

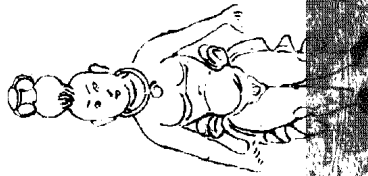
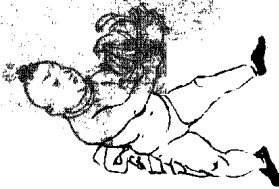
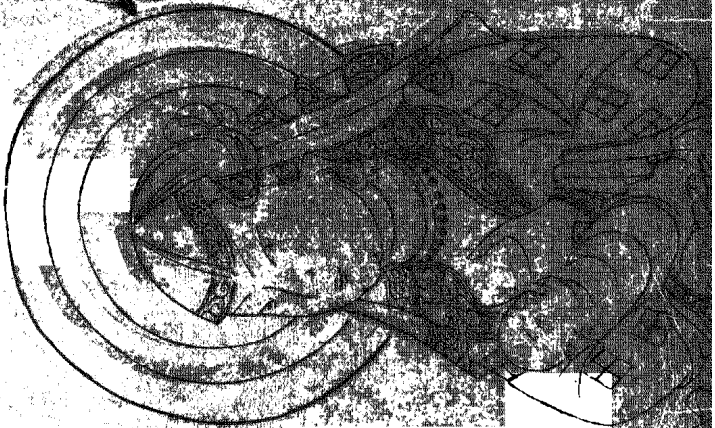
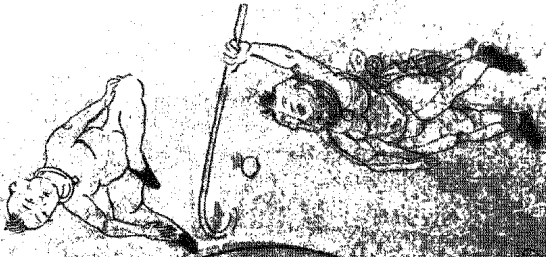
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THE BEGINNINGS  
OF  
BUDDHIST ART





Demoulin freres. S.





# THE BEGINNINGS OF BUDDHIST ART

AND OTHER ESSAYS  
↓ INDIAN AND CENTRAL-ASIAN ARCHÆOLOGY

BY

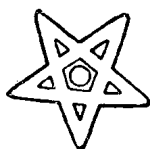
A. FOUCHER

OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PARIS

REVISED BY THE AUTHOR AND TRANSLATED BY

L. A. THOMAS AND F. W. THOMAS

WITH A PREFACE BY THE LATTER



*PARIS*  
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## PREFACE

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*To the rather limited circle of scholars interested in Indian Art and Archæology the work of M. Foucher requires no introduction. His numerous studies devoted to these subjects, and in particular his comprehensive treatise on the Græco-Buddhist Art of Gandhāra, have fully established his position as a leader in this sphere. A collective edition of his essays and addresses, dispersed in various serial and periodical publications, will therefore be sure of a warm welcome.*

*The translators do not disavow a hope that this English version may appeal not only to those readers, chiefly in the East, to whom the author's original presents a difficulty, but also to a rather wider public in England and America. Aware of the interest which in Paris attended the delivery of M. Foucher's lectures, they would regret if the charm had so far evaporated in translation as to forfeit a share in the growing appreciation of Oriental art.*

*Buddhism — for it is especially Buddhist monuments that are here surveyed — is, of course, a subject of vast extent. We may add that it is a highly organic subject, and that the study of it is still at a specially interesting stage, the stage of discovery. We cannot touch it in any part without evoking responses from distant and unexpected quarters. We might compare it to a magic carpet; we fix upon some well defined topic, relating, let us say, to the Græco-Buddhist school of Gandhāra, and promptly, even without our volition, some analogy or connection transports us to the Central Asia, China or Japan of many centuries later, even if we have not to continue our flight to Java in the ninth century or Cambodia in the twelfth. The reader will find in these pages abundant examples of such transitions. The first essays reach back by a highly ingenious and probable hypothesis to the very origins of Buddhist art in India itself, and give us the measure of its possibilities by what it has achieved at Sānchī and Barhut. Already we detect some traces of foreign influence, from the Persia of the Achæmenids. Soon an abrupt irruption of Hellenistic art*

overwhelms the native schools, and creates a repertory of religious compositions, which the Buddhist propaganda carries to Central Asia, the Far East, and the Malay islands. Thus is established a genetic connection between the religious art of Europe and Asia, a double efflorescence from one root, most strikingly exemplified in the case of the Buddha type, which closely resembles the earliest sculptural type of Christ, and most curiously in that of the 'Tutelary Pair', found throughout the whole Buddhist sphere and at the same time in ancient Gaul : or shall we claim the highest degree of interest for the case of the 'Madonna' group (Essay IX), which — ultimately derived, in all probability, from ancient Egypt — has ended by conquering the whole world ? This splendid generalization cannot fail to be fruitful, both on the European and on the Asiatic side, in inspiration for future researches : in the meanwhile it may be welcomed as reëstablishing by the aid of art that feeling of solidarity and sympathy between India and Europe, which flourished during the palmy days of Vedic studies, but latterly has been somewhat discouraged by specialism.

Need we remark that, where religious art and archæology are the theme, literature and literary history cannot be far away ? M. Foucher has commented upon the preëminently narrative character of the bas-reliefs with which he is dealing : it may indeed be said that, apart from purely decorative figures and symbols, the great bulk of them are illustrations of scenes from the life of the Buddha. The life must, indeed, be conceived in an ample sense, according to that grandiose Indian conception whereby, as M. Foucher opportunely reminds us, the biography is not confined to a single span, but covers the whole series of countless births, under all forms of existence, which were necessary for the accumulation of the positive and negative characteristics manifested finally in the Great Being, the Perfectly Illuminated. The scenes therefore need to be read, and at first the very alphabet was wanting. The problem was of far greater obscurity than in the case of what M. Foucher terms the magnificent illustrated bible constituted by the sculptors of the cathedral of Chartres. The texts of the Buddhist religion have only gradually been made known : those events in the life which were specially marked out for illustration — the twelve acts of Buddha and so forth — had not been separated out ; the Jâtaka book, recording the tales of previous births, was not at first available. The names of those scholars to whom we are indebted for the first tentatives at decipherment, such as the inspired, if not impeccable, archæologist, General Sir Alexander Cunningham, Prof. Grünwedel of the Berlin Ethnographical Museum, Dr. Serge d'Oldenburg, Perpetual Secretary of the Imperial

*Academy of St. Petersburg, and others will be found recurring in M. Foucher's pages. But undoubtedly the matter has in M. Foucher's own work made a long step forward : the reader will remark not only the artistic insight which gives so much ease and certainty to the identifications in this volume, but also the emergence of principles fitted to serve as a guide for future discovery and criticism in this field of study. In a word, we see taking shape, not only an art, but also a science of discovery and interpretation in regard to Buddhist, and by consequence to Indian, illustration.*

*A history of Buddhist Art is a task for the future ; may we some day have the pleasure of welcoming a systematic treatise upon the subject from M. Foucher's own pen. For the present we are only at the commencement. Nothing guarantees us that in its beginnings the Art shall be found on a level with the doctrine, or that it shall follow a parallel course, or again that it shall develope with a proportional rapidity. On the contrary, we see already that at Sānchī and Barhut, after centuries of active speculation, it makes its appeal primarily to a community characterized by naive and simple piety. In the case of Christianity how many centuries of dogmatic strife precede the age of the primitives ! Nevertheless the reader who turns from the essays on Barhut and Sānchī to those dealing with the Great Miracle and with Boro-Budur — much clearer would be his impression, if he embraced in his view the mediæval and modern art of China, Japan, and Tibet — cannot fail to note the metaphysical contemplation which has grown upon the decay of the older popular piety. Yet even here we have a warning as to the partial reversions which may result from the transplanting of religion to a less sophisticated society : since in the sculptures of Boro-Budur we find again — in an atmosphere, it is true, of hypertropical softness — no small admixture of that frank pleasure in mere story-telling which is the special charm of Sānchī and Barhut.*

London. June, 1914.

F. W. THOMAS

We are indebted for the use of photographs to the Secretary of State for India, Dr. J. BURGESS, and Prof. A. A. MACDONELL (England); to Prof. Éd. CHAVANNES, Mr. Henry H. GETTY and M. V. GOLOUBEV (France); to Prof. A. GRÜNWEDEL and Dr. A. von LE COQ (Germany); to Mr. J. H. (now Sir John) MARSHALL, Sir Aurel STEIN and Mr. (now Prof.) J. Ph. VOGEL (India); to Major Van ERP (Java) : — and for the loan of blocks to the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, the Société Asiatique and MM. ESPÉRANDIEU, GUIMET, HACHETTE et C<sup>ie</sup>, E. LEROUX (Paris), and to the École française d'Extrême-Orient (Hanoi).

In the body of the work and in the descriptions attached to the plates will be found indications in detail of what we owe to this kind coöperation. We tender here our grateful thanks for help in the absence of which the majority of these essays either would never have come into being or could not have been combined to form of a volume.

Some faults of impression and minor errata will perhaps be judged excusable in an English book printed in France.

*P. S.* — It should moreover be stated — in view of some few details which the reader himself may notice — that this volume, with exception of the index and tables, has been in print since June 1914. Through the enforced postponement of its appearance, the dedication to M. A. BARTH has become (since April 15, 1916) unfortunately only a tribute to his memory

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of Barhut, documents of the very highest rank. Certainly the stones are by no means loquacious : but they atone for their silence by the unalterableness of a testimony which could not be suspected of rifacimento or interpolation. Thanks to their marvellous grain, they are to-day as they were when they left the hands of the image-makers (*rûpakâraka*) two thousand years ago; and upon this immutable foundation we can construct inferences more rigorous than upon the moving sand of the texts. In the ever restless and changing play of the doctrines we are never quite certain that the logical sequence of the ideas is exactly parallel to the historical succession of the facts. On the other side, the routine character of all manual technique will allow us to detect with certainty, in the still existing monuments, the material traces of the procedures which must have been usual earlier : inversely, and by a kind of proof backwards, the correctness of these postulates will be verified in that they alone will be found to render a satisfactory account of the often uncouth character of that which has been preserved to us. All these reasons seem to us to justify the task which we have undertaken. In the assault delivered from various quarters upon the origins of Buddhism we believe even that the attempt to go back to the very beginning of its art is, among all the methods of approach, that which has for the moment the most chances of success.

# I

None, indeed, of the monuments known at the present time, building or sculpture, takes us further back than the Maurya dynasty. Does that mean that art was created entire

in India towards the year 250 before our era, by a decree of the Emperor Açoka? Of course it would be absurd to believe this. From the Vedic times Indian civilization had at its disposal the services not only of the carpenter, the wheel-wright and the blacksmith, of the potter, the weaver and other fabricators of objects of prime necessity, but also of those whom we call art-workers, painters, goldsmiths, carvers in wood or ivory. If the texts were not there to tell us this in words, the evidence of the sole surviving monuments would be sufficient to establish it. Fergusson has proved once for all that the oldest constructions in stone, by the servile manner in which they copy the framing and joining of timber work, testify to the previous existence of wooden buildings. On the other hand — as we now know from a reliable source by means of an explicit inscription — it was the ivory-workers of Vidiçâ who carved, in the immediate vicinity of their town, one of the monumental gates of Sâncî. Besides, it is obvious that the finished and well polished bas-reliefs, which for us are the first in date, represent not by any means the first attempts of beginners, but the work of sculptors long familiar with their business and changing their material, but not their technique. The whole transformation which was accomplished during the third century before our era is limited to the substitution, in religious and royal foundations, of the reign of stone for that of wood. Unfortunately, there are no worse conditions, climatic and historical, for the preservation of monuments than those of India. All that was of wood was condemned beforehand to fall into dust; all, or nearly all, that was of stone and that the climate might have spared has been destroyed by the vandalism of man. Thus is explained why the most ancient remains of Buddhist art are at once so late and so rare. If we leave aside



the great monolithic pillars dear to Açoka, as well as the caves excavated for the benefit of all the religious sects in every place where the geological formation of the rocks lent itself thereto, we find on the ground level, and pending more systematic excavations, scarcely anything to mention, except the debris of the balustrades of Bodh-Gayâ and of Barhut, and the four gates of Sâncî. The mention of the kings Brahmamitra and Indramitra, inscribed on the first, on the second that of the dynasty of the Çuṅgas, and on one of the last that of the reign of Sâtakani suffice to date them generally, but with certainty, as belonging to the second, or first, century before our era. It is doubtless to the same epoch, if we may judge by the style, that we must refer the oldest fragments of the balustrades exhumed both at Amarâvatî and at Mathurâ. If to these few stray remnants of sculptures we add the remains of the most archaic paintings of Ajaṇṭâ, we shall very soon have finished compiling the catalogue of what may be styled — in opposition to the later school, of the north-west frontier, much more penetrated by foreign influences — the native school of Central India.

Let us go straight to the most striking feature of this old Buddhist school. Although well known to specialists, it will not fail to surprise uninformed readers. When we find the ancient stone-carvers of India in full activity, we observe that they are very industriously engaged in carrying out the strange undertaking of representing the life of Buddha without Buddha. We have here a fact which, improbable as it may seem, Cunningham long ago demonstrated. It is established on the written testimony of the artists themselves. Those of Barhut inform us by an inscription, that such and such a person on his knees before a throne « is rendering homage to the Blessed One ». Now, without

exception, the throne is vacant; at the most, there is a symbol indicating the invisible presence of Buddha<sup>(1)</sup>. The latest researches have only opened our eyes to the extent of the field of application of this constant rule; it holds good for the years which preceded as also for those which followed the *Sambodhi*, for the youth as also for the old age of the Master. The façade of the middle lintel of the eastern gate of Sâncî illustrates his departure on horseback from his house : the embroidered rug which serves as a saddle for his steed is empty<sup>(2)</sup>. A medallion of Bodh-Gayâ represents his first meditation : empty again is the seat before which the traditional ploughman is driving his plough<sup>(3)</sup>. Some panels of Amarâvatî show us his birth and presentation to the sage Asita; only his footprints — a direct ideographic transcription of the formula which was in use in India to designate respectfully a « person » — mark the swaddling clothes on which in one place the gods, in another the old *ṛishi* are reputed to have received him into their arms<sup>(4)</sup>. These selected examples suffice to demonstrate that the ancient Indian sculptors abstained absolutely from representing either Bodhi-sattva or Buddha in the course of his last earthly existence<sup>(5)</sup>. Such is the abnormal, but indisputable fact of which every history of Buddhist art will have at the outset to render account.

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(1) A. CUNNINGHAM, *Stûpa of Barhut*, pl. XIII-XVII.

(2) See below, pp. 75 and 105; cf. pl. X, 1.

(3) *Art gréco-bouddhique du Gandhâra*, fig. 177 and p. 345.

(4) See on the staircase of the British Museum, nos 44 and 48, or FER-GUSSON, *Tree and Serpent Worship*, pl. XCI, 4. and LXI, 2.

(5) Let us add, in order to be quite correct, « at least under his human form »; for we know that a bas-relief at Barhut represents the Blessed One descending into the bosom of his mother in the form of an elephant (cf. below, p. 20).

As far as we know, no perfectly satisfactory explanation of this fact has until now been given. First of all we tried to dispose of the matter more or less by the supposition, as evasive as gratuitous, that the ancient school had either not desired or had not been able to figure the Blessed One; neither of these two reasons appears to us to have the least value in proof. Shall we speak of incapacity? Assuredly, one can see that the concrete realization of the image of the « perfect Buddha » was not an easy task : and the difficulty could not but increase with the years, in proportion as the time of the Master grew more distant and his features faded more and more into the mists of the past. Nevertheless, we must not form too poor an opinion of the talent of the old image-makers, and the argument becomes moreover quite worthless, when one attempts to apply it to the youth of Buddha. What was he, in fact, up to the time of his flight from his native town, but a « royal heir apparent »? Now the type of *râja-kumâra*, or crown-prince, is common on the gates of Sâncî, as also on the balustrade of Barhut <sup>(1)</sup>; what material hindrance was there to their making use of it to represent the Bodhisattva? It is clear that they could have done so, and yet they carefully abstained from doing so. Shall we fall back, then, upon the other branch of the dilemma and say that they did not dare? Assuredly the gravest members of the order must long have held to the letter the stern saying that « the master gone, the law remains <sup>(2)</sup> »; and we are quite willing to believe that the law alone was of import for them. The reverend Nâgasena still teaches king Menander that henceforth the

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(1) See CUNNINGHAM, *Stûpa of Barhut*, pl. XXV, 4 (*Mûgapakkha-jâtaka*, n° 538 : cf. *infra*, p. 56 and pl. V, 6) and p. vi (mention of the *Viçvantara-jâtaka*); north gate of Sâncî, lower lintel (*Viçvantara*), etc.

(2) *Mahâparinibbâna-sutta*, VI, 1.

Blessed One is no longer visible except in the form of the *dharmakāya*<sup>(1)</sup>, of the « body of the doctrine » ; but of any express prohibition of images we have in the texts no knowledge. Since when, moreover, and in what country does popular devotion trouble itself about the dogmatic scruples of the doctors? Certainly it was not so in ancient India : for otherwise we could not at all understand the enthusiasm with which the valley of the Ganges and the rest of the peninsula welcomed the Indo-Greek type of Buddha. From Mathurâ to Bodh-Gayâ, and from Çrāvastî to Amarāvati, we see it installed in triumph on the circumference of the *stûpas* as in the interior of the temples. So rapid a conquest is a sufficient proof that the objections of conscience, if any such existed, were far from being insurmountable.

But, it will be said, if it is true that the ancient Indian image-makers asked for nothing better than to represent the Blessed One, and that, on the other hand, they were capable of it, why then have they so carefully abstained? To this we see but one reply, in appearance, we must confess, simple-minded enough, but one which, in India, is still sufficient for all : « If they did not do it, it was because it was not the custom to do it ». And, no doubt, it would be easy to retort : « But you confine yourself to putting off the question ; if it does not arise with regard to the sculptors whose works we possess, it still holds good entirely with regard to their predecessors... » — Certainly, and far from contradicting, that is just the point at which we wished to arrive. We hold that this monstrous abstention, such as we observe on the monuments of Barhut and Sârchî, remains perfectly incomprehensible, unless we

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(1) *Milindapañha*, ed. TRENCKNER, p. 73 ; trans. RHYE DAVIDS, p. 113.

enquire into the traditional habits which it supposes and which, for that very reason, it is capable of revealing to us. Like certain anomalies in animal species, it can only be explained as an inheritance from a nearly obsolete past, which this survival helps us to reconstitute. In other words, it is vain for us to seek a solution of the problem in the few relatively late specimens at present known to us; it is to the anterior history, to what is still the prehistoric period of Buddhist art that we must go to discover it. To such a typical case of artistic teratology it is the evolutionist method of embryology that it is proper to apply.

## II

To begin, we have the best reasons for thinking that the habit of adoring human images, and even the art of fabricating them, were still less general in the India of the Brahmans before Alexander than in the Gaul of the Druids before the time of Cæsar. Certainly this absence of idolatry properly so-called did not in any way exclude the existence of more rudimentary forms of fetichism (¹): nevertheless, the fact remains that Buddhism did not develop, like Christianity, in a world long infected by the worship of images and prompt to contaminate it in its turn. Not

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(¹) We allude to the golden *puruṣa* which formed a part of the altar of sacrifice (*Çat.-Brahm.*, 7, 4, 1., 15) and to the effigy *kritya* of the magic rites (*Ath. Veda*, X, 1), etc. — For what is to be understood by the Gallic *simulacra* of Cæsar (*Bell. Gall.*, VI, 4), see the article of M. S. REINACH on *L'art plastique en Gaule et le druidisme* (*Revue Celtique*, t. XIII, 1892, pp. 190 sqq.), where are cited also corresponding testimonies of Herodotus (I, 131) and Tacitus (*Germ.*, IX) as to the non-existence of idolatry among the Persians and the Germans.



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whether it must remain so or not, philologically a blank page, archæologically an empty show-case.

That in Buddhism, as in all religions, art is at first only a simple manifestation of worship, every one will willingly admit. The only question is to know what branch of Buddhist worship has supplied this special excrescence with an opportunity for its production. It is evidently not in the periodical reunions of the monks that we shall find the smallest decorative pretext. The veneration shown to the mortal remains of the Blessed One explains the leading role of the funeral tumulus in Buddhist architecture. It will not escape us that it is still the same veneration which, thus advantaged, has offered in the obligatory surroundings of those reliquary monuments the natural support to the sculptures, the sole destination of which for a long time was to decorate the balustrades of the *stûpas*. We might even suspect a mark of its influence in the almost entirely biographical character that this decoration has assumed, just as, by the rite of circumambulation, it has fixed the direction in which the scenes must succeed one another and be read. But, beyond this general orientation, we discover at the basis of this kind of devotion nothing that could have determined the mode of composition of the bas-reliefs. There remains the third and last ancient form of Buddhist worship, that which Buddha himself is supposed to have taught on his death bed to his well-loved disciple, « There are four places, O Ânanda, which an honorable worshipper should visit with religious emotion. What are these four? »... They are, as we know, those where the Predestined One for the first time received illumination and preached and those where for the last time he was born and died (1). Now

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(1) *Mahâparinibbâna-sûta*, V, 16-22.

just in this devout practice of the four great pilgrimages resides any hope which we have of at last coming upon the long-sought point of departure. In order that we may grasp at once the germ and the directing principle of Buddhist art, it is necessary and sufficient to admit that the Indian pilgrims were pleased to bring back from these four holy places a small material souvenir of what they had there seen.

We can scarcely believe that the reader will refuse to grant us this small postulate. Can he be so ignorant of the outer world that he does not know the universal empire of the mania, innocent in itself, for souvenirs of travels? The innumerable manufacturers and shopkeepers who everywhere live by it would quickly demonstrate it to him. Has he never in the course of his migrations, whatever may have been the object or the cause of them, bought curios, collected photographs, or sent away picture post-cards? These are only the latest modes and a profane extension of an immemorial and sacred custom. If he doubts this, let him lean, for example, over one of the cases at the Cluny Museum (1) which contain the emblematic metal insignia of all the great pilgrimages of the Middle Ages, as they have been fished out of the Seine in Paris. Mediæval India has also left by hundreds evidences of this custom. Most frequently they are simple clay balls, moulded or stamped with a seal, and without doubt within the reach of all pockets, which served at the same time as *memento* and as *ex-voto*. They are to be picked up nowadays on all Buddhist sites, even

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(1) Unless it is more convenient for him to try the same experiment at the British Museum, where a case in the *Mediæval Room* also contains a collection of these *signacula*.



in the peninsula of Malacca and in Annam (1). Do we compromise ourselves very much by conjecturing that these sacred emblems are in Buddhism the remains of a tradition which goes back to the four great primitive pilgrimages? The worst that could result from it would be that Buddhist art must have owed its origin to the satisfaction of a need everywhere and always experienced, and, we may almost say, of one of the religious instincts of humanity. It would be difficult to imagine a theory more humble and more prosaic : it is in our opinion only the more probable for that, nor do we see what other we can substitute, if, at least, we are unwilling to attribute to that art any but a rational origin.

