake
naga maiden sees **Shakya** youth sleeping, takes human form, caressed him
prayed her to consent to his wishes; must ask parents, have not yet approved
“By the power of my accumulated merit let this *naga* woman be turned into human shape.”
naga-rajā gave blessing: “You have not despised creatures of other kinds”
advice for taking throne - precious sword in a casket, use it to kill king
lays with *naga*-maiden, “from her head came forth the nine-fold crest of the *naga*”
cuts off crest, so descendants suffer from headaches
eon of Tathagata, returning from the redemption of *naga* **Apalala**: “Where is your son? He is of my family.”
he and his attendants take flight through the air after restoring sight of mother of Uttarasena-rajā
etiology: reliquary; , royal genetic proclivity to headaches
marriage customs; legitimacy of rule; claims on kinship

XZ 3.3

i.138 severed head

Chandraprabha (past life of Gautama Buddha as *bodhisattva*) severs own head thousands of times
etiology: severed head *stupa* and *sangarama*
leprosy cure, sutras of Kumaralabdha

i.139* Kunala of Taxila

propositioned by stepmother (**Potiphar's wife motif**), marked seal and false letter (*cf.* **Belerophon**), **chandala** (low caste) plucks out **Kunala's** eyes; he sings to dad who puts stepmother to death (*cf.* **Two Brothers**); Ghosha collects teaching tears, cures Kunala; collaborators banished to Taklimikan Desert
etiology: *stupa* for curing blindness

XZ 3.6

i.149* Kashmir dragon-lake

Buddha and **Ananda** (his disciple) fly over on lake return from Udyana, foretell future
In fiftieth year after the Nirvana, *arhat* Madhyantika converts Nepal; does knee trick, drives out *naga*
builds 500 *sangaramas* for 500 *arhats*, who have low-born attendants (the **Kritayas**)
also 500 schismatic (**Hindu**) priests; Mahadeva convinces **Ashoka** to drown others (3rd Council)
so 500 *arhats* flew away, won't go back, so Ashoka builds them anew
new schism under **Kanishka** (4th Council), Parshva leads council with Vasumitra, who composed *shastras*
Kanishka puts *shastras* on copper, in *stupa*, guarded by *yakshas*
unknown king of Himatala, descendant of Shakyas, fights **Kritiyas** ("bought people") to restore Buddhism
etiology: lower-caste rulers of Nepal, introduction and return of Buddhism to Nepal
time/years measured in relation to Nirvana of the historical Buddha
rishi – sage/hermit
shastra – commentary on Buddhist *sutra* (literature)
yakshas – mischeivous guardian nature spirit
Ananda – son of Dronodana, brother of Devadatta, cousin of Gautama Buddha, one of his ten major disciples;
renowned for his ability to remember the sayings of Gautama Buddha
Six Spiritual Faculties: (1) heavenly eye (sight at a distance and through obstacles)
(2) heavenly ear (hearing at a distance and through obstacles)
(3) miraculous foot (teleportation)
(4) knowledge of past lives
(5) telepathy
(6) to overcome all obstacles through enlightenment and liberation
Eight Vimokshas – eight "deliverances" (or "releases") from earthly desire
Five Vidyas – (1) *Adhyātma-vidyā* ('inner-realization') metaphysics, psychology, etc.; knowledge of the ultimate truths of the universe
(2) *Chikitsā-vidyā* ("healing") medicine and health
(3) *Hetu-vidyā* ("causal") logic and reasoning
(4) *Śabda-vidyā* ("sound") speech, grammar, linguistics, phonology, literary studies, music
(5) *Śilpsthāna-vidyā* ("craftmanship") arts and crafts, mathematics, science and technology

i.158 Buddha's tooth

after the **Kritiyas** destroyed the Law of Buddha, the priests dispersed, each to a new abode
one *shramana*, wandered to visit and worship the relics of Buddha (*like Xuanzang*)
met with a herd of elephants, spies on them, found a sick/wounded elephant, removed shard of bamboo, applied medicine
another elephant brought a gold casket with the Buddha's tooth
shraman crosses rapids carrying relics, loses them to a covetous *naga*
returns to India, studies the rules of restraining dragons; gets Buddha's tooth back; built a *stupa* and *sangharama*
etiology: relic, *stupa*, *sangharama*
Kritiyas – lower caste rulers of Nepal

