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Author's Preface

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Author's Preface

This volume contains the edition and translation of fragments 4, 6, and 11 of the Bajaur Collection of Kharoṣṭhī manuscripts. Fragments 4 and 11 were first edited in my dissertation, which was submitted in 2014 and published online in 2016 under the title *On the Bodhisattva Path in Gandhāra*. While the entire edition has been thoroughly revised, most of the major problems and uncertain passages still remain unsolved. However, one new fragment was found among the scans of the Bajaur Collection, which is now included and the reconstruction updated. Since the fragment belongs to the first part of BC 11, most of the line numbers on the recto have changed, that is, 11r4 is now 11r6 and so on. The recto side now contains 53 lines instead of 51.

In this volume, also fragment 6 has been reconstructed and translated as far as possible. All three fragments belong together in that they refer to each other through certain phrases and terms. BC 4 seems to be the base text. BC 11 refers to parts of BC 4 and discusses certain aspects of the latter. And BC 6 refers to both BC 4 and BC 11. Based on this relationship the sequence of the fragments within this volume is BC 4, BC 11, and then BC 6 (and not BC 4, BC 6, BC 11).

The three manuscripts were categorized as non-canonical scholastic texts, group A, in Ingo Strauch's preliminary survey of the Bajaur Collection published in 2008 in the journal *Studien zur Indologie und Iranistik*. The second group, B, consists of the fragments 14, 16, and 18. Another two manuscripts, numbered 12 and 19, were left unassigned.¹

Most of the scholastic texts (BC 4, 6, 11, 12, 14, 16, 18, and 19) may have been written by the same scribe, since the letter forms are in general the same. One of the scholastic texts, however, written on BC 9 verso, is clearly in another hand. The manuscripts in groups A and B could all be part of the same text corpus, because the general topic in all of them is non-attachment to the sense bases in order to proceed on the path to awakening and prevent further rebirth. BC 14, 16, and 18 are related to each other through the formula *yadi atva / jive / dhama bhavedi*. Also, certain phrases in passages labeled with the same number are identical. The exact interrelations between these manuscripts as well as the relationship between group A and B has yet to be established. For example, certain words used in group A are also used in group

¹ Fragment 19 was previously part 3 of fragment 6, but was later renamed. In the publication Nasim Khan 2008, which reproduces Ingo Strauch's preliminary transliteration from 2006 together with the original scans, a different numbering system is used: BC 4 = fragment 11 (frames 24, 25), BC 6 = fragment 12, part 1 and 3 (frames 26, 28), BC 11 = fragment 13 (frames 29, 30), BC 19 = fragment 12, part 2 (frame 27).

B (*ahara, divacakṣu, paralogo, pradibhavo, bhaṭarae, balena, matra, loa, loutarea, vaïraga, śala, hura*). Moreover, in both groups the same syntactical structure is found, namely questions (G *aha*) and answers (G *ta vucadi*). BC 19 has been included in this volume in the appendix, since it was formerly part of BC 6. It might be another free commentary on BC 4, but its relationship to BC 4, 6, or 11 cannot be established, as most of the readings are unclear.

For the history and contents of the Bajaur Collection in general the reader is referred to earlier publications dealing with the collection as a whole (Strauch 2007/2008, 2008, Falk and Strauch 2014).

Over the years, the editing of these manuscripts has been supported by various institutions. To begin, I received financial support through the Elsa Neumann Scholarship of the state of Berlin. Further, the generous support of the Dhammachai International Research Institute enabled me, during a stay in Seattle, to discuss the contents of the manuscripts in the “Kharoṣṭhī Klub.” Finally, in 2014, I was honored with the Ernst-Waldschmidt-Preis of the Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz for my dissertation on two of the manuscripts presented in this volume.

With respect to the reconstruction and translation of the texts, I received help from many scholars and colleagues who I would like to thank for their suggestions and words of advice (in alphabetical order): Mark Allon, Stefan Baums, Daniel Boucher, Johannes Bronkhorst, Collett Cox, Harry Falk, Andrew Glass, Paul Harrison, Jens-Uwe Hartmann, Oskar von Hinüber, Seishi Karashima, Timothy Lenz, Joseph Marino, Gudrun Melzer, Jason Neelis, Richard Salomon, Cristina Scherrer-Schaub, Jonathan Silk, Blair Silverlock, Ingo Strauch, Vincent Tournier, and Klaus Wille. In addition, Henry Albery, Kelsey Martini, Britta Schneider, Gleb Sharygin, and Elisabeth Steinbrückner helped me with proofreading. To all of them I am grateful, and I thank everyone for his or her time and attention.

Special thanks go to Cynthia Peck-Kubaczek, the new editor of the GBT series. She has been an invaluable help in finalizing this publication and making the content more comprehensible to the reader. It has been a great joy to discuss various unclear passages with her, and I admire her patience, curiosity, and enthusiasm, as well as, of course, her editing skills.

Finally, I am indebted to the University of Washington Press for their support in publishing this book as part of the Gandhāran Buddhist Texts series. In particular I would like to thank Lorri Hagman.

My sincere apologies to everyone I forgot to mention, as well as for every mistake and misunderstanding that is still left in the following edition and translation.