In fact, this point once gained, all the rest follows. Nothing is more easy than to guess what must have been the souvenirs brought back by the pilgrims from the four great holy places. To take the modern example most familiar to the French reader, what is represented by the images or medals offered for sale and bought at Lourdes? First and foremost, the miraculous grotto. What must have been represented on stuffs, on clay, wood, ivory, or metal by the first objects of piety manufactured at Kapilavastu, at Bodh-Gayâ, at Benares, or at Kuçinagara? Evidently the characteristic point towards which, at the approach of each of these four towns, popular devotion was directed. Now we know these points already from the picturesque expressions of the texts. What was first visited at Kuçinagara was the site, very soon and quite appropriately marked by

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(1) For specimens from India, see CUNNINGHAM, *Mahâbodhi*, pl. XXIV; J. R. A. S., 1900, p. 432, etc.; from Burmah, *Archæol. Survey of India, Annual Report*, 1905-1906, pl. LIII; from Malacca, *Bull. de la Commission Archéologique de l'Indo-Chine*, 1909, p. 232; from Annam, B. E. F. E.-O., 1901, p. 25, etc.

a *stûpa* (¹), of the last death of the Master. In the same way, the essential miracle of Benares having taken place at the « Mṛiga-dâva », the Gazelle-park, it was inevitable that its consecrated description as « putting the wheel of the law in motion » should be translated in concrete terms by a wheel, usually accompanied by two gazelles. What was contemplated at Bodh-Gayâ, on the other hand, was the evergreen fig-tree, at the foot of which the Blessed One had sat to attain omniscience. Finally, what would be worshipped at Kapilavastu ? Here the answer is less certain : undoubtedly the great local attraction consisted in the recollection of the nativity of Buddha ; but, without mentioning his paternal home, the most ardent zeal might hesitate between the place of his material birth and that of his spiritual renaissance, between the park of Lumbinî, where he issued from the right side of his mother, and the no less famous gate, through which he escaped from the miserable pleasures of the world. Whatever might in this case be the difficulty of choice, with regard to the three other sites at least no hesitation was possible. A tree, a wheel, a *stûpa*, these suffice to recall to our memory the spectacle of those holy places, or even, by a constant association of ideas and images, to evoke the miracles of which they had been the theatre. Again, these things could be indicated as summarily as one could wish : if human weakness cannot dispense with the material sign, imagination makes up for the poverty of artistic means.

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(¹) « A Stûpa of Açoka », says Hiuan-tsang ; that is, of archaic form ; cf. also Fa-hian (BEAL, *Records*, I, p. LII, and II, p. 32).

## III

Such is the sole part which hypothesis plays in our theory. The whole subsequent development of Buddhist art flows logically from these premises; and henceforth there are none of the still surviving documents which do not successively corroborate the various stages of its evolution. The oldest monuments which have come down to us from Indian antiquity are a few rectangular coins of copper or silver. Now it is very remarkable that, among the symbols with which they are punch-marked, the tree, the wheel and the *stūpa* play a considerable, and indeed, on many of them, a predominant part <sup>(1)</sup>. Thanks to the chance of their discovery, the existence of the *signacula*, which we imagined to have been made for the use of pilgrims, ceases to be, for as far back as we can go, a pure conjecture (see pl. I, B, C, D). Better still, we can clearly discern in the infantile simplicity of these emblems the style of the most ancient manifestations of the religious art of the Buddhists. They are, properly speaking, less images than hieroglyphics endowed for the initiated with a conventional value: and, at the same time, we succeed in explaining to ourselves what we have already more than once had occasion to note, that is, the abstract and *quasi* algebraical character of this art at its commencement <sup>(2)</sup>. Moreover, we easily conceive that, in consequence of being conveyed beyond the great centres of pil-

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(1) To quote only the latest study, cf. D. B. SPOONER, *A new find of punch-marked coins*, in *Arch. Survey of India, Annual Report 1905-1906*, 1909, p. 150. According to the excellent analysis which Dr. Spooner has given of this discovery, out of 61 coins 22 bear all three symbols at once and 22 others associate the two last together.

(2) Cf. for instance, *Art gréco-bouddhique du Gandhâra*, p. 608.

grimage, artistic emblems of this sort may have seen their initial signification modified. They came, by degrees, to be regarded less as mementos of sacred spots than as figurative representations of miracles, the memory of which was connected with those places. In other words, in proportion as they were propagated further and further from their place of origin, their topographical and local character diminished more and more, to the advantage of their symbolical and universal value, until they ended by becoming the common patrimony of the image-makers and being fabricated everywhere without distinction where a Buddhist donor ordered them. It is just this state of diffusion and subsequent generalisation that is proved to us even in the IV<sup>th</sup> century by the banality and dispersion of the so-called « Buddhist » coins.

But we must hasten, in this rapid sketch, to come to the monuments whose Buddhist character can no longer be disputed. We know what impulse was towards the middle of the third century given by the imperial zeal of Açoka to the religious foundations of the sect. It is, therefore, only the more curious to observe how, even a hundred years after him, the school of Central India continues to follow faithfully in the beaten track of the past. From this point of view, the four gates of Sâncî, which we have had the good fortune to retain almost intact, may furnish a fairly safe criterion of the degree of persistence of the ancient usages. Now Fergusson long ago remarked there the extreme frequency of what he called « the worship » of the tree, the *stûpa* and the wheel. According to statistics hardly open to suspicion, since they were drawn up in support of theories quite different from ours, the first emblem is repeated no less than 67 times, the second 32 times ; and if the last does not reappear more than 6 times, this number suffices, never-

theless, to assure it the third place in the order of importance of the subjects<sup>(1)</sup>. We have not, of course, to follow Fergusson in the strange anthropological speculations which he has engrafted on to these observations. All that we should be tempted at first to read in his table would be the preponderance of the miracle of the *Sambodhi*, or of the *Parinirvâṇa*, over that of the *Dharmacakra-pravartana*. In reality the larger number of the first two symbols depends upon another cause. The artists proceeded to apply to the Buddhas of the past the formulas which had at first served for the Buddha of our age. People were pleased to level all the seven by representing them at one time by their funeral tumulus, at another, and much more frequently, by their empty throne under their Tree of Knowledge<sup>(2)</sup> : the wheel alone had remained the special apanage of our Çākya-muni, and consequently was repeated only at rarer intervals. But these are only subsidiary details ; taking these figures all together, their imposing total testifies loudly enough to the constant repetition in traditional form of what we know, from the evidence of the coins, to have been the first attempts at Buddhist art. Being forced to cover the relatively extensive surfaces placed at their disposal, the sculptors of

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(1) Cf. FERGUSSON, *Tree and Serpent-Worship*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 1873, pp. 105 and 242. Here is the table, in which he has included the data of the sole gate of one of the small neighbouring *stûpas* :

		Tree,	Stûpa,	Wheel.
Great <i>Stûpa</i> .	South Gate	16	5	1
	North Gate	19	8	2
	East Gate	17	9	1
	West Gate	15	10	2
Small <i>Stûpa</i> .	Only Gate	9	6	4

(2) See below, *Eastern Gate of Sâncî*, pp. 72 and 104. The decisive reason for the predominance of the inspired compositions of the type of the *Sambodhi* over all the others will be given a little further on, p. 19.



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it is fully conscious that what it has now to do is to illustrate on a permanent monument the biography of Buddha; but it appears hardly to grasp clearly the fact that for this new purpose the old procedures, formerly perfectly appropriate to their object, are no longer suitable. Evidently, it was too late to rebel and to shake off the yoke of an artistic tradition which had ere long been strengthened by religious legends; at least it is about this same time that the texts, until then silent on the question, suddenly decide to proclaim — with an excessive precipitation to be contradicted soon after by posterity — the previous incapacity of the artists to portray during his lifetime the ineffable lineaments of the Blessed One (1). And how otherwise, in fact, explain the persistent absence of his image, whilst so many of the popular divinities were paraded on the pillars of Barhut and Sâncî?

Henceforward there is only one way, in conformity with the living reality, of conceiving the study of the ancient Indian school. Its history is that of a struggle, more or less surreptitious, between the two tendencies which divided it against itself, an irrepressible desire for new scenes and a superstitious respect for its precedents. On the one hand, it experiences a growing need for the form of Buddha to serve as a centre or pivot for the scenes of his life; and on the other hand, it accepts as an axiom that, in order to represent the Blessed One, it suffices to do what until then had always been done, that is, to evoke him by the sight of one of his three speaking emblems. Watch it at work. The tumulus of the *Parinirvâṇa*, the ultimate end of the career of the Master, was *ipso facto* beside the point, when it was a question of representing some incident in that career. The

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(1) *Divyâvadâna*, p. 547.

symbol of the wheel, specialized in the representation of the « First Preaching », could scarcely be employed again, except on the occasion of the similar miracle wrought at Çrâvastî for the greater confusion of the rival sects <sup>(1)</sup>. There remained for ordinary employment in miracles of the second rank the heraldic emblem already utilized for the *Sambodhi*. And, in fact, we can well see how the studios of Central India resign themselves once for all to this procedure and accommodate themselves more or less successfully thereto. All the same, they cannot resist slipping in here and there a few variants, or even trying on occasions some different course. It is under an empty throne, surmounted by a tree, that at Barhut Buddha receives the visit of the *nâga* Elâpatra; when he preaches in the heaven of the Thirty-three Gods, the motif is in addition graced with a parasol; and this latter, in its turn, takes the place of the tree on the occasion of the visit of Indra or Ajâta-çatru. At times the throne by itself does the work. In two cases, on the eastern gate of Sâncî, the school even ventures so far as to avail itself solely of the « promenade », or *caṅkrama*, of the Master in order to suggest his presence <sup>(2)</sup>. But the boldness of its innovations goes no further, and we very quickly reach the limits of its audacity. We have indeed sketched them above (pp. 4-5), and it would have been superfluous to return to the matter, did we not now believe that we have divined the *raison d'être*, and actually the manner of production, of the strange anomalies which at the beginning of this study we had to confine ourselves to stating.

We have, likewise, explained above how — and now we

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(1) See below, Essay VI.

(2) Cf. CUNNINGHAM, *Stûpa of Barhut*, pl. XIV, 3; XVI, 3; XVII, 1; XXVIII, 4 etc., and below, *Eastern Gate of Sâncî*, pp. 93 and 100.



understand why — the artists came into collision with the impassable barrier of ancient usages, when they had to represent the form of the Predestined One in the course of the first twenty-nine years of his life, at the time when his princely surroundings still hid under a mundane cloak the Buddha about to appear. In truth, we were not able as yet (p. 13) to determine exactly, by the aid of the texts, which episode of his youth the faithful had chosen as the principal object of commemoration, nor in what manner the old image-makers must have set to work to commemorate it. It is curious to note that the sculptors of the second century shared our perplexities in this regard. Those of Barhut adopted the precise moment when the Bodhisattva descended into the bosom of his mother, when, at least, the latter dreamed that he descended there in the form of a little elephant (¹). Those of Sâncî do not represent the Conception, save incidentally; on the other hand, they complacently detail all the circumstances of the prince's entry into religion, that is, of his flight on horseback from his native town : they portray the gate of the town and several times the horse, the groom and the Gods : they leave to be understood only the hero of this Hegira (²). As to those of Amarâvatî, on the stelæ where they have set one above another the four grand miracles, they employ indifferently, in order to fill the panel reserved for Kapilavastu, — side by side with the tree of Bodh-Gayâ, the wheel of Benares and the *stûpa* of Kuçinagara (see pl. II, 2) — now the same « great abandonment of home », where we see nothing but the horse passing under the gateway, now a « nati-

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(1) CUNNINGHAM, *Stûpa of Barhut*, pl. XXVIII, 2.

(2) See below *Eastern Gate of Sâncî*, pl. 75 and p. 105 (cf. pl. X, 1).

vity », where we see only the mother, to the exclusion of the new-born child (1). Which of these three compositions (see pl. III) is the most archaic and best preserves for us the aspect of the « souvenirs » which the pilgrims of the fifth century were already able to purchase at Kapilavastu? This is a question which we at present find very difficult to answer. If, again, on this point we confide ourselves to the numismatic documents, they will persuade us that from the beginning a certain wavering manifested itself in the choice of the artists and the faithful. Most of the Buddhist coins devote two abbreviations, instead of one, to the Nativity alone; at least, of the five usually associated symbols, the lotus, the bull, the tree, the wheel and the tumulus, the two first must correspond simultaneously to the first of the four great miracles. Apparently, the lotus recalled those which had sprung up spontaneously under the seven first steps of the Master, whilst the bull, almost always flanked by his zodiacal emblem, incarnated the traditional date of the birth, the day of the full moon of the month Vaiçākha (see pl. I, A). On other occasions, but more rarely, the bull is replaced by an elephant, a plastic reminder of the Conception (2). It may be

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(1) FERGUSSON, *Tree and Serpent-Worship*, pl. XCIII-XCVIII. With regard to this we may note that much later stelæ of Benares continue to groupe in the scheme of Kapilavastu the birth (with or without the conception, the seven steps, or the bath) and the great departure (see pl. IV, 3 A and cf. *Anc. Mon. Ind.*, pl. 67-68, etc.).

(2) Cf. the tables of D. B. SPOONER, *loc. cit.*, pp. 156-157. As for the above mentioned interpretations of the lotus and the bull, we, for our part, give them as simple conjectures. In any case, we may at this point observe that in later Buddhism the lotus has retained the symbolical signification of « miraculous birth », and that the bull appears again with its astronomical value on one of the best-known bas-reliefs of the Lahore Museum (cf. A. GRÜNWEDEL, *Buddhistische Kunst in Indien*, 2<sup>d</sup> ed., p. 121, or *Buddhist Art in India*, p. 129). The lamented Dr Th. Bloch in one of his last

also, although we possess no concrete proof of this, that the gate through which the Bodhisattva had been cast by his vocation out of the world may, at an early date, have found copiers and amateurs. But these are merely accessory questions : what is important here is that only the traditional avoidance of images, inherited from the humble pioneers of former days, can give us the key to the later improbable compositions, child-births without children, rides without riders.

## V

This is not all. The sculptors of the second century verify our hypothesis not only in what they reproduce and in what they imitate of the works of the past : we may maintain that they do this, also, indirectly, in what they innovate. However unreflecting and mechanical their submission to custom may have been, the forced absence of the protagonist from the scenes of his own biography could not help but inconvenience them considerably. Let the career of the Blessed One be no more than a monotonous tissue of conversations more full of edification than movement ; yet only a small number of episodes allowed of being portrayed independently of the principal personage. With the aid of what subjects were the artists to cover the numerous medallions, the long stretches, or the high gates of the *stûpa* balustrades ? The first expedient of which they

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articles (Z. D. M. G. 1908, vol. LXII, pp. 648 and sqq.) thought he recognised in a defective photograph of this bull with the hanging tongue the image of a wild boar, and he built up a whole theory on this mistake : it suffices to refer the reader anxious to clear up this matter with his own eyes to BURGESS, *Anc. Mon. Ind.*, p. 127.

bethought themselves was to turn to the previous existences of the Master, at the time when under all animal forms, and later under all social conditions, he was qualifying by means of perfections for the final attainment of the Bodhi. Thereby we explain why the sculptors of Barhut preferred to dip into this treasure of tales and fables (¹). In treating this new matter they were no longer trammelled, as when illustrating the last life of the Master, by a custom which had been elevated into a law. Accordingly they have no scruples in representing the Bodhisattva in each scene, and it is with a perfect liberty of mind that, at the time of his penultimate terrestrial existence, they give to Viçvantara the features which they so jealously abstained from lending to Siddhârtha (cf. above, p. 6). Representations of *jâtakas* are far from being unknown at Sâncî : but the decorators of the gates had recourse once again to another stratagem in order to slip between the links of tradition. It goes without saying that in all the scenes posterior to the *Parinirvâṇa* the absence of the figure of the Blessed One became perfectly justified and at the same time ceased to be an inconvenience to the artist. Thus, they soon took pleasure in cultivating this part of the Buddhist legend. According to all probability they began by illustrating the famous « war of relics », which the death of the Blessed One nearly precipitated. Encouraged, apparently, by this trial, they did not fear to attack even the cycle of Açoka and to represent at one time his useless pilgrimage to the *stûpa* at Râmagrâma, and at another his solemn visit to the tree of the *Sambodhi* (²). Thus, under the pressing incentive of necessity, the native school, incapable of openly shaking

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(1) See below, *Representation of Jâtakas on the Bas-reliefs of Barhut* (Essay II).

(2) See below, *Eastern Gate of Sâncî*, pp. 78-79 and 108-109.

off its slavery, had artificially created for itself a double means of escape, in the legends previous to the last renaissance or posterior to the final death of Buddha. For our part, we do not doubt that, if it had continued to develop normally and according to its own rules, we should have seen the number of these sham historical pictures or these illustrations of popular stories increase at the expense of the old fund of pious images.

It is no longer a secret to anyone that the regular sweep of this evolution was brusquely interrupted by a veritable artistic cataclysm. The Hellenized sculptors of the north-west, strangers to the native tradition of Central India, satisfied to the full; and even outwent, the wishes of their Buddhist patrons by creating for their use the Indo-Greek type of Buddha. Immediately their colleagues of the low country, seduced by this wonderful innovation, greeted with no less enthusiasm than the laity the rupture of the magic charm which had weighed so heavily and so long upon the ancient Buddhist school. We have already remarked upon the fact of the rapid diffusion of the new type (p. 7) : it is now clear to us that its adoption did not come into direct collision with any dogmatic prejudice. Always docile interpreters of current ideas, the texts set themselves henceforth to guarantee, by the aid of apocryphical traditions or an abundance of miracles, the authentic resemblance of those portraits whose possibility they were a moment ago denying ('). The reason is

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(1) By apocryphal traditions we mean those relative to the statue of sandal wood, carved even during the life-time of Buddha and attributed by Fa-hian (trans. LEGGE, p. 56) to Prasenajit of Ārāvastī, and by Hiuan-tsang (trans. Stan. JULIEN, I, pp. 283 and 296) to Udayana of Kauçāmbī, whose example had only been imitated by Prasenajit (cf. BEAL, *Records*, I, p. XLIV and 235; II, p. 4). As regards the miracles, see those which are related to us



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we remark already tentatives towards freedom from the tyranny of the ancient customs by recourse to subjects previous or subsequent to the last existence of Buddha. However, the school of the north-west comes on the scene. By reason of the very fact that it has been almost entirely removed from these traditional influences, it must, in our system, present characteristic signs quite different from those of the ancient school. Now, the conclusions of an extensive study which we have long dedicated to the Greco-buddhist bas-reliefs, seem to have conspired in favouring, point for point, the reverse of the preceding propositions. What we have observed at Gandhâra is, first, the almost total disappearance of legendary scenes later than the cycle of the *Parinirvâṇa*, as also a marked diminution in the number of *jâtakas*; in the second place, there is an indefinite multiplication of episodes borrowed from the youth or the teaching career of the Master, whose corporeal image occupies now the centre of all the compositions; finally and correspondingly, there is an extreme rarity of symbolical representations (1). In any case — and this is our concluding argument — the old emblems do not disappear completely. Not only at Gandhâra, but even on the latest productions of mediæval India, not to mention the Lamaïst images of the present day, these survivals of a former age continue to manifest themselves. If the *stûpa* is regarded as having on nearly all the new representations of the *Parinirvâṇa* become superfluous, the Tree of Knowledge never fails to rear itself behind the Buddha of the *Sambodhi*, whilst the wheel between the two gazelles, either back to back or face to face, continues to mark the throne of his First Preaching (see pl. VI, 2). And thus

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(1) Cf. *Art gréco-bouddhique du Gandhâra*, pp. 266, 270, 427 etc.

the decline of Buddhist art is linked to its most distant *visible* origins, the only ones (need we specify?), which have been taken into consideration here (¹).

Such, at least, is the theory which we could not refrain from submitting to the appreciation of Indianists. Taken altogether, it is only an attempt at synthesis, an effort first to coordinate logically, then to organize in accordance with the laws of an historical development, a series of facts already known. In this sense there is not one Buddhist archæologist, commencing with Fergusson and Cunningham, who has not contributed to it, and it may be found more or less devoid of originality. Our whole ambition would be precisely that it should give, when read, the impression of being already public property. That would be the best of symptoms; for none is better adapted to produce a belief that — except for the retouches which the progress of research will inevitably give to it — it is destined to endure.

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(¹) Cf. *Art gréco-bouddhique*, figg. 208 and 209 and *Iconographie bouddhique de l'Inde*, figg. 29 et 30 : the latter is a representation of the *Parinirvâṇa*, still surmounted by a *stûpa*.

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# PLATE I

Cf. pp. 14, 21.

The elements of this plate have been obligingly sketched by M. LEMOINE, Professor of Drawing at the Lycée at Quimper, from the following publications : A. CUNNINGHAM, *Coins of Ancient India* (London, 1891); Vincent SMITH, *Catalogue of the Coins in the Indian Museum, Calcutta* (Oxford, 1906); D. B. SPOONER, *A new find of punch-marked coins* (in *Arch. Surv. of India, Annual Report, 1905-6*, pp. 150 sqq.) : cited respectively as C., Sm., Sp..

A. 1 (C., pl. XI, 2, 4); 2 (C., pl. I, 1, 5, 6); 3 (Sp., pl. LIV a, 3, 14); 4 (Sm., pl. XIX, 13) : variants of the lotus, the symbol of the miraculous birth of the Bodhisattva. The most characteristic form, with eight petals, is found on the coins of Erân (no. 1) : we give here in addition two fantastic, but current, forms — composed of three parasols and of three « taurine » or *nandi-padas*, framed (no. 2), or not (no. 3). in petals — and one quite stereotyped form (no. 4).

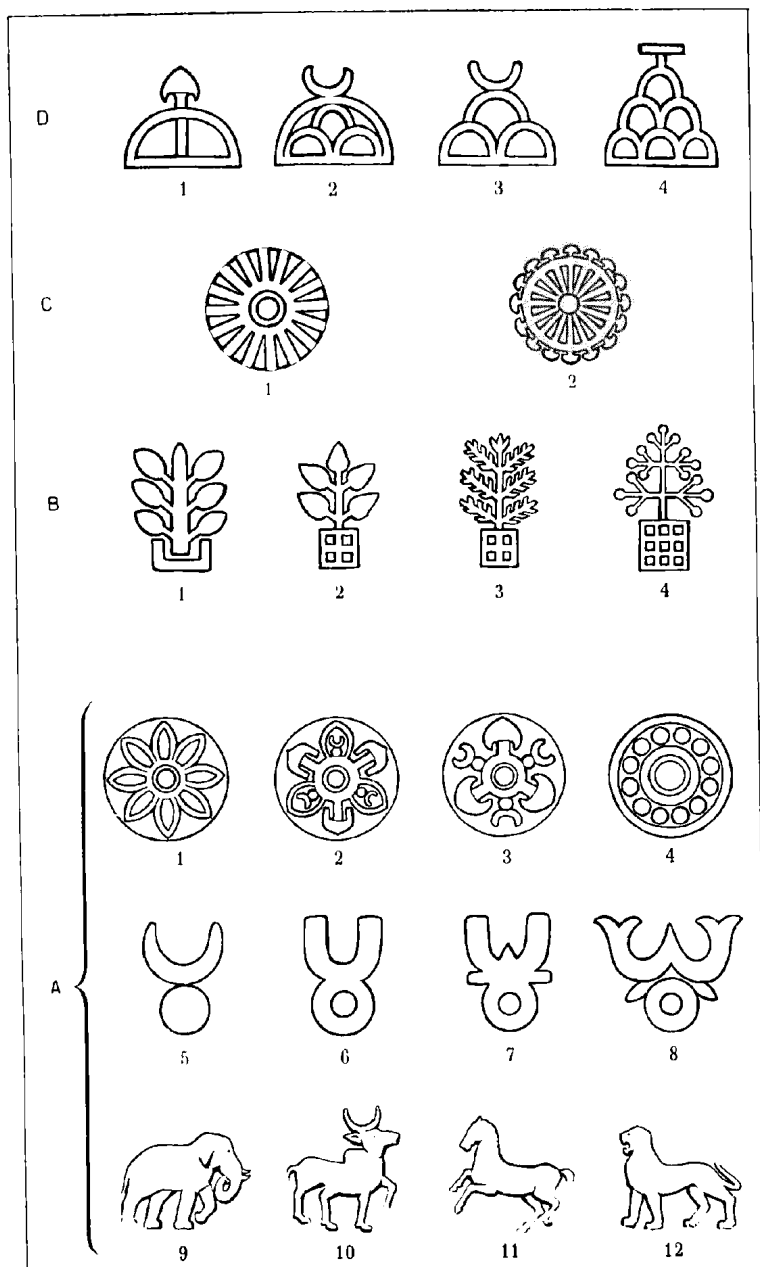
5 (C., pl. I, 23 or pl. II, 8 etc.); 6 (Sm., pl. XX, 8); 7 (C., pl. II, 20); 8 (Sm., pl. XIX, 15, etc.) : variants of the « taurine » or *nandi-pada* symbol, denoting the zodiacal sign Taurus, the Bull (Skt. *Tāvura*), which, during the month of Vaiçākha (April-May), presided over the Nativity of the Bodhisattva. The most simple form, and the starting-point of the development, is composed of a point surmounted by a crescent (no. 5). In the most elaborate form a *vardhamāna*, a *triçûla*, or even a *triratna* have in turn been detected : we do not perceive any reason why in becoming more complicated it should have changed its name and signification.

