

PREFACE

At the moment of completion of the first critical edition of the Kubjikāmatatantra, a few words need to be said about the history of the project.

Among a number of microfilms of Sanskrit manuscripts obtained shortly after 1970 by the Instituut voor Oosterse Talen of the State University at Utrecht from Calcuttan libraries, were two mss. of the hitherto barely known Kubjikāmata. In september 1972, a working committee was constituted at the Instituut with a view to conducting further study of these mss. Its members were (in alphabetical order) Dr. Th. Damsteegt, Dr. T. Goudriaan, Mrs. Dr. S. Gupta, Dr. K. R. van Kooy, and Dr. J. A. Schoterman. It had become clear that the mentioned two mss. contained two different versions: one of about 6.000 ślokas called Ṣaṭsāhasra and one of 3500 ślokas usually called Kulālikāmnāya. Several other mss. of the Kubjikāmata are described in H. P. Sastri's Catalogue of Palm-Leaf and Selected Paper Manuscripts Belonging to the Durbar Library, Nepal, Vol. I, 1905. Since almost all of these turned out to belong to the Kulālikāmnāya, it was decided to prepare a critical edition of this version. By common effort, the Calcutta ms. of this version (ms. G) was read and summarized, and a preliminary text of the first two chapters was composed. Microfilms of a number of mss. of Kubjikā texts, in majority belonging to the Kulālikāmnāya, were procured by Van Kooy from the National Archives of Nepal at Kathmandu. This preliminary selection was enlarged by Schoterman during other visits at the Archives and the premises of the Nepal-German Manuscripts Preservation project at Kathmandu and Marburg, FRG. For various reasons the project did not make much progress until the year 1978, when the Dutch Foundation for Pure Scientific Research (ZWO) granted a subsidy which enabled Schoterman to work on it full-time for two successive years; the Foundation also financed the visit at Marburg mentioned above.

At the beginning of 1980, the preparation of the critical text was nearing completion. But the final stages proved more time-devouring than had been anticipated. Besides, new textual material (in majority recently filmed by the Nepal-German Mss. Pres. project) was obtained or studied at Kathmandu by Goudriaan in 1983. Even now it cannot be held that the process of acquisition and study of manuscripts of the Kulālikāmnāya has been finished. But the authors feel that sufficient material has been collected and utilized to warrant the publication of a critical edition. It

is clear, however, that such an edition marks the completion of only the first phase of the study of texts and doctrines of the Kubbjikāmata.

The mutual division of labour between the authors has been as follows: Schoterman took care of the preparation of the critical text of chs. 3-20, Goudriaan of chs. 21-25 and the major part of the Introduction (to which also Schoterman contributed materials), besides a thorough revision of the first two chapters (which served as the committee's original "proving ground") and a final revision of text and critical notes. Section IV of the Introduction (the Survey of Contents of the KMT) is the product of joint effort of both authors.

In our opinion, the constitution of a critical text which does not comply with the grammatical standards of classical Sanskrit should be accounted for by the systematical collection and discussion of the "incorrect" linguistic features of the text. This material is presented in Sections II and III of the Introduction. No attempt at a comparative study has been made (although there are a few isolated references to Edgerton's Buddhist Hybrid Sanskrit Grammar). The lack of a translation (which seemed premature at this stage of research) has been partially made up for by the Survey of Contents (Section IV).

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