i.161 *arhat's* garment

elephant-sized *arhat*, eats like a glutton, so "what does he know of truth or error?"
about to reach *anupadhisesa* (**complete nirvana**), prepares to explain the Excellent Law (*dharma*), gets mocked
explanation: had body of an elephant, carried *sutras* and *shastras* > merited rebirth as a man > merited rebirth
as a *rishi*, and obtained the Six Supernatural Powers (see above), cut off from the Three Worlds
entered on the *samadhi* called the Brilliancy-of-Flame, body become smoke and fire, bones fell to the earth
etiology: relics, *stupa*
anupadhisesa – "without remnant," complete *nirvana*
dharma – Law of Buddha, unchanging
rishi – hermit
sutra – Buddhist scripture
shastra – commentary on a *sutra*
samadhi – 'complete concentration of the mind' or 'complete meditation'

XZ 4.1

i.167* Mahirakula and Baladitya

Mahirakula-*raja* of **Kashmir** subdued neighbors, studies Law of Buddha (*dharma*)

out of modesty (despising “glitter”) no priest (*sraman*) stepped forward to assist him, in consequence...

tries to destroy it through the Five Indies, to overthrow the *dharma*, and leave nothing remaining

Baladitya-*raja* of Magadha hears of atrocities, refuses tribute, flees into exile with myriads of followers

having left army to brother, Mahirakula gets taken captive, covers face with robe in shame: “The subject and the master have changed places,” capital punishment for overturning Three Jewels, religious merit lost

mother of Baladitya wants to see his “remarkable beauty and vast wisdom”

mother: “prosperity or the opposite depends on the occasion; gain and loss come in turn” (cf. **Herodotus**)

she asks that son forgive crime and spare life—long accumulated sinful actions, but remnant of merit

spared, he starts reconquest, recorded *jatakas* about his evil deeds, for the good of future generations

Mahirakula slew three ten myriads of people of the first rank by the side of the Indus River

the same number of the middle rank he drowned in the river

the same number of the third rank he divided as slaves

took the wealth of the country he had destroyed, then went home and died

holy saints (*arhats*) said, in pity, that he had fallen into the Lowest Hell

etiology:

Mahirakula (ca.502-530 CE), ruler of the Hephthalite (White Hun) Dynasty

Narasimhagupta Baladitya (ca.495-530 CE), ruler of the Gupta Dynasty

Five Indies – Valabhi (11.8), Magadha (8-9), Kashmir (3.6), Gujarat (11.11), and Sindh (11.15)

dharma – Law of Buddha, unchanging (cf. *physis* in Herodotus)

shastra – commentary on a *sutra*

arhat – saint

Avici – lowest Hell

XZ 4.2

i.174* Chinese hostages

Kanishka-*raja* received tribute from princes from Western China (west of the Yellow River)

sent hostages to him, treated them “with marked attention”—separate hospices by season

guarded by troops; winter hospice called **Chinapati** (“Chinese”)

pointed their fingers at Xuanzang: “This man is a native of the country of our former ruler”

etiology: old Chinese settlement, introduction of Chinese fruit (*chinani* and *chinarajaputra*)

chinani (*Prunus persica*) - peach

chinarajaputra (*Pyrus pyrifolia*) – pear

XZ 4.3

i.176 Pashupta heretics

temples of *devas* and 500 heretics (**Hindu**), of the the **Pashupatas** (‘Cinder-Sprinkled’)

former king partial to the heretics, but afterwards, heard the Law (*dharma*) from an *arhat*, converts

revered and rewarded well-regarded, punished the disorderly, built *stupas* and *sangharamas*

etiology:

Pashupatas – Hindu ascetics, worshippers of Shiva (as “Lord of Cattle”)

3 times per day smear their bodies with ashes, meditate, and chant

dharma, *arhat*, *stupa*, *sangharama*

XZ 4.8

i.184 Field of Religious Merit

Two kings of the Five Indies, government divided, attack each other; suggest battle of champions; use miraculous

brahman (**Hindu**) of great wisdom paid with silk, composes a religious book concealed in a mountain cavern

men hastened to the conflict, death as deliverance; summoned his brave, dead heaped like sticks

covered with large bones, due to very remote time

etiology: large bone-shaped objects giving name to field

large relics due to heroic dimension of previous *kalpa* (eon)