9 (C., pl. III, 2); 10 (C., pl. I, 26); 11 (C., pl. III, 3); 12 (C., pl. III, 2) : from the Buddhist point of view these four sacred animals typify respectively, the elephant the Conception, the bull the (date of the) Nativity, the horse the Great Departure, and the lion, generally, the « lion among the Çâkyas » (*Çâkya-simha*, that is Çâkya-muni).

B. 1 (C., pl. I, 1); 2 (Sm., pl. XIX, 11); 3 (C., pl. II, 7-8); 4 (Sm., pl. XX, 5) : variants of the tree of the Perfect Illumination (*Sambodhi*). Nos 1 and 2 present fairly well the form of the leaf of the *açvattha*, or *figus religiosa*; the foot of the tree is always surrounded by a railing.

C. 1 (Sm., pl. XIX, 1, etc.); 2 (C., pl. III, 13) : variants of the Wheel of the Law (*Dharmacakra*). On no. 2 it is surrounded by small parasols.

D. 1 (C., pl. 1, 4, 5); 2 (Sp., pl. LIV b, 1, 13); 3 (C., pl. II, 15); 4 (Sm., pl. XX, 11, 12) : variants of the *stûpa*, or tumulus, of the *Parinirvâṇa*. Later the form of no. 1 was mistaken for a bow with its arrow; we seem to recognize in origin a *stûpa* crossed by the staff (*yashṭi*) of its parasol (*chattra*) : we need only compare the parasols which enter into the composition of the lotuses of nos. A. 2 and 3



BUDDHIST SYMBOLS ON ANCIENT INDIAN COINS





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The three Sānchî panels belong to the western gate of the great *stûpa*, B to the front façade, C and D to the rear : the photographs were kindly lent to us by Mr. J. H. MARSHALL. — The stele of Amarâvatî is reproduced from the photograph published by FERGUSSON, *Tree and Serpent Worship*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., pl. XCIV.

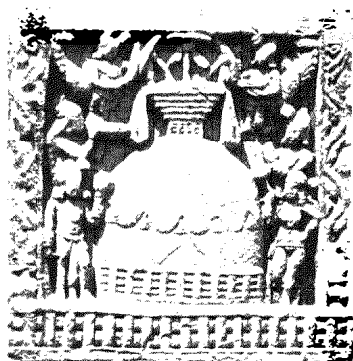
B. Miracle of the Perfect Illumination (*Sambodhi*), near to Gayâ ; represented by a tree above a throne. Note the characteristic leaf of the tree of Çākya-muni (cf. pl. I, B).

C. Miracle of the First Preaching, or Putting in motion the Wheel of the Law (*Dharma-cakra-pravartana*), near to Benares ; represented by a wheel above a throne.

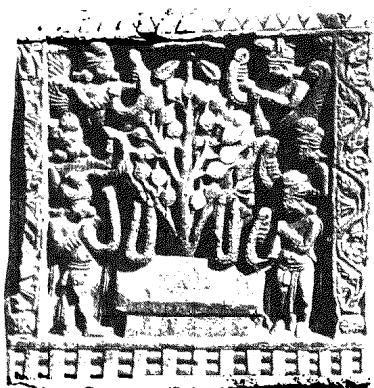
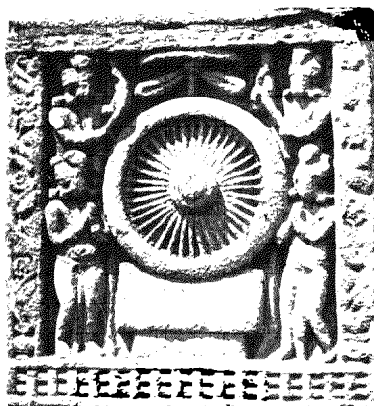
D. Miracle of the Final Extinction (*Parinirvāṇa*), near to Kuçinagara ; represented by a *stûpa*.

Worshippers — on the earth human and of both sexes, in the air divine — press round each of these symbolical representations. Those in the top corners of B 1 and D 1 have a human bust terminating in the stereotyped body of a bird. We are not long in remarking the constant contrast, both in the material objects and in the persons, between the still heavy and clumsy style of Sānchî and that of Amarâvatî, almost too elegant and affected. What here concerns us most is that the fundamental identity of the subjects is not in the slightest degree compromised by these differences of treatment.

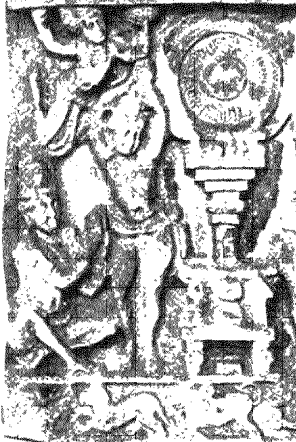
# BEGINNINGS OF BUDDHIST ART



D



B



## THE THREE LAST GREAT MIRACLES

1° AT SANCHI

2° AT AMARAVATI





# PLATE III

Cf. pp. 21, 148.

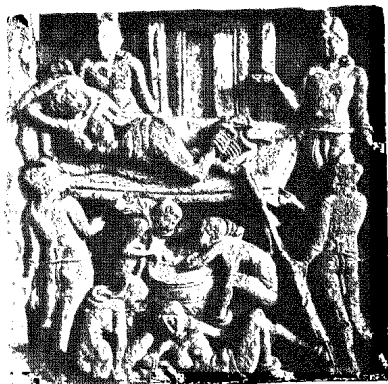
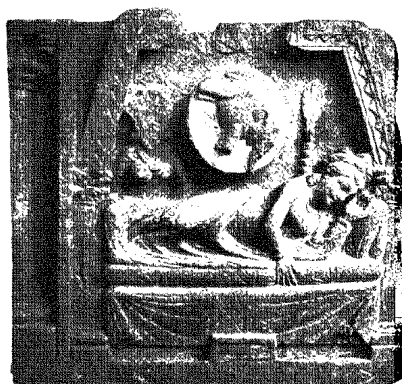
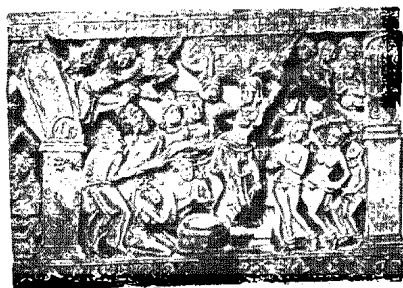
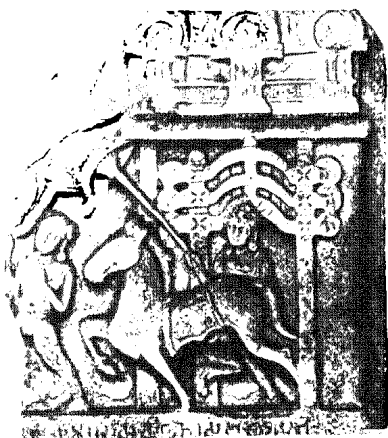
1. The three Gandhâra panels are reproduced : A<sup>1</sup>, from a photograph taken by the author in the Lahore Museum; A<sup>2</sup>, from a photograph in the Lahore Museum, copy kindly lent by Prof. A. A. MACDONELL; A<sup>3</sup>, from a photograph by Mr. A. E. CADDY in the Calcutta Museum. — 2. The three Amarâvatî panels : A<sup>1</sup>, from a photograph taken by the author in the Madras Museum (Cf. BURGESS, *Buddhist Stûpa of Amarâvatî*, pl. XXVIII, 1); A<sup>2</sup>, from FERGUSON's photograph, *Tree and Serpent Worship*, pl. LXV, 3; A<sup>3</sup>, from the same source, pl. XCVI, 3.

The locality of the scene is in all cases Kapilavastu. We shall not here insist further on the differences of type, costume, furniture and ornamentation.

A<sup>1</sup>. The Conception (*Garbha-avakrânti*) : the Bodhisattva descends into the right side of his mother's bosom in the form of a little elephant. The school of Amarâvatî always places at the four cardinal points of the room the four *Lokapâlas*, or Guardians of the World; but sometimes, as here, it forgets to represent the elephant, and, as little as at Barhut (CUNNINGHAM, pl. XXVIII, 2) and at Sâncî (see *infra*, pl. IX, 2, at the top), does it think of making Mâyâ lie in such a manner that she can properly present her right side to the Blessed One. The school of Gandhâra is never guilty of these negligences, which are contrary to the letter of the texts (*Art g.-b. du Gandh.*, I, figg. 149 and 160 a; cf. however *ibid.*, fig. 148, from Amarâvatî).

A<sup>2</sup>. The Nativity (*Jâti*) : the Bodhisattva issues from the right flank of his mother, who is standing and holding a branch of a tree. Therefore in both views we see in the centre of the composition Mâyâ standing, with one arm raised, between the gods on the right and her women on the left. But it will be noticed that on this occasion also her attitude is in Gandhâra more rational, leaving free the right hip, by which the child is supposed to issue. As regards the latter, who on the panel at Lahore is perfectly visible, we perceive at Amarâvatî only the imprint of his sacred feet on the cloth, which is held by the four *Lokapâlas* together, and no longer by Indra alone.

A<sup>3</sup>. The Great Departure (*Mahâbhinishkramaṇa*) : the Bodhisattva leaves his native town on horseback. At Amarâvatî we perceive only the gate of the town (cf. the gates at Sâncî on our pll. VI-VII) and the riderless horse, preceded by a god and followed by a squire holding the parasol. In Gandhâra the indication of the gate has in our reproduction (but cf. *Art g.-b. du Gandh.*, I, fig. 187) been cut away; yet Chandaka is to be seen holding high the parasol, while Yakshas raise the horse's feet and Mâra, armed with his bow, stands at its head. Above Chandaka, again, is seen a half-length figure of Vajrapâṇi, armed with his thunderbolt, and above Mâra, between two divinities, the personification (recognizable by the turreted crown) of the town of Kapilavastu. Finally and above all, the Bodhisattva is this time shown on the back of his horse.



THE FIRST GREAT MIRACLE  
(CONCEPTION, NATIVITY OR VOCATION)

1° IN GANDHĀRA

2° AT AMARĀVATĪ





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The sources of the various pieces are as follows : 1. A. Museum für Völkerkunde, Berlin, (from a photograph lent by Dr. Burgess) ; B. British Museum ; C-D Lahore Museum (from photographs by the author). — 2. Stele in the Madras Museum (Cf. Burgess, *Amarāvati*, pl. XLI, 6), from a photograph lent by M. V. Goloubew. — 3. Stele in the Calcutta Museum, from a photograph by the author.

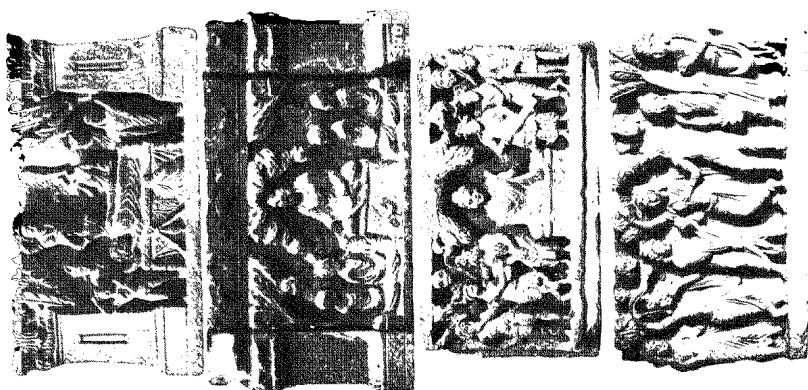
A. *Jāti*. — 1. The Nativity is here represented according to the usual formula of Gandhāra. — 2. At Amarāvati the *Jāti* has here been replaced by the *Mahābhiniśkramana*, the physical birth by the spiritual one (cf. pp. 13 and 148, n. 2) : but this last episode is now conceived in the Gandhāran manner (cf. pl. III, A<sup>3</sup>) — 3. The panel of Benares groups : on the right, the Nativity, with Indra kneeling to receive the child (notice the analogy of Indra's tiara with that which he wears on pl. IV, 1, A) ; in the middle, the Seven Steps of the Bodhisattva, who at the same time receives the Bath, poured from vessels by two Nāgas ; on the left, at the bottom, the Great Departure on horseback ; and above, the Cutting of the Hair and the Farewell to Chandaka.

B. *Sambodhi*. — 1. The Illumination is here symbolized by the assault of Māra (*Māra-dharshana*) and his army (cf. *Art g.-b. du Gandh*, 1, fig. 201). — 2. At Amarāvati this army is no longer represented, except by three dwarf Yakshas in front of the throne : it is the daughters of Māra who now play the principal rôle in the scene of the temptation. We shall remark the omission of the *Bodhi-druma* and the absence of

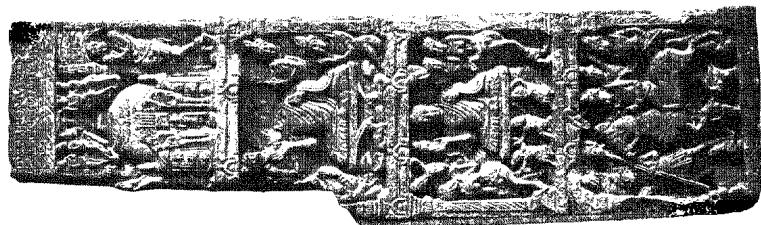
the *bhūmi-sparśa-mudrā*. — 3. At Benares, on the other hand, we find again, in addition to the same feminine and demoniacal persons, these two essential elements, namely the indication of the tree and the gesture of taking to witness the Earth, whose figure is only half seen.

C. *Dharmā-cakra-pravartana*. — We shall notice likewise that, for his First Preaching, the Buddha of Gandhāra and of Amarāvati has not yet adopted the gesture consecrated to teaching (cf. no. 3 C.). On the other hand, we see on no. 1 C the wheel and a gazelle, and on no. 2 C two gazelles. If from no. 3 C (where, by an exception, Buddha is seated in European fashion) these accessories are absent, the omission is repaired on other stelæ of the same school (cf. *Iconogr. bouddh. de l'Inde*, I, fig. 29, and Burgess, *Anc. Mon. India*, pl. 67-68).

D. *Parinirvāṇa*. — 1. The episode of the Death of the Master is treated in accordance with the usual formula, including the despair of Vajrapāni, the grief of the Mallas and the Gods, and the ultimate conversion of Subhadrā. — 2. The curious circumstance is that on this point the school of Amarāvati has remained obstinately faithful to the ancient device of the *Śīdha* (cf. pl. II, D) ; nevertheless, the entrance through the railing is now adorned with a standing figure of Buddha. — 3. Finally, we shall notice, even more clearly than in the other compartments, that on the stelæ of Benares the image of the Blessed One tends to invade the whole disposable space to the detriment of the attendants : instead of legendary the scene becomes iconographic.



GANDHARA



2<sup>nd</sup> AT AMARAVATI



3<sup>rd</sup> AT BENARES

THE FOUR GREAT MIRACLES





## The Representations of “Jâtakas” on the Bas-reliefs of Barhut<sup>(1)</sup>.

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Ancient India has bequeathed to us a considerable mass of texts and a very restricted number of sculptures : this means that for our instruction concerning its civilization we possess many more written documents than carved monuments. The latter deserve all the more to attract our attention. Their most ancient remains may, in fact, furnish us, as regards the external appearance and the material side of Indian life in the second century before our era, with a number of concrete and precise details which we should never have been able to expect from the most extensive or the most profound study of the literature. I hasten to add that I do not conceive the identification of these works of art as possible without their confrontation with the texts. These latter alone can help us to understand the mute language of the stones and, even in the absence of any explanatory inscription, to assign names to the characters, speech to the gestures, in one word titles to the subjects. In practice it is precisely thus that matters fall out. We find ourselves possessing in the holy scriptures of Buddhism a ready made commentary for the greater part of the surviving ancient bas-reliefs ; and these pieces of sculpture, rare or scattered though they be, are, for their part, a mine of illustrations quite appropriate to as many episodes of the Buddhist legend. You divine without difficulty the interest

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(1) Lecture at the Musée Guimet, in *Bibliothèque de vulgarisation du Musée Guimet*, vol. XXX, 1908.

of this intimate accord between the written and the figured versions of the same stories and the advantage still to be obtained from it for the comprehension of both. This is what I should like to verify experimentally by studying, in accordance with the texts and the monuments, the traditions relating to some of the previous existences of the Buddha Çākya-Muni. For this purpose we will make use, on the one hand, of the Pāli collection of the *Jātakas* <sup>(1)</sup> and, on the other, of the bas-reliefs of the *stûpa* of Barhut <sup>(2)</sup>. From their rapprochement will quite naturally emerge for our convenience a small illustrated collection of some twenty-five Indian tales; and you shall judge if I exaggerate their charm.

## I

*The Jātakas.* — I owe however (by way of preface) some explanations which may allow you better to understand the meaning and more to enjoy the flavour of these tales and images, as amusing as naïve. But these necessary explanations may be extremely brief, and it will suffice if I rapidly recall to your mind three essential notions.

The first is that, according to Indian ideas, every living being, whoever he may be, is not only sure of dying: it is no less certain that he must be born again in one of the five conditions of lost soul, ghost, animal, man or

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(1) *Jātaka*, éd. Fausbøll, 6 voll. in-8° and one volume of index, London, 1877-1897; translated into English under the direction of Professor E. B. Cowell, 6 voll. in-8°, Cambridge, 1895-1907.

(2) CUNNINGHAM, *The Stûpa of Barhut*, London, 1879 (published by order of the Secretary of State for India, who has kindly authorised the reproductions given in this book). — Cf. S. D'OLDENBURG, *Notes on Buddhist Art*, St. Petersburg 1895 (in Russian; translated into English in the *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, XVIII, I, Jan. 1897, pp. 183-201).

god; after which he will have to die again, in order to be born once more, and so on for ever, unless he attains salvation, which is nothing else than the final escape from this frightful circle of transmigration.

The second point is that not only the attainment of this deliverance, but the conditions even of each of the ephemeral existences are regulated automatically by a moral law as general and as unavoidable as the physical law of gravity, the law of « works », or (to employ a Sanskrit word, the use of which has been popularized by the theosophists) of *Karma*. At the death of each being there is drawn up a kind of debit and credit account, with assets and liabilities, between the sums of the merits and demerits accumulated by him in the course of his anterior existences : and an immediate sanction, resulting mechanically from this simple mathematical operation, fatally decides his future destiny.

In the third place, it is a belief no less generally admitted in India that whoever has attained to sanctity possesses, among other supernatural faculties, the privilege of remembering his past existences and even those of others. This gift of extra-lucid intuition, or, as it was called, of « divine sight », no one, of course, was considered to possess in a more eminent degree than Buddha. Now it was, we are told, his habit, with regard to incidents arising in the bosom of his community, to point or justify his prohibitions or his precepts by the opportune reminiscence of some analogous occasion which had already confronted him in the course of his previous lives.

These three points agreed, all becomes perfectly clear. We admit fully henceforth that Çākya-Muni, like all others, must have traversed a long series of successive rebirths. We understand, also, why he accomplished on the

way so many good actions, displayed so many virtues, realized so many superhuman perfections : nothing less was required to enable him to acquire merits capable of conveying him to the supreme dignity of Buddha. Nor could we get our information concerning his past lives from a better source, since — if we believe the tradition — it is from the mouth of the Master himself that the story had been gathered before being consigned in writing to the works which have come down to us and which it would be useless to-day to enumerate and criticize. If we proceed to make use of the Pāli collection, it is not that I am under any illusion as to the antiquity of the prose commentary on the versified, the only canonical, part (¹) : the reason for this choice is simply that, as containing nearly five hundred and fifty narratives, that collection is by far the most considerable of all.

## II

*The Bas-reliefs of Barhut.* — Thus familiarized afresh with the *jātakas*, you will not be surprised to note that the sculptors charged with the decoration of the ancient Buddhist edifices of central India have drawn copious inspirations therefrom. Not only did they, as we believe we have demonstrated above (²), feel themselves under less restraint in the treatment of subjects of this kind, but moreover no subject could answer better to the needs and the aim of the artist. Seeing that it was a question of religious foundations, that aim was quite naturally the edification of the faithful, both sedentary and pilgrim : and what could

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(¹) On this subject see below, essay VII on the *Śaddanta jālaka*

(²) See, p. 23.



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enclosure was flanked at the four cardinal points by monumental gates (*torāṇa*), with triple curved lintels of which we have fine examples at Sānchî <sup>(1)</sup>. On the most ancient specimens from the basin of the Ganges the decoration was strictly limited to the doorways and railing. At Barhut medallions were strewn over the upright pillars and cross-bars of the latter, whilst all along the inner face of the coping further motifs were ensconced in the intervals of the undulations of a serpentine garland. You will recognize one or other alternative of this double provenance in all the reproductions which are about to defile before your eyes (Pl. V-VI).

One last question : Why have we chosen by preference the bas-reliefs of Barhut? The answer is easy : because most of them are accompanied by an inscription written in the oldest alphabet of central India, the one which towards the middle of the third century before our era was used by the famous king Aśoka for his pious edicts. On one of the jambs of the eastern gate, found *in situ*, we read, in a somewhat later script, a mention of the ephemeral suzerain dynasty of the Çuṅgas, which succeeded the Maur-yas towards the year 180 B. C.; it relates to the erection of the gate, or, to be more exact, the replacement an old wooden model by a « stone work »; and thus we feel certain that towards the end of the second century the final touch must have been given to the decoration of the *stūpa*, commenced, no doubt, during the third. This is not all. Among the hundred and sixty *graffiti*, more or less, observed on the recovered debris of the balustrade more than half are restricted to giving merely the name of the donor, male or female, of such and such a pillar or

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(1) See below, pp. 65-66, and cf. pl. VII and VIII. 1.

such and such a transverse bar ; but the rest give us explicit information concerning the subjects which the sculptures claimed to represent. Thus we have to deal with bas-reliefs sufficiently dated and identified beforehand by their authors for the benefit of their contemporaries and of the most distant posterity. In the moving sands of Indian antiquity we can find no better data, nor firmer ground on which to work.

### III

*The animals.* — After this indispensable preparation we may with full knowledge broach the examination of the twenty-five *jātakas*, of which, possessing the text, we recognize also the representation. A perfectly natural plan will be imposed upon us : it will be, if we may so express it, the biographical sequence of these successive lives, as well as the hierarchical order of the conditions into which the future Buddha had successively to be born. We shall see him mount one by one the rungs of the ladder of beings, first animal, then woman, and finally man. And indeed, putting aside all one's complacency as Indianist, I do not think that the imagination of any race has ever created a finer or vaster subject for a poem than this destiny of a single being in whom are shown all aspects of life, in whom is concentrated all the experience of past ages, in one word, in whom the evolution of the entire human race is reflected. Unfortunately, as usually happens in India, the execution comes infinitely short of the conception. To sum up in one work, spacious and substantial, in view of the immense and varied career of the Predestined One, the original Indian system of the universe, would have required the powerful constructive genius of a Dante : Buddhism had not that good fortune.



And this is why we do in Indian literature not meet with more than scattered fragments of the epic of the Bodhisattva, or future Buddha.

To-day we are concerned only with the period of his previous lives, beginning with the most humble of them : but even within these limits we cannot help but regret the manner in which the monks, more solicitous for edification than for poetry, have bungled the subject. In the same way as, according to the naturalists, the embryo of mammalia reproduces in the course of its development the divers characteristics of the inferior species, so we should like to follow through the course of the animal forms which he remembered having assumed one after the other — fish, reptile, bird, quadruped, quadruman — the whole embryology of a Bodhisattva. But for that we should have to give ourselves up, in the midst of the disorder — or of the still more outlandish order<sup>(1)</sup> — of the texts, to a veritable task of patchwork, joining together here and there the scattered portions of a poem which was never written. Evidently the idea of following out any series and gradation whatever did not occur to the minds of the compilers of these stories. We must say in excuse for them that the theory of evolution troubled them, for reasons easy to guess, much less than it does us. Furthermore, if they are incapable of composing a harmonious whole, they make up for it in detail by the naive savour and, at times, humourous attractiveness of their style : it is impossible to deny them a veritable talent as narrators. Once we have renounced for them higher ambitions, the compensation will appear to us very appreciable. Their stories of ani-

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(1) We know that in the Pāli collection of *Jātakas*, for example, these are classed solely according to the increasing number of verses which they contain, without regard to subject.

mals form in fact a veritable « Jungle Book » long before that which did so much for the reputation of Rudyard Kipling : moreover, the latter was, in his, directly inspired by popular Indian tradition.

