Textcritical Remarks on the *Mūlamadhyamakakārikā* as Cited in the *Prasannapada*

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The Sanskrit text of the *Mūlamadhyamakakārikā* is extant only as embedded in the *Prasannapada*. From 1903 to 1913, L. de La Vallée Poussin published a monumental edition of the *PSP* (Bibliotheca Buddhica IV, St.-Petersburg) which has greatly facilitated not only the study of the *PSP* but our study of the Mādhyamika Philosophy in general. This edition is based upon three manuscripts preserved in Paris, Cambridge, and Calcutta. In 1977 and 1978, J. W. de Jong made an important contribution to the study of both the *MK* and the *PSP* with two related publications.\(^1\) He used an excellent manuscript R\(^2\), consulting carefully the Tib. tr. of the *PSP*. Through his emendation of LVP's edition and his confirmation of those readings which were suggested by LVP in square brackets, the textual situation of the *MK* has reached a considerable height of perfection.

The aim of this paper is to discuss some of the remaining problems as to the Skt. text of the *MK*. Besides R, the following five Mss were used in my studying the textual problems.


As far as the three Mss kept in the University of Tokyo are concerned, TD250 and 252 reveal in many cases their close kinship, and TD251 is on the whole superior to both of them. MBB-II is an incomplete Ms, which covers the *PSP* pp. 1–377. So far our textcritical study has disclosed that at least eight more emendations should be added as follows\(^3\).
Textcritical Remarks on the Malamadhyamakakarika (A. Saito) (25)

Reasons for the above emendations are the following in order:

1. PSP p. 87, 1. 13-p. 88, 1. 4: MSS (see PSP p. 88, n. 1), athasad api tat tebhaya pravartate phalam* ity abhiprayah syat/ apratyayesu api nasti phalam iti 'apratyayebhyo 'pi vitanadibhyah kasman nabhipravartate pata iti.

2. PSP Tib. D Ha 29b5-6: ci ste *hbras bu de med kyan*// rkyen de dag las skye hgyur na/** ¡es bya bar bsams par gyur na ni/ rkyen ma yin pa dag la yan// (sic) hbras bu yod pa ma yin pas// (sic) rkyen ma yin pa hjag ma dag las kyan snam bu cihi phyir na skye bar mi hgyur//. * DC de ni med par yan. ** PN wrongly insert two lines: // rkyen min las kyan hbras bu ni// ci yi phyir na skye mi hgyur//


Although the Tib. editions have shown copyists’ confusion and LVP has wrongly edited the text, the underlined part must be a quotation from the MK. LVP’s text does not meet the normal metrical requirement (see pada c). Candr. has connected phalam at the beginning of pada c with tat in pada a, which PSP and Prajñā-MK Tib. PN have expressly reflected in their translation. And this is the reason that the Tib. equivalent hbras bu was placed in the first

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<td>gambhitram Buddhashasane//</td>
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quarter of ka. 12 Tib.

2 PSP p. 100, l. 11 (MK II 13ab): *[na pūrvam]* gamanārambhād ganyamānāṁ na vā gatam/. * MSS (see PSP p. 100, n. 3), TD250, 251, 252, MBB-I, -II agasti; R gasi. Agasti is most probably due to the misreading of the letter prā as a. “Prior to the commencement of going, there exists neither what is being gone over (gamyamāna) nor what has been gone over (gata).”

3 MSS (see PSP p. 140, n. 3), R, TD250, 251, 252, MBB-I, -II sahabhāvas tatas tayoḥ//=PSP Tib. (D Ḥa 47b3, P Ḥa 54a6): *des na* de gnis lhan cig hgyur//= * DC de nas, PN des na. Candr. changed the reading tatas to yatas in his commentary (PSP p. 141, ll. 1–2), leaving the MK text as it was, i.e. tatas. The karika text itself, therefore, should not be changed. ABh, BP, and PP, on the other hand, all read tatas both in the commentaries and in the MK text cited. Cf. ABh D Tsa 42b3–5; BP D Tsa 185a1–3; PP D Tsha 99a2.

4 PSP p. 406, ll. 14–15: tasmāt/ na sāmagriktam phalam/ ; R tasman na sāmagriktam phalam/ ; TD250, 251, 252 tasman na sāmagriktam phalam// /; MBB-I tasman na sāmagriktam phalam// //. PSP Tib. D Ḥa 133a1: dehi phyir tshogs pas byas paḥi hbras bu med do// ; Prajñā-MK XX 24a: de phyir tshogs pas byas pa med//. The text of ka. 24a must be: tasmān na sāmagriktam. The word phalam was supplemented by Candr. in accordance with the text of pāda b (=nāsāmagriktam phalam/). This is confirmed by the above Prajñā-MK Tib. Ni ma grags etc., the translators of the Prajñā-MK and the PSP, did not give a seven-syllabled translation of pāda a in their PSP Tib. because they incorporated the Tib. tr. of phalam in it.