Five Indies (see above)

brahman – Hindu priestly caste

XZ 4.9

i.184 Deva-*bodhisattva*

bodhisattva of Simhala (Sri Lanka) called **Deva**, understood true nature of all composite things came to this India to guide and direct the people in the right way composing his supernatural appearance, bent his head and dispersed it ('the rays of his glory') Deva-*bodhisattva* saves his island from hunger and thirst from a distance, thus converts heretics

etiology: Sinhalese Buddhist influence

bodhisattva – enlightened one who postpones *nirvana* to help other to that goal

XZ 4.10

i.184* Gunaprabha

Gunaprabha composes *shastras*, first studied Greater Vehicle, then Lesser Vehicle; ten difficulties asks *arhat* Devasena, who went to the Tushita Heaven, for interview with Maitreya by his miraculous power, transports him to the heavenly palace; Maitreya-*bodhisattva* to become *buddha* Gunaprabha as *bhikshu*, left the world as a disciple; Maitreya-*bodhisattva* a *deva*, sees no associate for an ascetic Maitreya-*bodhisattva* perceived his "pride of self" (*atmamada*)

Gunaprabha, filled with hatred and resentment, could not obtain *samadhi* of Opening-Intelligence

etiology: *shastras*

Greater Vehicle - Mahayana sect

Lesser Vehicle - Hinayana sect

Tushita Heaven – fourth *deva* heaven, above Sumeru; where *bodhisattvas* reside before returning as Buddha

Maitreya ('benevolent') – future (fifth) Buddha of our eon

bhikshu – clergy

atmamada – 'pride of self'

samadhi – 'complete concentration of the mind' or 'complete meditation'

arhat, bodhisattva, buddha, shastra

i.184* Vasubandhu-*bodhisattva* & Sanghabhadra

Vasubandhu-*bodhisattva* explains that which is beyond the power of words by meditation (*samadhi*) composed *shastra* against Vibhashika School

Sanghabhadra, read this work, wrote conter *shastras*, sent disciples after him

V. withdraws to Mid-India, suggest contest "in the presence of the eminent and wise"

S. suddenly felt his powers of body fail, sends message (please leave my *shastras* alone!), dies.

V. keeps it but changes name, as insult to disciples of S: "Though the lion-king retires afar off before the pig, nevertheless the wise will know which of the two is best in strength."

etiology: *shastras*; *stupa* over Sanghabhadra's bones

Vibhashika – teaching of Sarvastivada school, Hinayana sect ("Lesser Vehicle")

vs Greater Vehicle – Mahayana sect

Vasubandhu – founder of Yogachara School of Mahayana Buddhism, twentieth Buddhist Patriarch

Sanghabhadra – author of *shastras*

amra – mango tree (*Mangifera indica*)

i.196 Vimalamitra

man of Kashmir, wrote *shastras* for Sarvastivada School; read a multitude of *sutras*

at *stupa* of Sanghabhadra, swears to uphold and rewrite *shastras* of S. for learned men of Jambu-*dvipa*

then his mind became "confused and wild; his boastful tongue heavily protruded" while hot blood flowed forth

arhat says he has fallen into Avichi ('Deepest') Hell!"

etiology: *stupa* over V. bone ditch

Avichi Hell - lowest, 'uninterrupted' hell in Buddhist cosmology; realm of great heat and long suffering those reborn there

commit one or more of the Five Grave Offenses —

(1) intentional patricide

(2) intentional matricide

(3) killing an *arhat*

(4) shedding the blood of a *buddha*

(5) creating discord within the *sangha*

i.184* divine ladders

Tathagata (Buddha), left the Jetavana and ascended to the heavenly Saddharma Hall, preaching to his mother
three months later Shakra erected ladders – middle of gold, left crystal, right white silver

Tathagata left Saddharma Hall, with *devas*, descended middle gold ladder.

Brahma, holding a white *chamara*, descended silve ladder on the right

Shakra, holding a precious canopy, descended crystal ladder on the left

devas scatter flowers and chant praises in his honor; ladders but have sunk into the earth

stone image of Buddha, and on either side of this is a ladder with the figures of Brahma and Shakra, just as they appeared
when first rising to accompany Buddha in his descent.

etiology: replica ladders, statues

Tathagata – epithet (“come & gone”) of the Buddha

Saddharma Hall – heavenly residence of the Buddha

Shakra – ruler of the Heaven of Thirty-Three *devas* atop Sumeru; in Hinduism, Indra

Brahma – ruler of Rupadhatu (‘Realm of Forms’), the first/lowest (Brahma) Heaven, and ruler of the *sahā* world;

in Hinduism one of the Trimurti (‘Trinity’) along with Vishnu and Shiva

secondary pilgrimage: Descent from Heaven (8) at Sankashya