Let us examine first the stories which present animals only, and which, consequently, are pure « fables ». There were related in India two thousand years and more ago tales with which we are still to-day familiar from infancy. I will cite, for example, that of « the Tortoise and the two Ducks », which is depicted already on the ancient balustrade of Bodh-Gayâ. Among the fragments of Barhut which have survived until our time we do not find any equally celebrated. On the other hand, when we see the Bodhisattva appear there, he has already arrived at the state, or if you prefer, at the genus of bird.

I. Here (CUNNINGHAM, XXVII, 11) in his character of royal swan he refuses, if we may so express it, the « hand » of his daughter to the peacock, in spite of his magnificent plumage and because of his indecent dance (*Jât.* 32).

II. There (CUNNINGHAM, XLV, 7) under the form of a pigeon, he reprimands the lazy and gluttonous crow, whom the cook punishes so cruelly for an attempted raid upon his pots (*Jât.* 42; cf. 274 and 375).

III. Elsewhere (CUNNINGHAM, XLVII, 5) he is the cock perched on a tree, who wisely resists the treacherous seductions of a she-cat (*Jât.* 383). — La Fontaine (*Fables*, II, 5) says : of a fox.

IV. Still further on (CUNNINGHAM, XXV, 2), born an elephant, he exterminates, with the help of his faithful wife, a terrible enemy of his race, an enormous crab, « as broad as a threshing-floor », which, in order to devour them, had hidden itself at the bottom of the lake in which the pachyderms were accustomed to bathe (*Jât.* 267).

V. As we cannot see all in detail, I will detain you only a moment with the fifth *jātaka*, spoken (and even written) of as « of the Quail ». As usual, the text (*Jāt.* 357) indicates first of all on what occasion the fable was related. It was not the first time that Dēvadatta, the traitor cousin of Buddha and the Judas Iscariot of his legend, proved the hardness of his heart. At that time the Bodhisattva was born in the form of an elephant, chief of a troop of 80,000 others — India is very fond indeed of this round number. A quail, which had made her nest within their pasture ground and whose young, scarcely hatched, were still incapable of moving, begs him to spare her offspring. He willingly consents to this, and by his orders his 80,000 subjects respect the young birds as they file past : doubtless, this is what they are in the act of doing on the right lower part of the medallion (pl. V, 1). But he warns the quail that a fierce solitary is following him. The latter, deaf to all prayers, crushes the nest : you perceive one of the young ones under his right hind foot, exactly on the edge of the break in the stone, whilst the weeping mother is perched on a tree in front of him. But vengeance is not long delayed : for already on the bulging forehead of the cruel elephant a crow is busy, pecking out his eyes with its beak, whilst a big « blue fly » deposits its eggs in the sockets. A third ally of the quail, its gossip the frog, is seated at the top of the medallion in a conventional rocky landscape. Its role, in the story as on the bas-relief, is by its croaking to attract the enormous animal, which is blind and burning with fever, by making it believe in the proximity of water. Thus it leads him right to the edge of a sharp precipice, where he falls headlong : only his hind part has not yet quite disappeared into the abyss. Application : the Bodhisattva was the leader of the troop of

elephants, Dêvadatta was the solitary. — « Well, what about the quail », you will ask. — You desire to know too much.

## IV

*The Bodhisattva under an animal form and mankind.* — In these five fables man does not intervene. Here are five others in which he is seen and, at first, hardly to his credit.

VI. In order to follow up the two preceding births, let us take a new one in the form of an elephant and even of an elephant « with six tusks » (*Jât.* 514). The wonderful animal is standing in the foreground, leaning against the banyan tree (pl. XXIX, 1) which the oldest tradition assigns to him for a shelter. Behind him, likewise in profile, is his first wife, her left temple adorned with a lotus, whilst, seen full face in the background, his second wife, furious at not having herself received any such flowery ornament, is showing unmistakable signs of jealous anger. She goes so far as to suffer herself to die of hunger, while forming the aspiration of being born again as a woman and becoming queen of Benares. Scarcely has her double wish been fulfilled than she charges the cleverest hunter in the country to carry out her vengeance. Hidden at the bottom of a pit, the latter discharges a poisoned arrow into the bowels of the elephant, as is written and is elsewhere found figured, on the sculptures of Amarâvatî and of Gandhâra. But at Barhut, when we again (on the left of the medallion) see the hero of the story, it is already the moment when, wounded to death and practising the virtue, which was Buddhist before becoming Christian, of pardoning all offences, he docilely stoops down, in order to allow his enemy to cut off his triple tusks with the help of an enor-

mous saw. We must turn to the Pāli collection or to the paintings of the Ajañtā Caves to learn that the wicked queen, at the sight of the tusks of her former husband, which her emissary brought back to her, felt nevertheless a revulsion of conscience, of which she died heart-broken (1).

VII. No less naively illustrated is the re-birth as an antelope, *kurunga*. On pl. V, 2 we read as plainly as in the text (*Jât.* 206) that there were once an antelope, a tortoise and a wood-pecker, which, united by friendship, lived together on the shores of a lake in the depths of the woods. The antelope has just been caught in a trap : and, whilst the tortoise exerts itself to gnaw through the fetters, the wood-pecker, represented a second time on the right, does all that it can, in its character of bird of ill-omen, to delay the coming of the hunter. Soon — but no room could be found in the picture for this second adventure — the antelope will in its turn deliver the tortoise :

Ainsi chacun en son endroit  
S'entremet, agit et travaille,

as we are told by La Fontaine, who to our trio of friends has added also a rat (*Fables*, XII, 15).

VIII. Another medallion (pl. V, 3) contains no less than three episodes. At the bottom the tender-hearted stag, *ruru*, saves the son of the merchant, who was going to drown himself in the Ganges, and brings him on his back to the bank, where one of his roes is stooping to drink at the river. At the top, on the right, the king of Benares, guided by the young merchant, who is evidently acting as his informant, is preparing with bent bow to kill the great rare stag, the object of his desires as a hunter. But the words ad-

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(1) We shall have an opportunity later (Essay VII) of recurring more in detail to the *Saddanta-jātaka* (cf. pl. XXIX and XXX).



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by his archers, with fixed arrows and only awaiting the day to begin the slaughter. There is alarm in the camp of the Bandar-log, as Kipling expresses it. Their leader reassures them and promises to save their lives. With a gigantic spring, of which he alone is capable, he clears a hundred bow lengths as far as the opposite bank of the river, there cuts a long rattan, the one end of which he fixes to a tree on this bank, whilst he attaches the other to his foot, and with another spring returns to his own people. But the vine which he has cut is a little too short, and it is only by stretching out his hands that he can reach the branches of the fig-tree. Nevertheless, the 80,000 monkeys pass over this improvised bridge and descend in safety on the other side of the river. This latter is, as usual, indicated by sinuous lines, in which a tortoise and some fish are swimming. But already two men of the court of the king of Benares are holding by the four corners a striped coverlet, into which the Bodhisattva, exhausted with fatigue, has only to let himself fall when the last of his subjects has been saved. At the bottom (and this is the second picture within the frame) we find him sitting in conversation with his human colleague, who is amazed at his vigour, his ingenuity, and his devotion to his people. Between them a person, of whom we see only the bust and the hands respectfully joined together, is, if we may judge from the absence of the turban, a man of low caste, apparently that one of the « wood-rangers » who guided the royal caravan towards the Himâlaya.

## V

*The Bodhisattva in human form and animals.* — In this last narrative the king of Benares gives a proof of good

feeling : therefore he is presented to us as an ancient incarnation of Ānanda, the well-beloved disciple. In the four preceding fables man appears to us in the odious form of a hunter, except when he reveals himself as a monster of ingratitude, whilst the brute continues to show an example of the most difficult virtues. However, we must not be in too great a hurry to conclude that, in the *Jātakas*, the better part always belongs to the animals : in fact, it only falls to them when they incarnate the Bodhisattva. In other words, in the Buddhist adaptation to which these tales have been subjected the Bodhisattva has been incarnated in animal form only in those cases where it was decidedly more flattering to be beast than to be man. Here are four other examples which will abundantly prove to us that ingratitude, foolishness, the aggressive instinct, and dishonesty are not, in the minds of our authors, the privilege of humanity alone, as you might have been led to believe. The stories ought indeed to come a little later in the plan which we have adopted, since the Bodhisattva is there already clothed in the human form *par excellence*, I mean that of a man : but for the advantage of warning ourselves against a wrong idea it is worth while slightly to disarrange the hierarchical order of the sexes.

XI. Do you desire further simian stories ? Look on the left of pl. VI, 1 at this young novice, or Brahmanic student, who is giving a thirsty monkey something to drink. Now he goes away towards the right, having loaded on his shoulders, at the two ends of a stick placed like a balancing beam, his two round pitchers, suspended in nets of cord after the manner of the time and of the present day ; meanwhile the animal, who has mounted into the tree again, makes grimaces at him as a reward for his charity : « Oblige a villain, and he will spit in your face », says our proverb.



If we are to believe the text, the monkey did worse still on the head of the Bodhisattva, a thing which is quite among the habits of these horrid beasts. It is needless to repeat to you that he was none other than Dêvadatta (*Jât.* 174).

XII. Another time (*Jât.* 46 and 268), a gardener, wishing to take his holiday, has charged the monkeys which haunt his garden to water it in his stead. And in fact they set about it with pitchers (pl. VI, 2); but on a suggestion of their king, who by nature prefers to do things methodically and does not intend his water to be wasted, they begin by pulling up every shrub in the nursery, so as to measure by the length of its roots the exact quantity of water which it will require. The Bodhisattva is the « wise man », who enters by the left and surprizes them while thus occupied. He does not restrict himself to stating that hell is paved with good intentions : there is no lack of moralizing, also, about the stupidity of the king of the monkeys : if he is the most intelligent, what must be thought of the rest of the troop?

XIII. On another fragment of the coping (CUNNINGHAM, XLI, 1-3) is figured in two successive scenes the story of a stupid fighting ram, who is inspired by his warlike instincts to charge a Brahmanic ascetic : we must say in his excuse that the latter was wearing a garment of skin (*Jât.* 324). The whole humour of the affair is that the monk imagines, at the moment when the ram stoops, ready to rush upon him, that even the beasts bow before his worth. It is in vain that a young merchant, no other than the Bodhisattva, warns him of his imprudent mistake : there he is soon on his back, upset along with the double burden which he was balancing on his shoulder.

XIV. Again in another place it is the turn of the Bodhisattva to carry the water-vessel and wear the big chignon

and the summary costume of an ascetic (pl. VI, 3); and it is in this guise (and not that of a tree-god, as the commentary gives it, *Jât.* 400) that he is present as a simple spectator at a very amusing scene. Two otters, by uniting their efforts, have dragged a big fish to the dry ground on the bank of a river, the one holding it by the head, the other by the tail; but, their united exploit accomplished, they quarrel about the sharing of the booty and take a passing jackal as arbiter. The latter is represented twice, first seated between the litigants, then walking proudly away to the right : he is carrying the best piece in his mouth and leaving to the two deceived otters only the head and tail of their prey. The moral is easily guessed. The text states very explicitly that the best law-suits in the world only serve to enrich the coffers of the king; and you, for your part, have in the « Jackal and the two Otters » already recognised an Indian variant of the « Oyster and the Litigants » of La Fontaine.

XV. For the rest we must not in the presence of the extreme variety of these tales claim to set up too general rules. A little further on (pl. VI, 4) animals reappear side by side with another identical incarnation of the Bodhisattva, and this time they play a most honourable part. The bas-relief is here much simplified in comparison with the version of the *Jâtaka* (488), which gives to the hero a sister, six brothers and two servants. At Barhut we see at his side only a woman — likewise clothed in the ascetic costume — who may very well in the intention of the sculptor be the wife of his lay years, and of whom the Pâli prose, with its accustomed and perhaps excessive modesty, will have made his sister : has it not been bold enough (*Jât.* 461) to give us Râma as the brother, and not the husband, of Sîtâ? On the other hand, a monkey and an elephant likewise take part in this scene,

unless the latter is merely the mount of Çakra : for the « Indra of the Gods » looks upon it as a duty to bring back the bundle of lotus stalks (rather similar to our bundles of asparagus and just like those which I have seen sold, nowadays, in Kashmir, in the market of Srinagar), which gave its name to the story. That is all the food of the ascetic, and on three days in succession Çakra, in order to prove him, has stolen it, but without succeeding in moving him. At the moment when he repents, each one of the characters, both human and animal, was about to exonerate himself from this theft by a veracious oath, even the monkey declaring himself incapable of it; for, it is said somewhere, « in the company of saints everyone becomes a saint ».

## VI

*The Bodhisattva and women.* — With these reservations, these two series of examples, preserved by chance, suffice to prove what I was just now saying concerning the double attitude of the *Jātakas* with regard to animals. If from the beasts we now pass — without any idea of comparison, be it said — to the women, we observe that at the very first the same distinction seems necessary. Either we are in the presence of one of those beautiful types of faithful wife which are an honour to Indian literature, and then we may safely wager that the Bodhisattva is this time incarnated in the feminine form; or else it is a masculine role which is assigned to him, and in this case the texts, giving free scope to an instinct for satire worthy of our Gaul of the Middle Ages, becomes inexhaustible on the subject of the malice and perversity of the fair sex. The stories which they tell of it (we shall, of course,

adduce only those which are figured, more or less, at Barhut) lack neither raciness nor verve. In fact, whilst the stories which have come before us up till now were properly fables, we have now to do with the kind of jolly tales which in the Romance languages of mediæval Europe were called « fabliaux » or « fableaux ».

XVI. On a medallion which can hardly with propriety be reproduced (CUNNINGHAM, XXVI, 7), we witness the conception and birth of the *rishi* Rishyaçringa (Antelope-horn) or Ekaçringa (Unicorn), as celebrated in the Brahmanic epic as in the Buddhist legend. Son of an anchorite and a roe, he knows nothing of a sex to which he is not even indebted for his mother, and consequently he will be an easy prey to the first women he meets. On this common trunk are grafted two groups of stories. In the first, the young hermit is scarcely adolescent and lives with his father. A neighbouring king, in order to put an end to a famine, or simply because he has no son, forms the design of taking him for his son-in-law : and his own daughter, or, in the less ancient versions, some courtesans charge themselves with the task of leading him astray and bringing him back to the court (*Jât.* 526; *Mahāvastu*, III, 143; *Mahābhārata*, III, 110-113 etc). Without great difficulty they succeed, as soon as the father has turned his back, being helped as much as they could desire by the naive candour of the young man, who as yet has seen nothing of the world, for whom a rebounding ball seems a marvel, who takes cakes for delicious fruits without pips, and who calls carriages « moving huts ». He apprehends still other causes of amazement, not less ingenious, but already less innocent, at the aspect, so new to him, of his feminine visitors: and you can easily conceive that this theme of the spontaneous awakening of the sexual instinct

in the most ignorant of young men should have served as an example to Boccaccio and for a story to La Fontaine (*Contes*, III, 1, « The Geese of Brother Philip », taken from the preamble to the fourth day of the *Decameron*).

Of the second form of the legend the clearest summary that we at present possess has been preserved to us by the Chinese pilgrim Hiuan-tsang with reference to a ruined convent of Gandhâra, in the extreme north-west of India. « It was in this place, he tells us, that formerly there lived the *rishi* Unicorn; this *rishi*, having allowed himself to be led astray by a courtesan, lost his supernatural powers; the courtesan mounted on his shoulders and thus returned to the town » (cf. *Jât.* 523 ; *Daçakumâracarita*, II, 2 etc.). Here there is no longer any question of the father of the hermit, and the age of the latter is left undetermined. On the other hand, what we are told of him reminds us of the fables detailed in our relations of animal stories, the so-called « Bestiaria » of the Middle Ages, concerning the Unicorn which only a young girl is able to capture : « And she (says their source, the Physiologus) commands the animal and it obeys her; and she leads it away to the king's palace ». Why there rather than elsewhere? This unexpected trait forms, on the contrary, an integral part of the adventure of the shy anchorite Unicorn, whom the king's daughter very naturally leads to her father, or whom the courtesan has wagered that she will bring back to the court. And, again, the piquant detail that this latter mounts astride on the shoulders of the wise *rishi* awakens invincibly the memory of the celebrated « Lay of Aristotle ».

XVII. A fragment of another medallion, found only by the greatest chance, bears as title the three first words of the one stanza which constitutes the ancient nucleus of *Jâtaka* 62 : « The music that the Brahman... » : and, in fact,



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refer to the vengeance exercised by the villain on the wives « of the provost, the forester and the priest ». This manner of applying the law of retaliation, and even with interest — for the peasant does to another what the other has merely had the intention of doing to him — is a trait eminently Gallic ; and you will not be in any way astonished to observe that it was evidently the part which La Fontaine desired to retain of the story, when he put it into verse in his tale of « the people of Rheims » : you will understand no less clearly that the Indian versions contain nothing of the kind. For the rest, the accord would be truly too astonishing, if it were not a case of a borrowing by European literature from that of India (*Jât.* 546; *Kathâsaritsâgara*, I, 4 etc.). Taken on the whole, it is the Pâli text which most nearly approaches the bas-relief of Barhut (pl. V, 5) : there also Amarâ, the virtuous wife, whose husband is absent, has four suitors to whom she assigns an interview for each of the watches of the same night, and it is also in great esparto baskets that she causes her tricked lovers to be packed by her servants. At the moment chosen by the sculptor we are in the midst of the court : the king is seated on his throne, surrounded by his ministers, and at his right side one of the women of the harem is waving a fly-flapper. Amarâ is standing on the other side, her left hand on the shoulder of her attendant, and at her order the covers of three of the baskets have already been raised and the heads of three of the delinquents uncovered, whilst two coolies bring the fourth. But the Singhalese compilation dismisses this story in ten lines, as an episode in a long narrative, and consents to see in Amarâ only the wife of the absent Bodhisattva : for it is quite resigned to represent the latter as an animal, a pariah or even a bandit, but never, no ! never, a woman, be she, as in

this case, a paragon of all the virtues. If, however, we come to realize that the *jātaka* in question has the honour of a complete medallion and that these representations have no edifying interest except on the condition that the future Buddha there appears in person, it will soon be granted that there are great chances that the sculptor regarded him as incarnated here in the feminine form. Even if the author had not himself made this identification, everything invited the spectator to do so. The inscription on the bas-relief (*yavamajhakiyaṃ jātakaṃ*) does not contradict it : for the Pāli tradition also makes Amarā to be born in one of the four suburbs *Yavamajjhaka*, situated at the four gates of the capital of Mithilā.

However it may be as regards this particular point, the tremendous buffoonery of the situation could not escape the worshippers, and they must have been at least as much amused as edified. If we ourselves look at it more closely, we shall not be able to avoid the impression that, with all her virtue, Amarā was not exempt from mischief. Doubtless she had recourse to the arsenal of her tricks only for a good motive ; but we tremble at the thought of what would happen to her husband, if this astute woman employed in deceiving him a quarter of the malice that she displays in keeping herself faithful. In one word, and with all taken into account, whether the story be written in praise of the fair sex or not, it is always the same creature of perfidy, if not of voluptuousness, with whom we have to deal : or, to put it better, we observe that the quite monastic mistrust and aversion which Buddhism professed towards woman are (we may say) never disarmed. Of all the snares of Māra the Malignant, is she not the worst ? And was it not solely in the rupture of all family ties, commencing with the conjugal tie, that the assured pledge of salvation was supposed to be found ?



XIX. Among our bas-reliefs we find still another fairly picturesque illustration of this moral conception. It is taken from the history of Mahâjanaka (*Jat.* 539). A son, born in exile, of the widow of a king of Mithilâ, I will pass over the adventures which finally re-establish him on the throne which his uncle has usurped, and at the same time win for him the hand of his beautiful cousin Sîvalî. What is of importance to us here is the resolution, which he soon forms, of taking to the religious life and the useless efforts to which his wife resorts in order to retain him in the world. At last he departs; but his wife belongs to that variety of woman which our writers of vaudevilles call « clinging »; and she obstinately adheres to his steps. Vainly does a remnant of politeness lead him to make use of various symbols in order to mark his decided intention to deprive himself henceforth of a companionship which he looks upon as an obstacle to his deliverance : she will listen to none of them, not even the plainest, such as the one represented, with the names of the persons to vouch for it, on the railing at Barhut (pl. VI, 5). The king, who has already cast aside his diadem, is standing, still followed by the queen, in front of an armourer's bench and with the two first fingers raised is speaking in parables. The artisan is about to straighten an arrow which he has just put through the fire, and, closing one eye, is examining with the other whether it is straight. To a premeditated question from Mahâjanaka he replies that one can judge the straightness of things much better with a single one eye than with two : for, except in solitude, there is no salvation for man.

XX. This monkish moral is, however, susceptible of a quite touching revulsion, or rather of quite gracious oversight. Evidently it was impossible for the compilers of this great collection of folk-lore to bring all the narratives

within their narrow range of edification : and thus it is that a delightful story of love must have found grace in their eyes. It is not preserved to us at Barhut, except by a miserable sketch (CUNNINGHAM, XXVII, 12); but it is still in existence on the Boro-Budur of Java (1), where the human bust of the *kinnara* is no longer terminated by foliage, but by the body of a bird. The king of Benares, while out hunting, perceives a couple of these marvellous beings covering each other with caresses and tears. He questions them, and learns from the mouth of the woman — always the more talkative — that they were once separated by the storm and had to spend the night on either side of the river. Now it will soon be seven hundred years since this mischance, and their life is a thousand years : however, they have not yet quite consoled each other for the separation of a few hours, and since then have been unable to help mingling tears with their caresses. — What an example for lovers, thinks the king ; and it will not surprise you to learn that, with the help of this simple legend, Buddha forthwith reconciled the king and queen of Kosala, very much in love with one another, who were sulking (*Jat.* 504 ; reject 481 and 485).

## VI

*The Bodhisattva and the castes.* — This last story is less a « fableau » than a fairy tale. As for the preceding one, it should rather be classed in the category of those « examples », wherewith our preaching friars of the Middle Ages were accustomed to stud their sermons. The five that still remain to be reviewed are all edifying stories which

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(1) See below, Essay VIII.

similarly served the needs of the Buddhist preaching. They will perhaps seem to you only moderately amusing : but in India morality must always have its turn. In them the Bodhisattva is constantly reborn in the state of man, that state so difficult to attain, we are told, which, while the one most favourable of all to the acquisition of merits, is also the only one in which the candidate for the Bodhi ever has a chance of attaining his object. Each time this marvellous being, whatever may be his caste, astonishes us with the proofs of his skill, wisdom and disinterestedness : but it is especially in his royal births that he gives free course to his virtue. Let us not forget that the Buddhists professed to place the class of the *Kṣatriya*, or, as we should say, the nobility of the sword, to which their Master belonged, above that of the Brahmans : naturally, we shall have to follow the order established by them in the hierarchy of the castes.

XXI. The Bodhisattva knew all social positions, even that which consists in being under the ban of society, as is the case with the pariah. However, in the lowest position in which we recognise him on the bas-reliefs of Barhut, he has already arrived at the third class, that of the Vaiçyas, that is to say, of peasant proprietor or town shop-keeper. It is as a son of a citizen of Çrāvastî that by an ingenious stratagem he consoles his father, who was still inconsolable for the death of his grandfather (*Jât.* 352; CUNNINGHAM, XLVII, 3). He brings water and food to the dead body of an ox, abandoned at the gates of the town ; and when his father, informed by friends, runs up to remonstrate with him, he answers him in the same tone and has not much trouble in proving to him that the more foolish of the two is not the one whom people think. For it is folly, according to Buddhist ideas, to weep for the dead

XXII. Elsewhere the Bodhisattva has become the Pandit Vidhura, minister of the king of Indraprastha. The fame of his wisdom and eloquence is so great, that the wife of a Nâga conceives a fancy for hearing him speak. In order to make more sure of him being brought to her, the undine pretends to have a « desire », that of eating his heart. Behold the husband much disturbed : « As well ask for the moon », he remarks (*Jât.* 545). But what is there that women cannot do ? The four panels of one pillar are consecrated to the description of how the daughter of the Nâga was not long in finding a young captain of the genii, who, for love of her « beaux yeux », charges himself with the commission; how the young gallant challenges the king of Indraprastha to play, and with one cast of the dice wins his minister from him ; how he vainly endeavours to kill the latter by throwing him down from the top of a mountain; and how, in the end, he decides to take him alive to the house of the Nâga, to the great satisfaction of his future mother-in-law, who thus obtains from the mouth of the sage the little private lecture which she desired (CUNNINGHAM, XVIII). And, as is always the case with these Buddhist tales, all is well that ends well.