5 PSP p. 411, l. 12 (MK XXI 3cd): na janmamaraṇaṁ caivam* tulyaśālaṁ hi vidyate//=PSP Tib. D Ḥa 134a6: hchi ba skye daḥ dus gcig tu// yod pa ŋid ni ma yin no//=.* R, TD250, 251, 252, MBB-I caiva. This last half of ka. 3 has the same text as ka. 5cd in which caiva is employed instead of caivam.

6 PSP p. 437, l. 1 (MK XXII 3ab): pratitya parabhavaṁ yah *so 'nātmetu upapadyate*/. * R sa nātmetu upapadyate ; MSS (see PSP p. 437, n. 1), TD250, 251, MBB-I sa nātme pratyuupapadyate ; TD252 sa tme (sic) pratyuupapadyate. The reading of R is confirmed by the Tib. tr. (PSP D Ḥa 142b3): gaṅ žig
7 PSP p. 477, l. 14 (MK XXIV 3ab): tavadhāvān na vidyante *catvāry aśray-
āpālani/*. * R catvāry api āpālani*; TD250, 251, 252, MBB-I catvāyādyāpāla-
lani (sic). PSP Tib. (D Ha 158a1-2): de dag yod pa ma yin pas// ḷbras bu
bzi yaṅ yod ma yin// confirms R’s reading.

8 PSP p. 494, l. 5 (MK XXIV 9cd): te tattvam na vijāṇanti *gambhīra-
buddhaśāsane* ca//. * R gambhītre buddhaśāsane ; TD250, 251, 252, MBB-I ga-
mabhītra-buddhaśāsane. Both gambhītre and gambhītra can be confirmed by
the following PSP Tib. (D Ha 163b7): de dag saṁs rgyas bstan pa ni*// zab moḥi
de nīd rnam mi ses//. (* PNDC ni. The particle ni was placed to make an addi-
tional syllable in the first line. May’s reading na instead of ni is incorrect†). The
following Chinese trs. of the four commentaries on the MK also testify that
the adjective gambhītra does not modify tattva, but buddhaśāsana.

Abbreviations
MK=Mālamadhyakārikā of Nāgārjuna. PSP=Mālamadhyakavṛttit -Prasa-
napada, La Vallée Poussin ed.; D No. 3860, P No. 5260. Prajñā-MK=Prajñā-
nāma-mālamadhyakārikā D No. 3824, P No. 5224. ABh=Mālamadhyakavṛttit-Akutobhayā D No. 3829, P No. 5229. BP=Buddhapāliita-mālamadhyakavṛttit D No. 3842, P No. 5242. PP=Prajñāpradīpa-mālamadhyakavṛttit D No. 3853, P No. 5253 ; T No. 1566. LVP=L. de La Vallée Poussin. MSS=The three manuscripts employed by LVP in his editing the PSP. Ms(s)=Manu-
script(s). T=Taishō Shinshū Daizōkyō. 仏=仏 Zōkyō (Dainihon Kötei Zōkyō).

Notes
1) Nāgārjuna Mālamadhyakārikāḥ, The Adyar Library and Research Centre,

2) See de Jong, “Textcritical Notes”, p. 26. I am much indebted to Prof. de Jong
whose kindness has enabled me to consult the photocopy of this manuscript and
also MBB-I, -II in his possession.

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3) Another emendation has already been proposed by Chr. Lindtner in his Nagarjuniana (Indiske Studier IV, Copenhagen, 1982) p. 26, n. 79: "XIII 6c read kasyātha for kasya cid. The Mss (=MSS) read kasyārtha". TD250, 251, 252 and MBB-I, -II also read kasyārtha, while R has kasyārtham. PSP p. 242, ll. 13 (MK XIII 6): tasya ced anyathābhāvaḥ kṣtram eva bhaved dadhi/ kṣtrand anyasya kasya cid dadhibhāvo bhaviṣyati/ =PSP Tib. (D Ha 82b2-3): gal te de ṭiṇd gżan ḍgyur na/ ho ma ṭiṇd ni ṭor ḍgyur ro/ ho ma las gżan gan ṭig ni/ ṭo yi ḍnos po yin par ḍgyur/. Kasyātha is superior to kasya cid from a metrical standpoint also.

4) J. May, Candrakirti Prasannapada Madhyamakavṛtti, Paris, 1959, p. 433, n. 9. (Assistant, Tokyo University)