XXIII. But, as I have told you, it is especially when the Bodhisattva is born again as a *Kshatriya* that his acts foretell the great renunciation of which he is to offer a perfect model in the course of his last existence. Once, at a time when human life was exceedingly long, he renounces the throne and the world from the moment of the appearance of his first white hair (*Jât.* 9). His barber is ordered to show it to him as soon as he perceives it : and it is for that reason that, on pl. VI, 6, he interrupts the combing of his master's long hair. King Makhâdêva, although he still has 84.000 years to live, abdicates at once in favour of his

son — apparently the third person in the scene — and retires to lead in his own park of mango-trees the ascetic life.

XXIV. Another time he does not wait so long to abandon his throne, and he is still in full youth when he yields place to his youngest brother (*Jât.* 181 ; *Mahāvastu*, II, 73). The jealousy and suspicions of the latter soon force him to go into exile, and, thanks to his talent as an archer, he earns his living in the service of a neighbouring king. The bas-relief represents this Asadisa at the moment when, by means of an arrow skilfully shot, he gathers for his master a mango from the very top of a high tree (CUNNINGHAM, XXVII, 13). The continuation of the story makes him again protect his ungrateful brother against the seven hostile princes who were besieging him, and finally he enters — or rather, according to the Indian expression, he « departs » — into religion.

XXV. Once even it is from his earliest infancy that he gives evidence of his resolution to know nothing of this world, and he feigns to be dumb, deaf and paralyzed (*Jât.* 538). In vain are many experiments tried to prove him ; neither privations nor delicacies, nor toys, nor noises, nor lights, nor fear, nor suffering, nor (when he is nearly sixteen years old) voluptuous temptations can draw from him a gesture, a cry, or any sign whatever of sensibility or intelligence. That is why you see him lying so stiff in the lap of his father, the king of Benares (pl. V, 6). The latter ends by becoming weary of such a son, and orders his chariot-driver to take him out of the town and bury him, dead or alive. Thus, at the bottom, we see Prince Sēmiya standing near an empty quadriga, whilst on the right the driver is busy with a hoe, hollowing out a grave. However, the prince suddenly decides to move and speak :



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read in the Pāli collection : and this is a salutary warning to us that the latter, considerable though it may be, is far from being complete. Besides, we might have drawn attention in passing to a number of discordances in detail, as regards the treatment of subjects certainly identified, between the prose part of this collection and the bas-reliefs, whilst we have remarked the almost literal harmony between a lapidary inscription and the text of one of the versified refrains known under the popular title of *gāthā* (1). But these are remarks which are of interest chiefly to specialists. I would mention only one point, namely, that they authorize us to believe that the sculptors of Barhut worked not in accordance with a given text, as did those of Boro-Budur, but according to a living tradition, as it echoed in their memory or was transmitted among them.

I will add that they worked also according to nature : you have been enabled to judge for yourselves of their honest care for true detail. Each photographic reproduction of their works has shown you, as through a window opening upon the past, the costumes, weapons, tools, furniture and vehicles employed in India two thousand years ago ; and thus in one hour they have given you through your eyes more concrete ideas about that civilization than you would have been able to acquire in a year's reading. But the greatest service that they have rendered us — for from it flow all the others — was when they carried their foresight to the point of engraving by the side of the majority of their compositions the titles of the subjects which they had intended to represent. What gratitude ought we not to feel towards them for that just distrust of their own talent, so rare among artists ! It has given us the key to ancient Indian

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(1) See below some remarks on the *Śaḍḍanta-jātaka* (Essay VII).

art. So much modesty, sincerity and conviction, do they not go far towards making up for the lack of technical skill? I am sure you will not be severe towards them in this respect : and if these fables, these fabliaux and moralities, have interested your eyes no less than your ears, you will thank not only the narrators of them, but also the worthy old image-makers of India.

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## PLATES V-VI

The Barhut sculptures here reproduced are borrowed, with the permission of the Secretary of State for India, from the beautiful publication of General A. CUNNINGHAM, *The Stūpa of Bharhut* (London, 1879).

Pl. V.	1 (C., pl. XXVI, 5) :	described on p. 38	
»	2 (C., pl. XXVII, 9) :	»	» 40
»	3 (C., pl. XXV, 1) :	»	» 40-41
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»	3 (C., pl. XLVI, 2) :	»	» 45
»	4 (C., pl. XLVIII, 7) :	»	» 45-46
»	5 (C., pl. XLIV, 2) :	»	» 52
»	6 (C., pl. XLVIII, 2) :	»	» 55

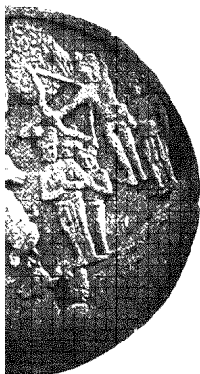




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IN MEDALLIONS





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## The Eastern Gate of the Sâncî Stûpa <sup>(1)</sup>

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The visitor to the Indian Museum in London, the Musée Guimet in Paris, or the Museum für Völkerkunde in Berlin, cannot fail to notice among the objects therein exhibited a monumental gate covered with bas-reliefs; but there is every chance in the world that he will confine himself to casting a quick, heedless glance towards it in passing. A reproduction of a remote Indian original, this moulding naturally cannot have any claim to speak to our European eyes or to awaken in our minds the remembrance of any traditional legend. But then let us bring before it any native of India; he will remain as puzzled and, if he is candid, as silent as we. Do not, however, hastily conclude from this that these sculptures have never had any meaning for anyone, because to-day their compatriots themselves no longer understand anything about them. Only imagine a similar experiment to be tried with us, and that we were set down, for example, before one of the porches of the cathedral of Chartres; how many would be able to read without preparation in the magnificent illustrated Bible so suddenly opened before them? You know that in the eighteenth century no one would have been found capable of this: and in the nineteenth it required a whole phalanx of patient investigators to rediscover the lost meaning of the scenes and figures painted on the windows, or carved under the vaults, by

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(1) Lecture at the Musée Guimet, in *Bibliothèque de Vulgarisation du Musée Guimet*, vol. XXXIV, 1910



our image-makers of the Middle Ages. The conditions are exactly the same for this Gate of Sârchî; with time the subject of its bas-reliefs has ended by becoming, even for the descendants of those who once built or carved it, a veritable enigma. I invite you to join me in investigating its meaning.

I will add that, disagreeable or not, this research is a kind of obligation, which we may no longer with decency shirk. It was in fact the original building, and not the reproduction, that just missed coming to Paris. In 1867-8 the Begum of Bhopâl was instigated to offer to the Emperor of the French one of the four great gates of the *stûpa* of Sârchî, that is to say, a portion of the most beautiful, and even of the unique architectural whole that we have retained from Ancient India. The Begum, indifferent, desired nothing better; but the English resident intervened, and this act of vandalism — we are all the more ready after this lapse of time to designate it as such, since the project fell through — was fortunately not perpetrated<sup>(1)</sup>. However, the Anglo-Indian government understood that there were there archæological remains capable of arousing the interest of artists and scholars. From 1869 it caused to be executed at great cost several mouldings of the eastern gate, one of the only two which had remained standing; and with great liberality it divided them between London, Edinburgh, Dublin, Berlin, Paris, etc. The one which fell to our share had already known some vicissitudes, till at last it found an asylum — if not a shelter — in the courtyard of the Musée Guimet. On the other hand, this costly and somewhat embarrassing present

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(1) See ROUSSELET, *L'Inde des Rajahs*, pp. 522-25 and cf. H. COLE, *Great Buddhist Tope at Sanchi*, introd. (*Tope* is the Anglo-Indian equivalent of the Sanskrit *stûpa*).



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amateurs (¹). From 1881 to 1883 the Archæological Department exerted itself to repair as well as possible this grievous devastation. They closed up the enormous, gaping breach, which had been made in one third of the central dome, under pretext of ascertaining whether it were solid or hollow; they reërected (placing, it is true, several of the lintels so as to face backwards and overlooking in the debris some fragments of the jambs) the southern and western gates, the second of which had fallen only under the weight of the rubbish thoughtlessly thrown upon it; finally, with a zeal almost excessive, they cleared the whole site, without sparing a single tree. Fig. 1 in pl. VII, a kind of horseback view taken from the east in the rising sun, will explain to you better than long descriptions the state and general aspect of the building (²).

Like every old *stûpa*, it is composed essentially of a massive hemispherical dome, raised upon a pediment likewise circular, which was reached by a flight of steps. The whole was made of bricks covered with a stone facing, which in its turn was overlaid with a thick layer of mortar, still existing in places. The terrace, in this case 4<sup>m</sup>,25 high and 1<sup>m</sup>,70 wide, served evidently as a promenade for the perambulations of the faithful. The dome — a kind of giant reliquary, though in the particular case the deposit of relics has never been discovered — measures 12<sup>m</sup>,80 in height, with a diameter of 32<sup>m</sup>,30. The only element to-day lacking to this developed tumulus is the architectural motif which served as a crown : but in thought

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(1) On all these points, see the *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, III, 1834, p. 489, and IV, 1835, p. 712.

(2) I owe the communication of this photograph and the following ones to the kindness of Mr. J. H. MARSHALL, the distinguished Director General of Archæology in India.

it is easy to complete the whole by the aid of the bas-reliefs (see pl. VII, 2). They frequently reproduce the characteristic silhouette of this pinnacle, with the honorific parasol surmounting it, which must have raised the total height to about 25 metres.

According to the invariable custom in India this sanctuary is surrounded by a stone railing, which protected it from profanation, and which, in spite of its massive weight, is evidently an imitation of a wooden fence. In form slightly oblong, it measures across from east to west 43<sup>m</sup>,60, and from north to south 1<sup>m</sup>,10 more, in order to leave room for the flight of steps. In the uprights, 3<sup>m</sup>,10 high, were fixed with mortises and tenons three cross-bars and one coping, the latter 0<sup>m</sup>,68 high. At the four cardinal points an opening was arranged in such a way that the breach was not apparent to the eye, masked as it was in each case by a double elbow in the enclosure. When it was thought to add fronting doors to these slanting entrances, it was necessary to attach the right jamb of each of these latter to the railing by a joint at right angles : in this way were formed four rectangular vestibules, shut in at the sides, and with the front and back faces corresponding alternately as regards rail and opening.

These four gates, or *toranas*, of almost unvarying dimensions and arrangements, are likewise the work of carpenters rather than of masons; and it is even surprising that they should have had the boldness to execute them in stone. They rest on two square pillars, 0<sup>m</sup>,68 broad, 4 metres in height, with an interval of 2<sup>m</sup>,15. These two jambs are surmounted by two great capitals, 1<sup>m</sup>,25 in height and decorated in one case with dwarfs, in another with lions, and in two with elephants. These latter in their turn support no less than three lintels slightly curved, projecting

on the two sides, these lateral projections becoming smaller and smaller, doubtless in order to accentuate the impression of height in the whole (cf. pl. VIII, 1). The entire construction attains a height of about 10 metres, without reckoning the mystic symbols at the summit. Caryatides of a fairly successful outline connect the outer side of the capitals with the first architrave; other figures of men, women, horses with their riders, elephants with their drivers formerly adorned the spaces of the blocks which separate the lintels. It should be remarked at once that these statues are almost the only pieces of sculpture finished in full relief that ancient India has bequeathed to us; most frequently the images even of divinities, such as those which here decorate the bases of the uprights, were not entirely detached from the stone whence the artists' chisel had elicited them. Then again, lintels, coins and jambs have all their visible faces covered with bas-reliefs. The question is to discover what these sculptures represent.

## II

*Means of Identification.* — At first sight the problem seems to be susceptible of the most simple solution. In fact one sees almost everywhere *graffiti*, deeply incised in the ancient Indian alphabet, which, like ours, reads from left to right; it seems then that we have only to come close and decipher them. But, in proportion as we advance in this task, our hope of finding the kind of information which we are seeking diminishes. All that we can learn from each of the *circa* 375 inscriptions cut in the railing and in the gates (1) is

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(1) These inscriptions have last been studied by G. BÜHLER in *Epigraphia Indica*, vol. II, pp. 87 sqq. ; 366 sqq





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they showed themselves much less far-seeing and less modest than their confreres who had just decorated the balustrade of Barhut, and who had not considered it futile to engrave on the stone the titles of their bas-reliefs.

It is as well to state at once that an analogy with a later and well-known motif, a characteristic detail awakening the remembrance of a text, a determinate number of objects forming a traditional group, all these helps and others besides would, no doubt, in the end have opened a way to the interpretation of some of the Sâncî panels; but it is doubtful if these isolated discoveries would ever have gone beyond the stage of ingenious hypotheses, or have deserved to be looked upon as anything but *jeux d'esprit*. If in this matter we are able to arrive at certainties of a scientific character, we owe it to the worthy image-makers of Barhut. It is they who, thanks to the perfectly explicit indications which they themselves have transmitted to us on the subject of their compositions, have furnished us with a key to ancient Buddhist art (1). In the case of Sâncî, where we have to explain a monument closely connected in spirit, as in space and time, with Barhut, it may easily be conceived that these precious and trustworthy data will necessarily be our first and constant resource. While forming a fund of interpretation acquired in advance, they will at the same time furnish a firm starting point for fresh research; for we may expect that one identification will lead to another, and that the panels will mutually explain each other, were it only by reason of their proximity. On the whole, we must not despair of seeing the majority of these pictures in stone come to life by degrees under an attentive gaze; and, thanks to their

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(1) See above, Essay II, p. 29.

expressive mimicry, they will end by making us understand the message which it was their mission to transmit to posterity.

### III

*Decorations, images and symbols.* — If we approach in a practical manner the task thus defined, it will immediately appear to us that we could not have entirely dispensed with the information, or the confirmations, furnished by the written evidence of Barhut, except so far as concerns the purely decorative bas-reliefs. It is a matter of course that the natural intelligence is always and everywhere sufficient to understand the sense and appreciate the æsthetic value of motifs designed solely for the pleasure of the eyes. Nothing is more simple than to classify these ornaments into different categories, according as they are borrowed from the fauna, flora, or the architecture, either local or foreign. Our archæological knowledge will not need to be very extensive in order to enable us to recognize the Iranian origin of a certain number of them, lions or winged griffins, bell-shaped capitals surmounted by two animals set back to back, honey-suckle palmettes, merlons, serrated ornamentation, etc. We shall find, on the contrary, a smack of the Indian soil in the balustrade ornaments, in the horse-shoe arches, in the garlands of lotuses, or even in the elephants so ingeniously sketched according to nature. But neither these identifications, which are within the reach of children, nor those more learned distinctions tell us anything whatever concerning the scenes any more than concerning the idols to which after all these decorations only serve as a framework.

From the first moment that we find ourselves in the presence of our fellow-creatures the problem of iden-



tification becomes infinitely more complicated. Even as regards isolated persons we cannot content ourselves, as in the case of animals, with a simple designation of species. We must at least discern their real nature, whether human or divine; next, try to determine their social rank on earth or in heaven; then finally, if possible, assign a proper name to each. It is a great deal to ask. Certainly we have very little difficulty in recognizing in a frequent feminine figure, seated on a lotus and copiously doused by two elephants, the prototype of the modern representations of Çrî, the Hindu Goddess of Fortune (1). On the other hand, we should scarcely have known what to say concerning the beautiful ladies who connect the jamb with the first lintel, if it were not that we find them again on the Barhut pillars. They have retained, here as there, in addition to their opulent charms and somewhat scanty costume, their eminently plastic pose, and they continue, as is written, « to bend their willow-forms like a bow » and « to lean, holding a mango-bough in full flower, displaying their bosoms like golden jars » (*Buddhacarita*, II, 52 and IV, 35, trans. COWELL). But there, in addition to what we have here, they bear also a little label which teaches us to see in them, instead of simple bayadères, divinities, of an inferior order, it is true, belonging to those whom we should call « fairies ». At the same time, in the lay persons

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(1) See below, *Catalogue*, § 4 a. This resemblance does not at all prove that we have already to do with the goddess Çrî. The frequency of this figure at Sâncî, where it recurs as many as 9 times (see above, p. 18, n. 1), the manner of its juxtaposition to the Bodhi-tree, the Wheel of the Law, and the *Stûpa* of the *Parinirvâṇa* suggest, on the contrary, that we are dealing with a symbolical representation of the Nativity, when the two *Nâgas* (here elephants; see below, p. 109), simultaneously bathed the mother and the unseen child. Accordingly, this scene should have been cited and discussed above, p. 20, had we not preferred to neglect for the moment a hypothesis still awaiting verification.



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representations which have been attempted, nothing more monotonous than the happiness of the heavens. However, the hypothesis becomes quite convincing only after a comparison with inscribed pictures of the paradise of the Thirty-three Gods at Barhut (¹).

One other example is from this point of view still more characteristic. On the posterior frontal of this same gate (pl. VII, 2) is figured a row of vacant thrones under trees, between human and divine worshippers. They were counted. There are seven of them : and thereupon an expert student of Buddhism, the Rev. S. Beal, had not been long in rediscovering in the legend of the Master seven miraculous trees : unfortunately it would be easy to enumerate still more of them. The analogy of certain series in Gandhâra or at Ajañtâ would to-day furnish a much more satisfactory explanation by suggesting that it was a symbolical manner of representing the seven traditional Buddhas of our æon, the last being Çākya-Muni. But you perceive that this conjecture would remain suspended literally in the air... Well, the inscribed bas-reliefs of Barhut have made it a certainty. In fact, they show us in succession all these same trees, of easily recognizable species, above these same seats of stone, between these same worshippers; but in this case each of them bears as on a label the name of the Buddha whose memory it evokes; and thus we can no longer doubt that the intention of the old image-makers was indeed to represent the seven Enlightened Ones of the past by the seven trees under which they sat in order to attain to enlightenment (²).

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(1) See below, *Catalogue*, § 6, and cf. CUNNINGHAM, *Barhut*, pl. XVI, 1, and XVII, 1, and FERGUSSON, *Tree and Serpent Worship*, pl. XXX, 1.

(2) See below, *Catalogue*, § 10 b, and cf. CUNNINGHAM, *ibid.*, pl. XXIX-XXX and FERGUSSON, *ibid.*, pl. IX and Xa (medial lintel of the north gate).

You perceive already, and we may resume in a single sentence, the immediate consequences of this important observation. Following always the same trail, we shall learn to recognize after the symbolism of the tree, which betokens Buddha's attainment of *Sambodhi*, that of the wheel, which signifies his preaching, and finally that of the *stûpa* or tumulus, which is the emblem of his *Parinirvâna*. A comparison with the stelæ on which the old school of Amarâvatî in Southern India was pleased to group the representations of the « four great miracles » will finally settle our ideas on all these points (1). At the same time we shall not only have identified roughly a good half of the Sârchî bas-reliefs; we shall moreover be sufficiently familiarized with the secrets of the studio to be able to approach with some chance of success the interpretation of the remainder of the works.

#### IV

*The Legendary Scenes.* — Kindly bethink yourselves that in fact the Acquisition of Omniscience, the First Sermon and the Final Decease are, with the Nativity or the Vocation, the four chief episodes of the Buddhist legend. Now it is scarcely necessary to say that all the scenes at Sârchî are dedicated solely to the illustration of this legend. In their chronological order they will be divided naturally into three categories, according as their subject is borrowed from the previous lives, from the last life, or from times subsequent to the definitive death of the Blessed One.

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(1) See above, pl. II.

To begin with the past rebirths, it is sufficiently well known that these *jâtakas*, as the Indians call them, are the favourite subjects of the ancient sculptors of Barhut (1) : and this time also we could not put ourselves to a better school to learn to read these riddles in stone. For we must constantly bear in mind that all these bas-reliefs are what our illustrators call « stories without words » : only, instead of depicting the successive episodes in a series of distinct pictures, the old Indian masters, like those of our Middle Ages, did not shrink from placing the incidents in juxtaposition or repeating the characters within one and the same panel. Once we are aware of this procedure, it is a mere pastime to explain their works and to follow the edifying thread of the story through the apparent disorder of the actors and under the accumulation of genre details wherewith they like to crowd the subject. Let us add that the pastime is all the more attractive as, in spite of certain failings in technical skill, we cannot but admire the natural gifts of our sculptors (2).

In the scenes of the last life of the Master we shall, of course, find employed the same method of composition. But there will be added to it another convention, a most unexpected one, and one capable of completely baffling our researches, were it not that we have already been made aware of it; or rather, to employ a better expression, it is

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(1) See above, Essay II.

(2) We have not noticed on the eastern gate any specimen of *jâtaka* ; but, in order that it may not be thought that they were excluded from the repertory of Sâncĭ, let us point out those of the elephant Śaddanta on the posterior face of the middle lintel of the southern gate (FERGUSSON, pl. VIII), of the ṛishi Ekaçringa, recognizable at once by his one frontal horn, and of prince Viçvantara on the lower lintel of the northern gate (FERGUSSON, pl. XI-Xa and XXIV, 3), of the Mahākapi and Çyâma on the southern jamb of the western gate (FERGUSSON pl. XVIII-XIX and XXXIV).





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It is, however, episodes borrowed from the second part of the last existence of the Master that form the bulk of the legendary scenes of SâncĪ. The native artists did not, in fact, resign themselves to reproducing solely and always the same great miracles, symbolized by the tree, the wheel or the *stûpa* : they have fulfilled their undertaking to illustrate in detail the career of Buddha without figuring him. As if this prime difficulty were not enough, they imposed upon themselves a further one, which has not up to now been sufficiently emphasized ; we mean the law to which they submitted of not bringing on to the scene any among the disciples but laymen or any among the monks but heretics prior to their conversion. Thus they deliberately proposed to make us spectators of the Master's work, which consists essentially in the foundation of a monastic order, not only without our seeing the founder, but even without our catching a glimpse of a single Buddhist monk. When we observe the ingenuity which they have displayed in the accomplishment of this unpromising programme, we cannot too much regret the narrow limits within which they have restricted themselves. The eastern gate, to speak only of this one, does not limit itself to showing us typical specimens of this art, at once so natural and so distorted. The panels of the southern jamb supply us in addition with a characteristic example of the manner in which, as we have indicated, they explain by their propinquity each another. On the interior face (pl. IX, 1) Beal had already recognized, and verified more or less satisfactorily in detail, three distinct phases of the conversion of the thousand Brahmanic anchorites, disciples of the three brothers Kâçyapa. Prof. Grünwedel has included in the same series of wonders the picture of the inundation, which occupies the centre of the front face. Henceforth we believe it impossible not to conclude this

series, in accordance with a fixed tradition, by recognizing in the king just below, who is leaving his capital to pay a visit to the Blessed One, Bimbisâra, the famous sovereign of the neighbouring town of Râjagṛiha (Rajgir) and the faithful friend of the Master. There remains now at the top of this same face a representation of the *Sambodhi* : if we reflect that the site of this miracle, namely Bodh-Gayâ, is likewise very near to Uruvilvâ (Urel), where all the episodes of the conversion of the Kâçyapas take place, we shall be at last successful in penetrating the really very simple plan of the artist : whether on his own initiative, or in consequence of the express command of the banker Nâgapiya, his intention was evidently to group on the same jamb legendary events localized in the same district of the country of Magadha (1).

However well the Indian school proper may have been served in its ungrateful enterprise by the monotonous character of this perpetual course of visits and preaching, of conversions and offerings, which forms the career of Buddha, it is self-evident that its system of composition accommodated itself infinitely better to subjects subsequent to the *Parinirvâṇa*, the only ones in which the absence of the Master's figure became quite plausible. If its regular development had not been very soon interrupted by the adoption of the Indo-Greek type of Buddha, which came from the north-west of India, it would probably have been led by the natural course of things to assign a growing importance to this sort of historical pictures, side by side with the pictures of piety. Therefore, we do not hesi-

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(1) See below, *Catalogue*, § 8 et 9; also the interior face of the northern pillar of the same gate is consecrated to Kapilavastu (*Cat.* § 7), the front face of the eastern pillar of the northern gate to the Jetavana of Çrâvastî (FERGUSSON, pl. X and XI), etc.



tate to recognize at once a few attempts of this kind at Sâncî, notably among the bas-reliefs which are freely displayed over the whole width of the lintels. It is scarcely necessary to state that these scenes are not less legendary in fact, or less edifying in intention, than the others. We shall recall, first of all, on the southern gate that vivid representation of the famous war of the relics, which by an ironical return of the things of this world came near to being precipitated by the death of the Apostle of Benevolence. We know that fortunately it was averted<sup>(1)</sup>: the « Seven before Kuçinagara » at last obtained from the inhabitants of the town a portion of the ashes of the Blessed One; and each of these eight co-sharers, keeping his portion or carrying it in triumph to his native land, built a *stûpa* in its honour. It was these eight original deposits — or rather seven of them — that towards the middle of the third century B. C. the famous Açoka, piously sacrilegious, violated, with the sole aim of distributing their contents among the innumerable Buddhist sanctuaries which were then beginning to be scattered all over India. As to the eighth, that of Râmagrâma, it seems to have been already lost in the jungle; and a well-known tradition (although not known to be so ancient) will have it that in regard thereto the royal pilgrim was confronted by the courteous, but definite refusal of the Nâgas, who were its guardians. Now such, surely, is the spectacle offered to us, a century after the event, by the

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(1) See FERGUSSON, pl. VII et XXXVIII (and comp. western gate, *ibid.*, pl. XVIII et XXXVIII. 2) : this scene was originally carved on the face of the lower lintel, and such is indeed the position assigned to it by the drawing of COLE, reproduced by FERGUSSON; but in the restoration this lintel and the higher one were replaced back to front. — It was the same with the three lintels of the western gate : on the other hand COLE had in his drawing inverted the order of the first and the third.



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our studies, we shall be as surprised as any one to observe that we are beginning to understand its mute language. There is now scarcely a part of it whose meaning or intention escapes us, from the genii which mount guard at the foot to the Buddhist symbols which decorate the summit. We may, therefore, consider that we have accomplished the bulk of our task, and I shall confine myself in conclusion to endeavouring to unite your impressions : this will be the best way of summing up the various kinds of interest which these sculptures may present.

The keenest is to be found, perhaps — at least for those among us who have a taste for antiquity — in the very expressive and complete picture that they give us of the ancient civilization of India. Architecture both urban and rural, furniture, tools, weapons, instruments of music, standards, chariots, harness for horses and for elephants, costumes and ornaments for men and women etc., all these concrete and precise details merely await to be detached by a draughtsman, in order to serve as authentic illustrations to a future Dictionary of Indian antiquities. And side by side with this information, which is purely material, but in itself so precious, how much more may we gather concerning even the life of the courts, towns and hermitages, if we glance successively at these anchorites, so busy around their sacrificial fires (cf. further on, page 98); these women who attend to their domestic occupations (page 95); these kings seated in their palaces or proceeding with great pomp through the streets of their capitals, before the curious eyes of their subjects (pp. 91 and 93), etc. What is to be said then of the no less important information which these sculptures furnish concerning the external forms of worship and even of the beliefs, the features worn in popular imagination by genii and fairies, as also concerning the manner

in which the religious conscience of the time conceived the written tradition of Buddhism!

But these are questions reserved for specialists, and, doubtless, many of you are more concerned for the æsthetic value, than for the documentary interest, of these old monuments. From this point of view you cannot have failed to appreciate the perfect naturalness of the artists who worked at them, and I do not hesitate to praise above all the justness of their observation — so remarkable especially in their animals and trees — and the freedom of their execution, in spite of a certain clumsiness and a very pardonable ignorance of *our* perspective. You divine also what a delicate problem is raised as to the determination of the exact place of their works in the general history of art. I do not think that anyone can reasonably contest the statement that this school of Barhut and of Sanchî is a direct expression of Indian genius, with all the spontaneousness and conventionality to be found in either. And in making this statement I am not thinking only of fundamentals, of the thoroughly indigenous character of the subjects which the art proposed to treat : even as regards its specially technical proceedings, that extremely deeply incised relief, that constant search for swarming effects, that systematic overcrowding of the whole available space in the panel by accessory details, it is in the hereditary habits of the wood and ivory carvers of ancient India, not forgetting its goldsmiths, that I should seek their origin. But, if ancient Buddhist art is thus attached by all its roots to its native soil, we should have to be wilfully blind not to see the foreign shoots which have already ingrafted themselves on this wild stock. A quantity of decorative motives have appeared to us so directly borrowed from Persia that their importation can scarcely be explained otherwise than by

an immigration of Iranian artisans. But this is not all : here and there, in bold foreshortenings, in the skilful placing of three-quarter length figures, in the harmonious balancing of groups — in a word, in the detail of the working process, as also in the general arrangement of the composition — we detect growing traces of an influence more subtle and more difficult to disentangle, but incomparably more artistic, which in fact had by the vicissitudes of political history been brought much nearer, the influence of Hellenistic models. Moreover, we now know from a reliable source that this influence had already penetrated as far as there ; and the native artists of Vidiçâ could see quite close to their town the column which had been raised on behalf of a local râjah in the reign of the Indo-Greek king Antialkidas (about 175 B. C.) by the envoy Heliodoros, son of Dion, a native of Taxilâ (<sup>1</sup>).

But, if these bas-reliefs have deserved to hold your attention for an instant, it is not solely for what they teach us or inspire us with a desire to know of the civilization and art of India : it is also and especially for the curious comparisons with our own religious art to which they lend themselves. You have surely observed among them an employment of symbols, in every way analogous to that exhibited by the first Christian artists of the Catacombs at a time when they also had not at their disposal an universally accepted image of the Saviour. The parallelism of the two developments might be pursued still further : and later on, when in both cases the type of the Master had been definitely fixed, it would be no less easy to find in Buddhist tradition written evidence of the tendency, so well known to

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(1) The quite recent discovery of this inscribed pillar is due to Mr. J. H. MARSHALL, J. R. A. S. 1909, p. 1053.





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but the photographs, although annotated by numerous drawings, are almost unusable, because their scale has been too much reduced, and the text, ruined by strange theories, has lost nearly all value. The same remarks apply to the photographs of Sir Lepel GRIFFIN, *Famous Monuments of Central India*, and of H. COLE, *Preservation of National Monuments, India : Great Buddhist Tope at Sâncchi* (1885), and to the text of F. C. MAISEY, *Sâncchi and its remains* (London, 1892). Fortunately the moulding of the eastern gate, given to the « Museum für Völkerkunde » in Berlin, attracted in a very special manner the attention of Professor Grünwedel in Chapter V of his celebrated *Handbuch (Euddhistische Kunst in Indien*, 2<sup>d</sup> ed., Berlin, 1900; revised and enlarged by Dr. J. Burgess, *Buddhist Art in India*, London, 1902, particularly pp. 72-74). We are in perfect agreement with the eminent archæologists of Edinburgh and Berlin as regards the method to be followed : at the same time, we must warn the reader once for all that on several points we have arrived at conclusions somewhat different from theirs. If this treatise marks any progress whatever in the interpretation of the Sâncchi bas-reliefs, it is entirely due to the excellent direct photographs which Mr. J. H. Marshall has put at our disposal.]

The sculptures which cover from top to bottom the eastern gate of the *stîpa* of Sâncchi may be divided into two great categories, the decorative elements and the Buddhist scenes. In reality the line of demarcation between these two orders of subjects is at times very difficult to trace. Many of the so-called ornaments have a traditional symbolical value, and, on the other hand, a great number of the edifying representations tend to pure decoration. The distinction is justified, however, in practice. We shall avoid many useless repetitions, if we decide to classify

in the first category all those motifs whose character, being before all ornamental, is sufficiently emphasized by the fact that they are symmetrically repeated on the beams or the uprights of the stone scaffolding which constitutes the *torana* (cf. above, pp. 65-6).

#### THE DECORATIVE ELEMENTS

§ 1. *Decoration of the jambs.* — Thus it is that the two jambs of the gate, that of the north and that of the south, — or more simply, of the right and left as you enter, — bear on two of their faces motifs which are evidently complementary.

a) Their *outer face* is simply decorated with those pink lotus flowers (*padma* or *nehumbum speciosum*), which, as we know, play a considerable part in Indian ornamentation and symbolism. To the right a series of full-blown roses is enclosed within two waved garlands of these same flowers, graced with buds and leaves. To the left the principal subject consists of a similar garland, whose decoration changes likewise between each undulation of the chief branch : in addition Indian swans (*hamsa*) and a tortoise are intermingled with the flowers.

b) In the two male figures placed opposite each other at the foot of the *inner face* of the two jambs we must, from analogy with Barhut, recognize the protecting spirits of the eastern region, that is, the Gandharvas or celestial musicians, the chief of whom is Dhṛitarâshṭra (cf. above, p. 71). Nevertheless, they are presented simply under the appearance of great Indian lords, wearing turbans and adorned with heavy jewels, earrings, necklaces and bracelets of precious stones. The ends of their long loin-cloths hang in close little pleats in front ; as for the second part of their costume, the scarf, whose usual function is to drape the



body, they wear it negligently tied round their loins. The one holds up the ends of it with his left hand, whilst the other has placed his awkwardly on his hip (see pl. VIII, 2). The latter holds in his right hand a *Bignonia* flower, while the former has a lotus. Both are looking in the direction of the sanctuary, and are leaning against a background formed of a *Bignonia* in blossom and a mango-tree bearing fruit.

§ 2. *Capitals*. — The great capitals which surmount the two jambs of the eastern gate are decorated with tame elephants (pl. VIII, 1). Four of these animals are placed very ingeniously about each pillar in such a way that their heads form a round embossement to the four edges of the corners. Their harness consists of a rich head-stall (from which hang in front of the ears two pendants of pearls, and behind two bells) and a tasselled saddle-cloth, kept in its place by cords which pass under their bodies and form knots on their backs. The person of distinction was seated astride in the most comfortable place on their necks : holding in his hand the special crook (*ankuṣa*), he was his own driver : and, in fact, we know that in ancient India the art of driving elephants formed an integral part of a complete education. Right on the elephant's hind quarters crouches a standard-bearer, who doubtless, in the case of a rapid motion, held on to the knot of the belly-band. As for the elephants themselves with their trunks and one of their fore-feet slightly bent back, they are, as usual, admirably rendered. Formal leaves and flowers decorate the upper part of the capitals. An inscription on the inner face of that to the left invokes imprecations on whosoever shall remove a single stone of the gate or the railing. As regards the two caryatids, see below, § 5 a.



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lower and middle lintels. The former are garnished with two pairs of peacocks — a triumph of graceful design, which is to be found also on the northern gate — and the latter by wild elephants.

§ 4. *The supports.* — We agree to designate by this term the four cubical blocks placed in the prolongations of the uprights and the six uprights set in between the three lintels to separate them from one another.

a) On the *façade* (pl. VIII, 1) the lower support to the right and the upper one to the left both represent a feminine figure seated, with one leg hanging down, upon a lotus issuing from a lottery vase (*bhadra-ghaṭa*) : she holds in her hand this same flower, and on two other lotuses at either side of her two standing elephants douse her, or are in the attitude of dousing her, with two pitchers held at the ends of their trunks. We know that this motif is preserved even to our days in the representations of the Indian Fortune : but we have reasons for believing that this was not the original denotation (1). The subjects of the two other corresponding panels belong, in any case, to the category of Buddhist miracles. The one on the left represents the « preaching of Buddha » by means of the Wheel of the Law placed on a throne under a parasol among the usual worshippers, human and divine. The one on the right shows us — as is proved by the characteristically twisted floweret of his tree, — the Messiah of Buddhism, Maitreya, symbolised by this *campaka* or *nāga-pushpa* (*Michelia champaka* or *Mesua Roxburghii*).

a') On the *reverse* side of the gate (pl. VII, 2) the lower supports are decorated only with lotuses issuing from a *bha-*

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(1) See above, p. 70, n. 1.

*dra-ghaṭa*; but the upper ones return to the legendary scenes with two *stūpas* emblematic of the *Parinirvāṇa* of the Master, and quite similar to those on the front, of which, as we shall see below (§ 10 *a*), they complete the number.

*b*) One may connect with these the symbols on the *front* of the six uprights, symbols usually enclosed between a railing and merlons : namely, formal Bodhi-trees and columns surmounted by the Wheel of the Law or by a lion simply.

*b')* *Behind* they are all covered with the same ornamentation, in which the lotus is united with the honeysuckle.

§ 5. *The detached figures.* — To exhaust the list of symmetrical subjects, nothing further remains for us than to enumerate the detached figures in full relief (cf. above, page 66, and pl. VIII, 1).

*a*) The most interesting are the *fées* (*yakṣiṇī*, cf. above, p. 70), who, with the curve of the mango-tree from which they hang by the two arms, form so ingeniously decorative a bracket. Only the figure on the right is preserved. Like the men, she wears a long *dhōṭī*; only it is made of a more transparent material. Her hair, curiously erected in the form of a brush on the top of the head, is spread over the back (instead of being gathered in a plait, as is the case, for instance, with the female dancers of § 6 *a*). In addition to earrings, necklace and bracelets for the wrists, she wears ankle-rings, which come nearly up to her knees, and the characteristic feature of an Indian woman's toilet, the rich belt of jewelry which covers the loins. In conformity with the custom of the ancient school, the sex is indicated.

*b*) The few smaller figures to be found on this gate — which we may complete in our thoughts by analogy

with the northern gate — comprise also another fairy in a different pose, three elephants, in each case mounted by two persons, and a miserable vestige of a lion.

c) As for the symbols at the summit, they were three in number. At the top of each upright two, of which one is still in its place, represented the top of a flag-staff. In the middle — on a pedestal probably formed of four lions, flanked by two worshippers bearing fly-flappers — stood finally the ancient solar symbol of the wheel, placed at the service of the Good Law.

### THE LEGENDARY SCENES.

After this rapid sketch of the decorative elements we enter upon a necessarily much more detailed examination of the religious scenes. For it is self-evident that it is eminently these that need explanation.

We will begin with those which are figured on the two faces, namely the front and the interior ones, which hold the place of honour in the jambs. We have already seen that their exterior faces bear only one decorative motif (§ 1 a). As regards their rear faces, they left no space above the balustrade, except for two little bas-reliefs, analogous to those which we have already noticed on the supports (cf. § 4 a and a') : taken all together, they represent in the same stereotyped manner, by the pretended adoration of the tree, the wheel and the *stûpa*, the three great traditional miracles of the Illumination, the Preaching, and the Death of Buddha.

§ 6. *Front face of the right jamb.* — This façade is decorated with four superposed buildings : the lower one has only one story; the middle ones have two, both covered with a rounded roof, in which are open bays in the shape of a





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his last re-descent upon earth; (5) for the Gods who dispose of their own creations; — (6) and finally, for those who even dispose of the creations of others, and whose king Mâra, God of Desire and Death, extends his empire over the five lower heavens. As for the two persons on the terrace, they would represent the last divinities still visible to our human eyes, those of Brahmâ's world.

§ 7. *Inner face of the right jamb.* — This face, according to Fergusson, presents an exceptional interest, « being the only subject at Sanchî that we can, with certainty, attribute to Buddhism, as it is known to us ». To-day it is better known; but the representation, on the upper extremity of the middle bas-relief, of the « dream of Mâyâ », — otherwise, the « conception of the Bodhisattva », who descends into his mother's bosom in the form of a little elephant — remains certainly in this case the pivot of all identification. We know that this scene, so strange to our eyes, in which it is a pachyderm which plays the part of the dove in our « Annunciations », is itself certainly identified by the Barhut inscription : « The Descent of the Blessed One ». Consequently, we might be tempted to see in the upper bas-relief a picture of the Bodhisattva in the heaven of the Tushita gods at the moment when he prepares to be born again in the royal family of Kapilavastu. But the sculptor prevents us from going astray in that direction by the care which he has taken to represent before and behind the empty throne obviously the same king and the same tree which we find again at the bottom of the lower panel. He could not more clearly indicate that he is referring us to the latter to find the solution of the enigma.

a) If we turn then to that (pl. IX, 2), we shall find, first of all, in the centre of the composition this same king, about

to set out with great pomp from one of the gates of his good town of Kapilavastu. He is in his chariot, accompanied by the three usual servants, the driver, holding the reins and the whip, the parasol and fly-flapper bearers. As is customary, the horses, whose head-adornment is very high, have their long tails carefully tied up to the harness, doubtless in order that they may not inconvenience the occupants of the chariot. At their left the archers of the guard stand out along the ramparts of the city, and in front march the herald and the seven musicians of the royal orchestra, blowing oblique flutes and shells or beating drums. Behind we perceive, emerging from the streets of the town, a brilliant suite mounted on horses and elephants. Through the balconies of the verandas spectators, mostly women, protrude their heads, curious to see the procession of the feudal cortège of king Çuddhodana and his peers, the noble lords of the race of Çākya.

Where are they going? Not far, it seems, into a park near the town, where all have dismounted; and the first idea is that they are going to the famous park of Lumbinî, theatre of the « Nativity », which may be presaged by the scene (at the top of the panel) of the « Conception ». But there is nothing to corroborate this hypothesis. The king and the Çākya appear indeed all occupied in contemplating with clasped hands some miraculous event: but their eyes are raised into the air, and the object towards which they are turned is a small rectangular slab, stretched exactly above their heads. It cannot take us long to recognize in this slab the « promenade of precious stone » (Skt. *ratna-caṅkrama*) which Buddha created by magic « in the air », on the occasion of his first return to his native town of Kapilavastu (1).

(1) *Mahāvastu*, III, p. 113; Commentary on the *Dhammapāda*, ed. Fausbøll, p. 334; *Mahāvamsa*, XXX, st. 81, etc.



The legend is well known : on the occasion of this meeting between the father, who had remained a king, and the son, who had become Buddha, a most delicate question of etiquette had arisen : which of the two should salute the other first? The Blessed One escaped the difficulty by the miracle which the sculptor has endeavoured to represent as well as he could with his limited means and without representation of Buddha himself.

b) Apparently he was still somewhat distrustful of the intelligence of his spectators ; for, in order to give more precision, he has been careful to put in the first row at the left a *nyagrodha* tree surrounded by a balustrade. This *Ficus indica* (clearly distinguished from the *aquattha* or *Ficus religiosa*, as it is represented, for instance, on the face of the left jamb) is evidently intended to symbolise by itself the *nyagrodha-ârâma* at the gates of Kapilavastu, which on the same occasion king Çuddhodana assigned to his son for a residence. Henceforth the meaning of the upper bas-relief becomes, reciprocally, clear enough. It represents in the same elliptical manner the Buddha seated upon a throne, under this same *nyagrodha*, in the before-mentioned hermitage; and the said king, his father — always to be recognized by the spindle-shaped object kept in its place by a buckle of gems on the top of his turban — « renders homage to him for the third time », whilst the Çâkyas, whose pride has been broken by the miracle, imitate his example. As always, the tree is adorned with garlands and surmounted by a parasol of honour, whilst in the heavens two divinities, mounted on griffons, and two others, half man and half bird, bring still more garlands or cause flowers to rain down.

But what now is the point of the motif of the « Conception », thus intercalated between two episodes which



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the man seated beside her. Further down to the right two more women with round pitchers upon their hips are going in the direction of the river Nairañjanâ (now the Lilañj), where a third is already stooping to fill her *ghaṭi*. Some men are coming and going, the bamboo-pole on their shoulders laden or empty. It is the village life of two thousand years ago : it is also the village life of to-day, and there is not one of the utensils represented there that we have not somewhere seen in use. Troops of oxen, buffalos, goats, sheep add life to the picture. In what does its edification consist? Simply in this, that the invisible Buddha is felt to be seated under a parasol and on a throne, behind which two devotees are standing. Before the gate of the village a third person is likewise to be seen, with his hands clasped; and the attitude of this villager is the only connecting link between the genre scenes, so complacently treated, and the religious subject, which is decidedly a little sacrificed. As for the two worshippers, we believe, after carefully weighing everything, that we must recognize in them the gods Indra and Brahmâ, paying a visit to the Blessed One in his residence, which was near to, but distinct from, that of the oldest of the Kâçyapas, the Kâçyapa of Uruvilvâ. This interpretation not only has the advantage of connecting the subject with the series of wonders which in the end determined the conversion of the Brahmanical ascetics : it also provides a place moreover for the third and fourth of those *prâtihâryas*, besides containing an implicit allusion to the second, in the order in which the *Mahāvagga* (I, 16-18) counts them. If it is objected that these miracles are given in the text as taking place during the night, we shall reply that our sculptors have systematically ignored this detail, for the very good reason that it was not within their competence (cf. below, § 11 a).

b) However the case may be, the panel immediately below represents patently the miracle of the « victory over the wicked serpent », the first in the version of the *Mahāvagga*, the last in that of the *Mahāvastu*. Buddha has been allowed by the oldest of the Kâçyapas to pass the night, at his own risk and peril, in a fire-temple, in spite of the redoubtable *nāga* which inhabits it (pl. IX, 1). The latter at once attacks him, and the two struggle together for a long time, smoke against smoke, flame against flame, until the final defeat of the dragon. This is why we here see flames escaping by the horse-shoe bays in the rounded roof of the temple, « as if it were a prey to fire ». Through the pillars supporting the roof, between the fire altar (or rather vessel of fire) and the five-headed hood of the serpent you see the throne of the invisible Buddha. On either side Brahmanic anchorites, characterised by their high conical-shaped head-dresses and their bark-garments, are contemplating with surprise or respect the victory of the Blessed One, whilst below, to the left, three young novices are hastening to go and fill pitchers at the Nairañjanâ. Their intention, if we are to believe the analogy of Gandhâra (cf. *Art gréco-bouddhique du Gandhâra*, fig. 224, 225 b, etc.), is to use them in extinguishing the fire. On the right an ascetic has just made his report to the old Kâçyapa, seated on a rolled-up mat (*brishi*) on the threshold of his round hut, with its roof of leaves (*parṇaṣṭlā*); a band is passed round his knees and loins, and his head is leaning upon an esparto cushion. In front is a row of trees along the bank of the river. The instruments of the Vedic sacrifice, an elephant, antelopes, two buffalos, which lift their heads with an air of alarm, trees swarming with monkeys, complete or close the picture of the hermitage. On the whole, the miracle is related as minutely as was possible to the sculptor. The

whole question is to find out whether he has not sought, in accordance with his habit, to combine two subjects. At the middle bottom, in the river — indicated as usual by waved lines, lotuses and aquatic birds — an adult anchorite, who is about to bathe, seems to be watching a fire-cauldron, placed in unstable equilibrium on the edge of the water. If we remember that one of the wonders accomplished by Buddha consisted precisely in creating fires, in order to allow the Brahmans to warm themselves on leaving the bath, we cannot help asking ourselves whether we have not here at least one allusion to this further *prâtihârya* (cf. *Mahāvagga*, I, 20, 15).

c) In any case, two, or even three, miracles are grouped on the next small panel. Here again, it is understood, the intention of edifying does not prevent the scene from being treated in a picturesque manner. After the life of the village it is the life of the hermitage that we have before our eyes. On the right two anchorites are splitting wood by means of axes which, if we may judge from their massive appearance and the form of their handles, must be made of stone; two others are occupied in lighting fires, and a fifth holds in his hand a sacrificial spoon, whilst two novices are carrying on their shoulders the one a fagot of logs and the other a double basket of provisions. Among the trees at the back a sacred tumulus, as is proved by the balustrade surrounding it, must enclose the relics of some superior of the community, and thus gives the last touch of local colour (1).

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(1) We may notice that the form of this *stûpa* is the most ancient of which Indian art has preserved the image. In the objects decorating its circumference (a long shell, a double basket (?), and a large conch) we should be disposed to see — like the oar planted by the companions of Ulysses on the tumulus of Elpenor — the implements used by the deceased during his lifetime.





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placed upon the front of the pillar, as it forms the *dénouement* of the episode in the *Mahāvagga* (I. 20, 15 ; wanting in the *Mahāvastu*) : « At this time there fell out of season a heavy rain, and a great flood followed ». You will understand henceforward why the Nairāñjanâ has risen to the point of washing the lower branches of the trees, to the greatest terror of the monkeys who have taken refuge there, and also to the evident satisfaction of the water birds and even of a crocodile. On the swollen waters of the river old Kâçyapa hastens in a curiously jointed canoe, attended by two ascetics with paddles, to the assistance of the Blessed One. But the latter has left his seat (relegated to the bottom at the right of the composition), and has formed for himself a « promenade », which allows him to walk about with dry feet in the midst of the wild waters. This time the anchorite cannot but recognize the transcendent superiority of his host : when we see him again below, standing on the bank with his disciples, he is turning his back towards us, in order to make in the direction of the master's *caṅkrama* the gesture of submission or *añjali*(<sup>1</sup>).

b) There remains then to be explained the panel immediately below. Once more it represents a king leaving his capital : chariot, music, guards, suite, spectators, everything, even the architecture, is similar to § 7 *a*. Only we notice the way in which the rampart of bricks goes right to the top of the panel, in order to separate the city from the

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(1) It appears to us that the ingenious suggestion that he has prostrated himself must be put aside : for in that case we could not understand how his disciples could remain standing ; besides, the flowers placed near him are scattered almost everywhere in the picture and are found likewise on one of the preceding bas-reliefs (§ 8 *b*). Also, the analogy of § 7 *a* is in opposition to the identification of the *caṅkrama* of the Blessed One with the great washing-stone brought to him on another occasion by the god Indra.

scene which takes place on its outskirts. The first thing is to know the name of the town : but this time it is to the neighbouring scenes that we must address our questions. We have already seen above (p. 77) that they reply unanimously : it is the capital of Magadha. The texts for their part agree in telling us that immediately after the conversion of the Kâçyapas and their thousand disciples the Blessed One, at the head of his new community of saints, repaired to Râjagriha, and at the gates of the town received the solemn visit of King Bimbisâra <sup>(1)</sup>. In accordance with the usual custom the king advanced in his good chariot as far as the road would allow a carriage to pass ; then he descended and went on foot towards Buddha. This is what he is doing at the top on the left, followed by one sole companion, whose duty is to represent in his own person the king's innumerable cortège. Before the empty throne of the Blessed One conventional indications of water and rocks succeed, in default of a wood of bamboos, in particularizing the location of the scene on the hill Antagiri near the famous hot springs of Râjgir <sup>(2)</sup>. As for the rest of the story, it must naturally be supplemented by the help of the texts : the king and the people of Magadha wonder at first concerning Buddha and old Kâçyapa, which is the master and which the disciple ; the public homage of the old anchorite will soon decide the question. If we see nothing of all this, it is because the Sâncî bas-reliefs systematically omit all representation

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(1) *Mahāvagga*, I, 22 ; *Mahāvastu*, III, p. 441-449 ; *Divyāvadāna*, p. 393, etc.

(2) Cf. GUNNINGHAM, *Arch. Reports*, III, p. 140 : « I fixed the position of the Bamboo Forest to the south-west of Râjgir, on the hill lying between the hot-springs of Tapoban and old Râjagriha ». It is precisely by the « Gate of the Hot Springs » (*tapoda-dvâra*) that the *Lalita-Vistara*, xvi, makes Buddha for the first time enter Râjagriha.



not only of Buddha, but also of his monks (cf. above, p. 75). It is easy to observe how infinitely clearer the sole representation of the latter makes the same series of episodes on one of the pillars of the balustrades of Amarâvatî (FERGUSSON, pl. LXX, or *Art gréco-bouddh. du Gandh.*, fig. 228).

c) Finally, every one must recognize at the top of this same face, in the religious fig-tree (*açvatthā*) surmounted, as usual, by a parasol and inhabited by winged genii, the tree and the symbol of the perfect « Bodhi of the Blessed One Çākya-Muni » : of this the inscription on an analogous bas-relief at Barhut convinces us. In both cases we find at the foot of the same tree the same throne, surmounted by the same symbol (which is double at Barhut), and, about the offshoot of the branches, the same temple open to the sky. We may safely aver that this strange sanctuary is, at the earliest, that which Açoka had piously built around the sacred tree, more than two centuries after the death of the Master : but this flagrant anachronism is one of those to which we are perfectly accustomed in the religious art of all times and all countries, and does not in any wise prevent the picture from relating to the very miracle of the Illumination of Buddha. Perhaps it has not been observed with sufficient attention that the analogy of Barhut forces us to establish a close connection between this scene and the double row of people contiguous to it : the whole difference consists in the fact that here they are above it, while in the former case they are below ; but the inscriptions prove that they are different categories of Gods, and must be regarded as grouped in adoration at the four cardinal points of the tree, as happened at the moment of the *Sambodhi*(<sup>1</sup>). Henceforward we must here also recog-

(1) For the bas-reliefs see CUNNINGHAM, *Barhut*, pl. XIV, 1, and for the



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seven last Buddhas of the past, typified alternately by the tumulus of their *Parinirvâna* and the tree of their *Sambodhi* (pl. VIII, 1). The sculptor, having only two trees at his disposal, considered it his duty to give the honour of being placed on the fronton to the first and the last Buddha of the series : in fact, by comparison with the reverse side, one can distinctly recognize on the right of the central *stûpa*, the *Bignonia* of Vipacyin, and on the left the sacred fig-tree of Gautama, otherwise called Çâkyâ-muni. On the other hand, the two missing tumuli are restored on the two upper supports (cf. § 4 a') of the reverse side, so as to complete the traditional number. This observation allows us to suppose that some æsthetic scruple alone prevented the artist from placing the seven *stûpas* in a row on the façade, as on the other face he did not hesitate to do with the seven corresponding trees (cf. above, p. 72).

b) For the *rear façade* (pl. VII, 1) it will be sufficient to give, according to the text and the inscribed bas-reliefs at Barhut, a list of the seven Buddhas and their respective *Bodhidrumas*. Here they are, in the order in which they are presented, going from right to left of the spectator :

Vipacyin ( <i>Pâli</i> Vipassin).	Pâtali ( <i>Bignonia suaveolens</i> ).
Çikhin ( <i>P. Sikhin</i> ).	Puṇḍarîka ( <i>Mangifera</i> ..... [and not <i>nymphæa</i> ]).
Viçvabhû ( <i>P. Vessabhu</i> ).	Çâla ( <i>Shorea robusta</i> ).
Krakucchanda ( <i>P. Kaku-</i> <i>sandha</i> ).	Çirîsha ( <i>Acacia sirissa</i> ).
Kanakamuni ( <i>P. Koṇa-</i> <i>gamana</i> ).	Udumbara ( <i>Ficus glome-</i> <i>rata</i> ).
Kâçyapa ( <i>P. Kassapa</i> ).	Nyagrodha ( <i>Ficus indica</i> ).
Gautama ( <i>P. Gotama</i> ).	Açvattha ( <i>Ficus religiosa</i> ).

It will be well likewise to connect with this series the

representation, on one of the upper supports of the façade, of the tree of the eighth and future Buddha of our age, Maitreya (cf. § 4 a).

§ 11. *Middle lintel.* — The middle lintel, which is closer to the eye of the spectator, replaces these symbolical pictures by two episodes, borrowed, the one from the youth, the other from the career of Çākya-muni.

a) *Front face.* — We have already stated (above p. 75) what from the point of view of Buddhist iconography constitutes the chief interest of the central panel (pl. X, 1). On the left we perceive the stereotyped representation of a town, proved by the context to be Kapilavastu; in its streets and at its windows the customary animation is to be seen (cf. § 7 a and 8 b) : it is clear that the sculptor has not troubled himself in the least about the fact — which of course he knew as well as we do — that the escape of the Bodhisattva took place during the night. The latter, on his good horse Kaṇṭhaka, is passing through the city gate for « the great departure » (*Mahābhinishkramaṇa*); and we can follow, to the right, in no less than four successive editions, the progress of his miraculous course : but on each occasion the embroidered rug which serves as a saddle to his steed is presented to us without a rider. Each time also the cortège is the same : Chandaka, the faithful attendant, holds, as usual, the parasol; four Gods are lifting the horse's feet, in order, it was thought, that the sound of his shoes might not give the alarm; another has taken possession of the fly-flapper : two others, who at first are dwarfs, but for the sake of variety, strangely enough, grow bigger by degrees as they advance towards the right, are carrying the ewer and the sandals; next, others are throwing flowers, waving their scarves, or beating the heavenly drums. When

the right jamb of the gate forces the sculptor to end the series of his repetitions, the attendant and the horse are, as it is written, taking leave of their Master. But the latter is figured only by the gigantic imprint of his feet, marked by the wheel and surmounted by the fly-flapper and the parasol. Finally, at the bottom on the right, Chandaka is returning to the house, leading with him Kaṇṭhaka and bringing (in his right hand and in a kind of wallet slung over his shoulder) the jewels which the young prince has just taken off for ever, in order to embrace the religious life. The three persons, at once both edified and contrite, who follow, are, doubtless, the emissaries whom king Çuddhodana vainly charged to bring back his son.

Such is the manifest meaning of this long scene : but we still have to account for the sacred tree — the parasol surmounting it, and the railing which surrounds it, are a proof of this sacredness — which occupies the centre of the panel. Assuredly it is there for reasons of symmetry ; but this position of honour demands also that it shall have a meaning : and this meaning will come to us the very moment that we recognize in it (thanks always to the comparison with the inscribed bas-relief of Barhut, CUNNINGHAM, pl. XLVIII, 11) a *jambu* tree (*Eugenia jambu*). A *jambu* tree so close to Kapilavastu cannot be, in Buddhist art, anything but the one whose shadow ceased one day to turn to the sun, in order to continue to shelter « the first meditation » of the still young Bodhisattva. We shall notice how three persons, without ceasing to associate themselves with the principal action, form around the tree of the miracle the necessary group of worshippers. Thus the artist has been able to combine most ingeniously in one and the same picture a summary indication of the commencement, and a detailed representation of the dénoue-





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Now there was indeed a celebrated occasion on which, after the great internal quarrel of Kauçambî, Buddha left his community, in order to retire into solitude : and he was among the beasts and the beasts even served him (*Mahāvagga*, x, 4, 6-7). But here we find none of the traditional details of the episode, at least as it is related in the Pāli text.

§ 12. *Lower lintel*. — Then the last lintel seems to us to bear on its two faces scenes subsequent to the death of Buddha.

a) *Front face*. — In the centre stands the tree now so well known to us as that of his Illumination (cf. § 9 c) : but here this tree receives a royal visit. It is quite certain that the Blessed One was not visited by any king at Bodh-Gayâ : for the texts give us a detailed account of the manner in which he employed the days, and even weeks, which preceded and followed his attainment of omniscience. It remains, therefore, that it can only have been in commemoration of Buddha that the ceremony here represented took place. Let us remind ourselves, however, of what is told us of Açoka, how the great emperor evinced a special devotion to the tree of the Bodhi, and continually showered presents upon it, so many and so often that his favorite queen, Tishyarakshitâ, looking upon it as a rival, became jealous and caused a pariah sorceress to cast a spell upon it. The tree began to wither, and Açoka declared that he would not survive it ; fortunately the queen, being undeceived, was able in time to arrest the effect of the witchcraft ; whereupon the emperor decided to do « what none of the sovereigns of the past, neither Bimbisâra nor the others, had done », that is, to come in procession and, with a view to giving back to the tree all its first splen-

dour, « to water it with pitchers of scented water » (*Divyâvadâna*, p. 397-398). Now what is it exactly that we see here (pl. X, 2)? On the right a king, accompanied, as usual, by his wives, his orchestra, and his guards, dismounts languishingly from his elephant, encouraged, it seems, by his queen and helped by a young dwarf. The latter is probably a *Yaksha*, exactly like those who frequent the interior of the sanctuary; for we are told that, like Solomon, Açoka commanded the genii. Immediately on the right of the sacred tree we see again the same king, preceded by his queen, and both with their hands devoutly clasped render homage to it. On the other side there advances likewise, to the sound of another orchestra, a solemn procession of faithful laymen, bearing banners, flowers, and further (in their midst and in the front rank) pitchers, evidently intended for the watering of the tree. This last detail has won our conviction (cf. above, p. 79). Finally, from this identification it would result that this time the indication of the temple round the tree open to the sky would not be an anachronism (cf. p. 102).

b) *Rear face*. — Besides, as we have already said, this is not the only legend belonging to the cycle of Açoka that seems to us to have inspired the image-makers of Sâncî. Concerning the tumulus of Râmagrâma two other stories were still current among them; or rather two versions of the same story. According to one this *stûpa* was honoured by mythical serpents (*nâga*); in the other it was wild elephants (*nâga*) who paid their devotions to it: we are not far from believing that this simple pun gave rise to the two forms of the tradition. However that may be, the first is figured on the southern gate: the other, we believe, is here. Besides, whatever may be the name by which the *stûpa* is called, there is no doubt as to the meaning of the



story written in stone. Those are, in fact, wild elephants, which are marching in procession towards the sanctuary from the two extremities of the lintel; and it is indeed as votive offerings that they lift in their trunks, or are still dragging with their tusks, flowers torn from the lotuses in the nearest lake.

We shall here end these notes, already, perhaps, too long and nevertheless most summary. If we wished to describe in detail and one by one the five hundred and more characters, who, without counting the animals, figure on this one gate alone, we should never have finished; and we might just as well undertake to write an encyclopædia of Indian Antiquities. The little that we have said will, at least, be sufficient to justify the double allegation which we believed might be put forward regarding this gate (p. 80) : it seems in fact upon investigation that these sculptures are for the most part deciphered; and no one will think of disputing the fact that they offer a certain amount of interest for the history of civilization in general, and more especially for that of art applied to religion.

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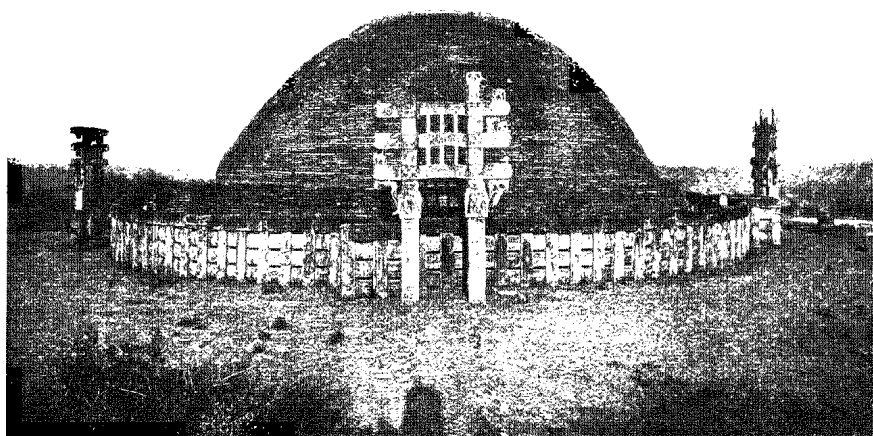
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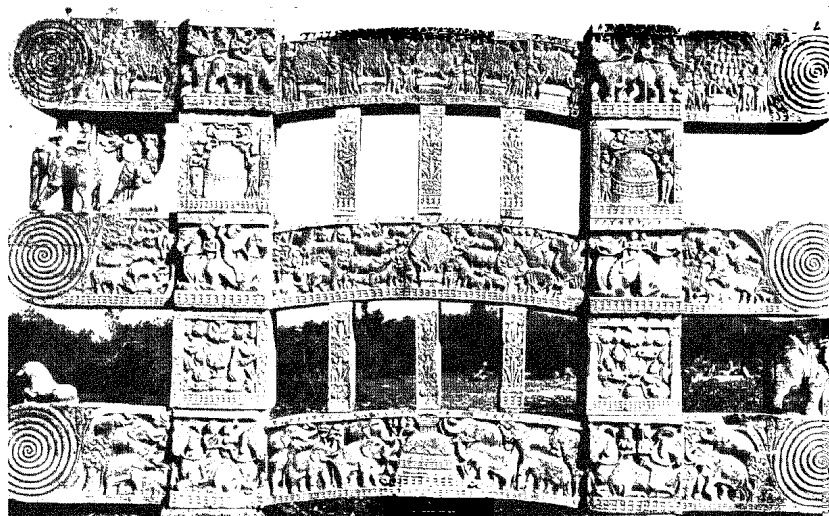
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1 — GENERAL VIEW, TAKEN FROM THE EAST



2. — BACK VIEW OF LINTELS OF EASTERN GATE







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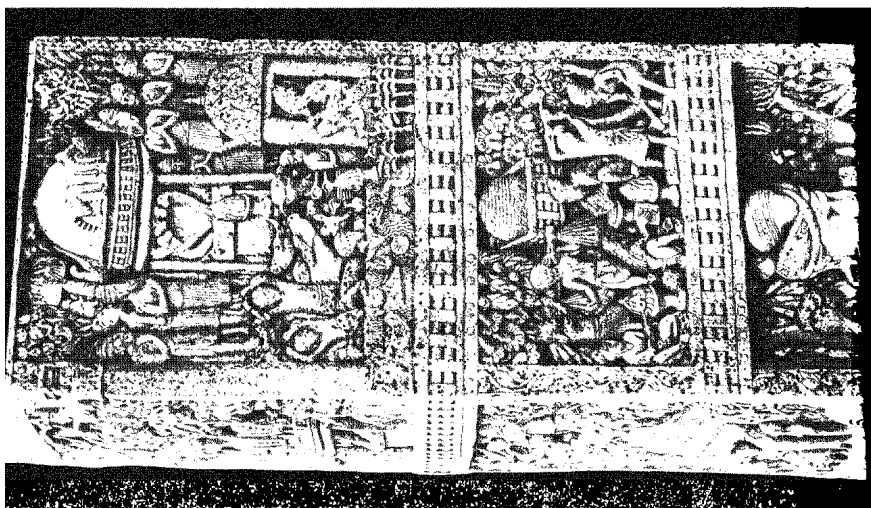
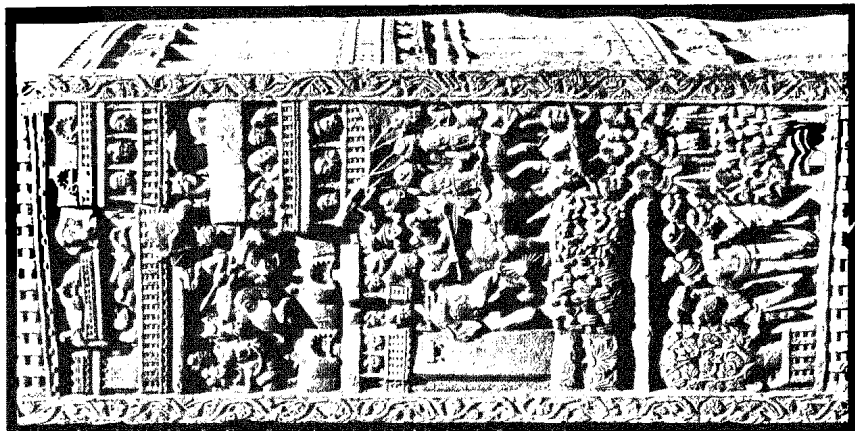
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## The Greek Origin of the Image of Buddha <sup>(1)</sup>.

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One of the advantages of the Musée Guimet most appreciated by its orientalist lecturers is that they are free to dispense with the oratorical precautions which they must take everywhere else. Generally, wherever they venture to open their mouths, they believe themselves obliged to begin by asking pardon of their auditors for the great liberty which they take in speaking on subjects so far removed from their usual occupations and for drawing them into surroundings so different from those in which they are accustomed to move. Such a formality would in this case be entirely superfluous. You could not but be aware of the fact that on crossing the threshold of this Museum you would immediately find yourself transported from Europe to Asia, and you would hardly expect me to apologize for speaking of Buddha in the home of Buddha. For, if he is not the sole inhabitant of this hospitable house, haven of all exotic manifestations of religious art, I dare at least to say that he is its principal tenant. To whatever gallery your steps may lead you, be it consecrated to India or to China, to Indo-China or to Tibet, to Japan or to Java, him you will never fail to meet again and again, in room after room, with the dreamy look of his half-closed eyes and his perpetual smile, at once sympathizing and disillusionized. If the distraction of your gaze, wandering

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(1) Lecture at the Musée Guimet (*Bibliothèque de Vulgarisation du Musée Guimet*, vol. XXXVIII).

from image to image, does not too much dissipate your attention, and if your minds succeed by degrees in disregarding the diversity of the dimensions and the variety of the materials, you will not be long in noticing that always and everywhere, minute or gigantic, carved in wood, cut in stone, modelled in clay, cast or beaten in metal, he continues to be astonishingly like himself. Soon, by dint of verifying the justness of this first observation, you will arrive at the reflexion that so great an uniformity supposes, at the origin of all these idols, the existence of a common prototype, from which they will have been more or less remotely descended. And thus in the end you are inevitably confronted by the question which I have to-day set myself the task of answering. If it shall appear that the reply brings us back straightway and in a rather unexpected manner towards the familiar horizons of our classic antiquity, well! that will simply be one more element of interest.

But before interrogating the images of Buddha concerning their more distant origins, it is well to define exactly what we mean by the name. Europeans commonly make the strangest abuse of it. How many times have I not heard — and usually on the most charming lips — the very elementary principles of Buddhist iconography outraged, and no matter what statuette, Chinese, Tibetan, or Japanese, however monstrous it might be, thoughtlessly designated by the name which ought to be reserved for Çâkyamuni and his peers! What would you think of an Asiatic who should designate *en bloc*, by the one name of « Christ », not only Our Lord, God the Father, the Holy Ghost, and the Blessed Virgin, but also all the angels, all the saints, and even all the devils of Christianity? After having first laughed, you would soon cry out at the sacrilege: and yet that is what we calmly do every day by lump-





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time and space, in the depths of our terrestrial past as well as in the abysses where at this moment move all the other universes. But such is the servile fidelity of these copies that from the iconographic point of view one may say : « There is no Buddha but Buddha ». Now the essential character of this figure is precisely that always and everywhere, through all the differences of gesture and pose, it assumes only one form, simply and purely human. This is the most important fact to be borne in mind. As for the particular signs which prevent our ever failing to recognize the type, the first statue or photograph to your hand will familiarize you with them.

## I

Here then we are agreed : together we seek the origin of the image of the Indian mendicant who, by the prestige of his intelligence, his goodness and, perhaps, also of his personal beauty, exercised over his contemporaries an influence capable of forming a basis for one of the three great religions of the world, that which from his epithet we call Buddhism. At the first view the problem does not seem so very complicated. Granted that all these representations seem to descend from a common prototype, the question resolves itself into discovering the place, time, and occasion of the first appearance of this type. In other words, it will be necessary, but sufficient, to determine which are the most ancient known images of Buddha. Theoretically, nothing is more simple; in practice we quickly perceive that the thing is sooner said than done.

It is in Ceylon, the first Buddhist stage on the maritime high road of Asia, that the European usually finds himself

for the first time in the presence of veritable idols of the Blessed One. Most often he restricts himself to an excursion, along red roads losing themselves in the distance under a slowly diminishing arch of green palmeries, to the singularly modernized temple of Kelani, a little to the north of Colombo. But, even if he pushed on as far as the ancient ruined towns of the interior, he would be no more successful in finding in their old statues the original type which we are seeking. With still greater reason would he renounce the idea of encountering it in the other terrestrial paradise, that of the austral hemisphere; for the not less luxuriant island of Java was also only an Indian colony, and, doubtless, it became so later than did Ceylon. The hundreds of Buddhas who have given a name to Boro-Budur are attributed only to the IX<sup>th</sup> century of our era. The even more recent character of the majority of the idols which are still venerated in Cambodia, Siam and Burmah shows only too clearly through their tinsel and their gilding. The most ancient Lamaic images could hardly be anterior to the official proclamation of Buddhism in Tibet towards the year 632. In Japan everyone will tell you that the figure of the Master was not introduced there until the VI<sup>th</sup> century, and that it came from China through the intermediacy of Corea. Nor do the most ancient Chinese images known to us, those of the grottoes of Long-Men or of Ta't'ong-fu, which M. Chavannes has just made known by reproductions, go back beyond the IV<sup>th</sup> century (1). Finally, the last archæological missions in Central Asia have succeeded in proving, as had already been supposed, that their model came from India by the two routes which

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(1) E. CHAVANNES, *Mission archéologique dans la Chine septentrionale*, Paris, 1909.

on the north and the south skirt the desert of Turkestan (').

Thus clearly were we directed in advance to seek the plastic origins of Buddha in the very places which saw the beginning of his doctrine. And, were it not of interest to prove the diffusion and permanence of the type through the whole of eastern Asia, we might have spared ourselves this vast circuit. The point clearly marked for the serious commencement of our quest is the country of Magadha, otherwise that province of Behar which the latest imperial proclamation of Delhi has just officially detached from Bengal. But the numerous statues in black basalt, which we there find — to begin with that which has been set up over the altar of the temple of Bodh-Gayâ, at the very spot where the Illuminated received his Illumination —, go back for the most part only to the dynasty of the Pâlas, which was overthrown by the Musalmans in the XII<sup>th</sup> century of our era. The excavations of Sârnâth, the site of the First Preaching, in the northern suburb of Benares, have furnished us with more ancient examples, carved in a grey sandstone of an uniform tint, which mark at the time of the Gupta Kings (IV<sup>th</sup> and V<sup>th</sup> centuries A. D.) a kind of renaissance of Indian art. More to the north-west the ruins of Mathurâ, far to the south-west those of Amarâvatî have supplied us with still older ones, which the mention on the former of the Indo-Scyths, on the second of the Ândhras carry as far back as the II<sup>nd</sup> century of our era. But whether carved in the yellow-spotted red sandstone of

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(1) See, for example, in GRÜNWEDEL, *Bericht über archäologische Arbeiten in Idikutschari und Umgebung im Winter 1902-1903* (Munich, 1906), pl. IV, fig. 1, a specimen from Turfan, and in M. A. STEIN, *Ancient Khotan*, pl. LXXXII, 2, another example from the environs of Khotan.



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the filial piety of Rudyard Kipling at the beginning of « Kim » — is no longer there to tell us ; we regret to have heard last year of his death, and moreover he retired long ago. But his successor will answer you that all these carvings came originally from the district of Peshawar, on the right bank of the Indus, at its confluence with the Kabul-Rûd... And, doubtless, your first astonishment will be that, after having vainly sought not only throughout the whole of still Buddhist Asia, but in the very places which saw the birth of Buddhism, the cradle of the images of the founder, we have finally discovered it in a Musalman country and on the western confines of India.

What this district is at present I would only too willingly stop to describe to you ; for I have trodden it in every direction during happy months of archæological campaigning. Gandhâra — for such was its Sanskrit name — shows us after all only a vast, gently undulating plain, bristling in places with rugged hills, and three parts encircled by a belt of fawn-coloured or bluish mountains, which nearly everywhere limit the horizon. But the opening left by them on the south-east over the Indus is the great gate of India ; and to the west the winding Khyber pass remains the principal route of communication between the peninsula and the Asiatic continent ; and the towns which formerly guarded this ancient route of invading armies and merchant caravans were Purushapura (now Peshawar) ; Pushkarâvatî, the Peukelaotis of the Greeks ; Çalâtura, the natal town of Pânini, the great legislator of Sanskrit grammar ; Udabhânḍa (now Und), where the great river was passed, in winter by a ford, in summer by a ferry, and whence in three days one reached Takshaçilâ, the Taxilâ of the historians of Alexander... And immediately you feel how in this country, which one might call doubly classic, memories

associated with the two antiquities, Hellenic and Indian, arise from the ground at each step. Even if history had not preserved for us any remembrance of the memorable encounter between the two civilizations, the mute witnesses in stone, which we have come purposely to interrogate, would be sufficient to establish it. To cut as short as possible (1), let me lead you straight to the centre of the country, into the little garrison town of Hoti-Mardân : and there, at the hospitable mess of the regiment of the Guides, I will show you, leaning against the wall of the dining-room and no longer inhaling any incense but the smoke of the cigars, the most beautiful, and probably also the most ancient, of the Buddhas which it has ever been granted to me to encounter (pl. XI, 2).

Look at it at leisure. Without doubt you will appreciate its dreamy, and even somewhat effeminate, beauty; but at the same time you cannot fail to be struck by its Hellenic character. That this is a statue of Buddha there is not the least doubt: all the special signs of which I was speaking a short time ago bear witness to its identity. Is it necessary to make you lay your fingers upon that ample monastic robe, that pretended bump of wisdom on the crown of the head, that mole between the eyebrows, that lobe of the ear distended by the wearing of heavy earrings, and left bare because of the total renunciation of worldly adornments? These are all traits which we might have anticipated from the perusal of the sacred texts. But, if it is indeed a Buddha, it

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(1) Here, of course, we can only note the principal points. Those who are anxious for details concerning the country, its archæological sites, and the results of the excavations, will pardon us if we refer them to our works *Sur la frontière indo-afghane* (Paris, 1901), *La Géographie ancienne du Gandhâra* (B. E. F. E-O, I, 1901), *L'Art gréco-bouddhique du Gandhâra* (Paris, 1905-1914).

is no less evidently not an Indian work. Your European eyes have in this case no need of the help of any Indianist, in order to appreciate with full knowledge the orb of the nimbus, the waves of the hair, the straightness of the profile, the classical shape of the eyes, the sinuous bow of the mouth, the supple and hollow folds of the draperies. All these technical details, and still more perhaps the harmony of the whole, indicate in a material, palpable and striking manner the hand of an artist from some Greek studio. If the material proofs of the attribution constitute what I should be prepared to call the native contribution, neither will you hesitate to ascribe to an occidental influence the formal beauty of the work. Thus the statue of Mardân, with all its congeners, appears to us as a kind of compromise, a hybrid work, which would not in any language have a name, had not the no less heteroclite term of « Greco-Buddhist » been forthwith invented for it.

## II

Such is the — I must confess unexpected — result of our researches on the spot. It is only in the country which from our point of view we might quite correctly call the vestibule of India, that we finally discover the archetype of Buddha; and when at last we find it, it is to acknowledge that its appearance is at the least as much Greek as Indian. The fact is, doubtless, sufficiently surprising to call for some commentary. What historical circumstances can have rendered possible, and even spontaneously engendered, this creation of the Indo-Greek type of Buddha? — What attracts us most in the question is, I will warrant, how the Hellenic influence could thus have reached as far as the





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Good Law. Then again, according to the Singhalese chronicle, the *Mahāvamsa*, it was precisely during his reign that the apostle Madhyântika converted Gandhâra as well as Kashmir. Thus the religion of Buddha would have taken more than two hundred years to spread from Magadha as far as the frontiers of northern India. We see no reason for contesting the authenticity of a tradition in itself so probable.

Besides, whatever may be the exact date of the introduction of Buddhism into Gandhâra, it must there have been specially successful. We shall end by finding there, duly acclimatized and deeply rooted, a quantity of legends which the missionaries had brought with them from the low country. Some did not hesitate to bring Buddha himself on the scene. It was, they said, the Master in person, who had overcome the terrible Nâga of the Swât river, and had limited the disastrous inundations, whence this aquatic genius derives all his subsistence, to one in every twelve years. In the same way it was no longer at Râjagriha, but at one stage to the north-west of Pushkarâvatî, that the Blessed One is now supposed to have converted the insatiable ogress of Smallpox. Thanks to the want of orthodoxy on the part of mothers, when the health of their children is in question, this last superstition has in the minds of the present inhabitants of the country almost alone survived the total wreck of Buddhism. A small quantity of earth from a certain tumulus, placed in the *taviz*, or amulet-case, usually suspended round the neck of the new-born, is still considered an infallible preservative against the terrible infantile epidemic; and it is owing to this curious property, joined to the topographical information of Hiuan-tsang, that I was able to recognize the traditional site of this miracle.

However, it was to be feared that these narratives of a

personal intervention of the historic Buddha in Gandhâra might justly meet with the same incredulity as those which, in my native province, begin with the words : « At that time, our Lord Jesus Christ was travelling in Brittany... » For the purpose of localization in the country they preferred, it seems, to fall back upon the numerous previous lives in the course of which the future Buddha attained the summit — or, as we should say to-day, established a record — in all perfections. The monks of several convents in the neighbourhood of Shâhbâz-Garhî had, for instance, divided among themselves, by very clever adaptation to the picturesque accidents of the landscape, the various episodes of the romance of Viçvantara, that monomaniac of charity. Others had, so to speak, specialized either in the touching story of the young anchorite Çyâma, sole support of his old blind parents, or in the galant adventure of the wise Ekaçriṅga, whom the seductions of a courtesan reduced to the role of beast of burden, etc... But they did not stop there; an exceptionally holy tetrad of great *stûpas*, situated in Gandhâra proper, or in the bordering territories, soon marked the place where the Sublime Being had formerly, in one existence after another, made a gift of his flesh, his eyes, his head, and his body — the first to buy back a dove from a hawk, the last to satisfy a famished tigress, and the two others with an intention whose practical utility, if not its edifying character, escapes us. And thus northern India came to possess, like central India, its « four great pilgrimages ». It is not in any way an exaggeration to say that Gandhâra thus became (after Magadha) as it were a second Holy Land of Buddhism; and we see that certain Chinese pilgrims were quite content with a visit there, without feeling the necessity of pushing as far as the basin of the Ganges.

Only this local prosperity of Buddhism can explain to us the number and the richness of the ancient religious foundations of the country. Some repose under the tumuli which dot the plains on every side, and are used by the present inhabitants as stone-quarries. Others are hidden in the folds of the mountains, or with their crumbling walls cover the sharp crest of some spur. Among the former I will name to you in particular those which underly the enormous mound of Sahri-Bahlol (pl. XIII) : though excavated long ago, they still with their artistic spoils enrich the museum which has lately been established in Peshawar, as capital of the new « North-West Frontier Province ». Among the second I will show you as a specimen the celebrated ruins of Takht-i-Bahai with their equally inexhaustible reserves (pl. XII, 2) ; on the platform above the imposing retaining walls rise the dismantled chapels where once were enthroned the statues which have since taken the road to our museums, those mortuaries of dead Gods. You are free to restore them in thought with the splendour borrowed from the colours, and even from the gold, with which in former days care was taken to increase in the dazzled eyes of the faithful their appearance of life. But, above all, you must grasp the fact that in this country you literally walk on ruins, and there is scarcely a corner where a few strokes with the pick-axe will not bring to light some Buddhist bas-relief or statue. Evidently Hiuan-tsang was scarcely exaggerating, when he estimated approximately, and in round numbers, at a thousand the number of monasteries which once constituted the ornament, as also the sanctity, of Gandhâra. If you will now reflect that this anti-chamber of India has from all times been the region most open to western influences, moral as well as artistic, you will understand the double role which it was naturally called upon





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his retreat across the deserts of Gedrosia (the present Beluchistan) ended disastrously — so that this expedition into India, if only we replace the cold by the heat, the snow by the sands, was, as it were, the Russian campaign of the Macedonian conqueror. Much more fruitful of results was the constitution of the Greek kingdom of Bactria, on the confines of the north-west of India, about 250 B. C., in open revolt against the Seleucides. The beautiful coin of Alexander, son of Philip, which you see in pl. XIV, 2, was struck not by Alexander himself, but in imitation of his by king Agathokles, whose name and titles you read on the reverse, encircling the image of Zeus. Everything in this medal is still purely Greek.

Fifty years later Demetrios, son of Euthydemos, profiting by the break-up of the empire of the Mauryas, conquers and annexes the whole of northern India; and immediately you see in that helmet, made from the head of an elephant, as it were a trace of the Indian orientation of his policy (pl. XIV, 2). This latter must, besides, have ended by costing him his original kingdom. Another valiant condottiere, Eukratides, rebelled in his turn, and made himself master of Bactria; so that, as Strabo tells us, there remained to Demetrios nothing more than his Indian conquests, and he was henceforward known under the name of « King of the Indians ». This is a capital fact, to which I could not too strongly draw your attention. During a century and more the Panjâb was thus a Greek colony, in the same way as it afterwards became Scythian, then Mogul, and finally English. That is to say, a handful of foreigners, supported by mercenary troops, in great part recruited in the country itself, became masters there, and levied the taxes. You may easily perceive that this kingdom was a centre of attraction for Greek adventurers of all kinds,

beginning with soldiers of fortune and mountebanks, and passing by way of merchants to the artists who took upon themselves, among other tasks, that of making the superb coins to which we are indebted for the survival of the classically sounding names and the energetic features of those so-called « Basileis », changed into very authentic rājahs.

Of all these Indo-Greek kings I will name only Menander (pl. XIV, 2), since he is known to us not merely from the narrative of Plutarch, but also from Indian texts. A curious apologetic treatise, entitled « The Questions of Milinda » and composed as a dialogue in the Platonic manner, brings before us in the town of Sâgala on the one hand Hellenism, represented by Menander, the king of the Yavanas (Ionians), and on the other hand Buddhism, in the person of Nâgasena, one of the patriarchs of the church. According to native tradition the monk even converted the king. However, on the reverse of his coins, Pallas Athene continues still to brandish the paternal lightning of Zeus. She does not seem in any way to care how little her image squares with the exotic surroundings of the language and the writing in which Menander, generalizing a usage inaugurated by his predecessors, is always careful to have the Greek legend of the face translated for the use of his Indian subjects. Never, in truth, were the circumstances more favourable than during his reign (between 150 and 100 B. C.) for planting the germ of the whole subsequent development of Greco-Buddhist art by the creation of the Indo-Greek type of Buddha. What, in fact, is that beautiful statue which I showed you just now (pl. XI, 2), but an Asiatic coin struck in European style? And what more simple for artists initiated into all the secrets of Hellenic art, as were the authors of



those magnificent medals, than to adopt for the representation of the Indian Saviour the most intellectual type of their beardless Olympians? Thus we arrive quite naturally at the strange and quaint mixture which we were analysing a short time ago, at this statue, which is a Hellenized Buddha, unless you prefer to describe it as an Indianized figure of Apollo.

Thus must have been created under the industrious fingers of some *Graeculus* of more or less mixed descent — and perhaps, also, who knows? at the command of a Greek or an Eurasian convert to Buddhism — the earliest of the images of Buddha. Yet, since we are forced to touch upon the question of chronology, it is only, I must confess, in the first century of our era, that the type of Buddha at last makes its appearance on the reverse of the coins. And certainly his name is still written there in Greek characters « Boddo ». But on the observe, instead of an elegant Greek, we perceive the figure of another invader, of a bearded Scythian, grotesquely accoutred in his high boots and the rigid basques of his tunic (pl. XIV, 2). His name is given in the inscription : he is the « Shah of the Shahs » Kanishka, he who was after Açoka the second great emperor of the Buddhist legend, and whom M. S. Lévi has in his turn so well surnamed the « Clovis » of northern India : for he also — either from conviction or from calculation — became converted to the religion of the country vanquished by his arms. But, just as the Frank Clovis had no part in the development of Gallo-Roman art, you may easily imagine that the Turk Kanishka had no direct influence on that of Indo-Greek art; and, besides, we hold now the certain proof that during his reign this art was already stereotyped, if not decadent.

All the Chinese Buddhist pilgrims who from the IV<sup>th</sup> to



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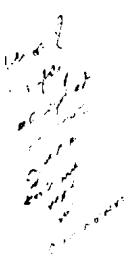
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name, and in repoussé the image, of our Kanishka, the one perfectly legible and the other a good resemblance. Now, in point of execution the reliquary already betrays signs of artistic decadence ; and this stylization is especially notable in the Buddha whom you see seated between two standing divinities on the top of the lid. This votive document is sufficient, then, to carry back at least a hundred years, and consequently, to the 1<sup>st</sup> century *before* our era, at the latest, the creation of the plastic type of the Blessed One.

### III

Thus, then, we are on the whole well informed as to the where and when, from the rencontre of the two inverse expansions, that of Hellenism towards the east consequent upon the political conquests of Alexander, and that of Buddhism towards the west by favour of the religious missions of Açoka, was born once for all the Indo-Greek type of Buddha. Our geographical and historical quest may, therefore, be considered as ended. But we have as yet accomplished only two-thirds of our task, and the iconographic question awaits almost in its entirety an elucidation. We have indeed from the first glance at the Museum at Lahore seen that, in opposition to the old native school, the image of Buddha is like a trade-mark of the workshops of Gandhâra. It remains to learn how it was itself manufactured. We are agreed that at the time of its composition the Indian material was poured into a western mould : among all the possible results of this operation, which one definitely emerged from the foundry? This we have still to analyse, at the risk of passing from one surprise to another.



What in fact did I tell you? Here is a creation which the experience of centuries and the exploration of Asia have taught us to regard as one of the most widespread and the most durable successes that the history of art has ever chronicled. It is proved to have been adopted with enthusiasm by the entire Buddhist world: it was, and has remained, for the faithful the sole manner of conceiving and figuring the Master... And yet we cannot hide the fact that, if from the beginning the people must have felt the attractive charm of its ideal and serene beauty, it must at its first appearance have been the object of just and bitter criticisms on the part of the old champions of orthodoxy. To-day even, if we, Buddhists or students of Buddhism, could free ourselves from long custom and create for ourselves new eyes, we should be the first to be shocked by the ambiguous character of the Gandhâra type of Buddha. For in fact, what is it that Buddhist scriptures are never tired of repeating? It is not we, it is tradition which poses for the new-born Bodhisatwa the famous dilemma: « Either thou wilt remain in the world and reign over the universe; or else thou wilt enter into religion and become a Saviour of the world ». We all know that the second alternative was the one realized. Now what do we see here (pl. XI, 2)? This person is not a prince, for he wears neither the costume nor the jewels of one; but how could one maintain that he is a real Buddhist monk, since his head is not shaven? If he were a *bhikshu*, he would not have retained his hair: if he were a *cakravartin*, he would not have donned the monastic gown. A monk without tonsure or a king without jewels, decidedly these strange images, from whichever side one approaches them, are frankly neither flesh nor fish. From the artistic point of view we have already seen that, properly speaking, they were neither

Greek nor Indian ; from the iconographic point of view we must admit that they are neither cleric nor layman, but still and always a hybrid combination of two heteroclite elements.

Shall we lean over the crucible in which the formula of this new compromise was elaborated, and try to reconstitute from the monuments themselves how things happened? Let us take the princely heir of the Çâkyas (pl. XV, 2) at the critical moment when he is realizing his religious vocation. The moral crisis which has just cast him out of the world, and, as a beginning, has made him flee by night from his native town, must, in fact, be translated occularly by a complete transformation of his exterior aspect. Now we read, and we see, that on the dawn of his escape, judging himself beyond capture, he stops and sends back horse and squire. At the same time he charges the latter to carry back to his home all his princely jewels, including the rich turban which encircled his long hair, gathered up in a chignon on the top of the crown. Thus he appears to us, his head bare and already in the act of changing his silken clothes, which are no longer suitable to his new state, for the coarse garment of a hunter. In all these details the figured tradition conforms with a good grace to the written. There is only one point on which the Indo-Greek artists have shown themselves intractable. At that instant all the texts will have it that the Bodhisattva himself with his sword cut off his hair : but to this last exigency of Indian custom the school of Gandhâra has never given its consent. Whether it represents the Master at the height of his ascetic macerations, or whether it shows him in all his splendour, at the moment when he has just attained to Illumination, his chignon continues to remain such as it was before his entrance into religion. When at last he





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it not for the monastic cloak, you might be a little puzzled to distinguish the Perfect Buddha from the future Buddha, whenever the second is shown without a headdress, or even when the lips of the former continue to wear that little moustache which you still find on the remote Japanese images. But join together the two elements, however incongruous, a layman's head on the body of a cleric : and this combination will at once give you an individuality sufficiently marked to answer all the practical needs of iconography. The result has shown it well.

But, however complex the Indo-Greek type of Buddha may be, you doubtless consider that we have examined and dissected it more than sufficiently for to-day; and you tremble to perceive the endless conclusions which we might at once draw from this analysis, however superficial and summary. First of all, it would be sufficient to prove, even if history did not so state, that this type was created as an afterthought and, let us say, *de chic*, by strangers more artists than theologians, more solicitous for esthetics than for orthodoxy. I would go further : Not only at the moment of its conception had the face of the Master long been blurred in the mists of the past, and all precise iconographic data concerning him been lost ; but among the vapours of incense which the worship of posterity caused to mount towards his memory, while waiting for the latter to be materialized in his image, he had already assumed a superhuman and, as is written, a « supernatural » (*lokot-tara*) character. At least, we could scarcely otherwise explain the success of that stroke of audacity whereby the school of Gandhâra assigned to him from the beginning a special physiognomy, derived from, and at the same time remaining at an equal distance from, that of a monk and



that of a god. It results, further, that this type issues from the fusion of a double ideal, that of the Greek Olympian and that of the *Mahâpurusha*, or Indian « Great Man », with no borrowing from living reality, if we except the detail of the distended lobe of the ears. And this would to some extent excuse the defect that many of these images are not exempt from some academic frigidity. Finally, we comprehend the reason for the retouches which later generations thought it necessary to apply, notably as concerns the hair. We can even see in how mechanical a manner through uniformly covering bandeau and chignon with the short traditional curls, their want of skill has suddenly caused to stand out on the top of the crown the boss called *ushnîsha*, a word which formerly meant only headdress.....

And this is not yet all : what should I not have to tell you concerning the diffusion in India and the Far East of the idolatrous worship of Buddha, parallel to that of the images! But reassure yourselves : sufficient for each hour its subject, and I will not further abuse your patience. Moreover, as we remarked at the beginning, nothing is easier than to see how much better preserved — or, if you prefer, less deformed — at all times and in all places was the face of the Blessed One than his doctrine. I shall not, therefore, insist to-day on the conquest of upper and lower Asia by this irresistible propagator of the Indo-Greek school of Gandhâra. But you would not forgive me, if I did not show in conclusion how this Buddhist school finds itself by its origins in contact with our Christian art. Look at these two statues (pl. XVI, 2); the one represents Christ, and the other Buddha. The one was taken from a sarcophagus from Asia Minor, and is to-day to be found in Berlin; the other comes from a ruined temple in Gandhâra, and is at present in Lahore. Both, with the pose of the right

arm similarly draped in their mantles, are direct descendants of a common ancestor, the beautiful Greek statue of the Lateran Museum, called the Orator, in which we have long recognized a Sophocles. It is not to be doubted that, plastically speaking, they are cousins-german. The one is a Greco-Christian Christ; the other is a Greco-Buddhist Buddha. Both are, by the same right, a legacy left *in extremis* to the old world by the expiring Greek art.

After this last experience it will, doubtless, seem to you proved that this figure of Buddha, which, smiling at us from the depths of the Far East, represents for us the culmination of what is exotic, nevertheless came originally from a Hellenistic studio. Such, at least, is the truth to-day — I mean the conclusion arising from the documents at present known — and such, at the point at which archaeological researches have arrived, will probably be the truth to-morrow. Must we be glad or sorry for this? Facts are facts, and the wisest thing is to take them as they come. It was recently still the custom to triumph noisily over the artistic inferiority of the Indians, reduced to accepting ready made from the hands of others the concrete realization of their own religious ideal. At present, owing to æsthetic bias or to nationalist rancour, it is the fashion to make the school of Gandhâra pay for its manifest superiority by a systematic blackening of its noblest production. We for our part refuse in this connection to share either the unjustifiable contempt of the old criticism for native inspiration, or the ill-disguised spite of the new against the foreign make. It is not the father *or* the mother who has formed the child; it is the father *and* the mother. The Indian mind has taken a part no less essential than has Greek genius in the elaboration of the model of the Monk-God. It is a case where the East and the West could have done nothing



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## PLATE XI

Cf. pp. 117-120.

I. Photograph taken by the author in 1896 at the Lahore Museum (cf. p. 117). In the upper row reposes a colossal head with a moustache, obtained from the excavations of Kharkai (cf. *Art g.-b. du Gandh.*, I, p. 18); in the middle one two Buddhas, seated in the pose of meditation; on the lowest and on the ground three others in the attitude of instruction. It will be observed that a great number of them had, before being collected for the museum, already lost their heads (cf. *ibid.*, p. 14).

II. Photograph taken by the author in 1897; for the description cf. pp. 119-120. This magnificent Buddha is, moreover, not the only masterpiece possessed by the English officers of the native regiment of the *King's Own Corps of Guides*. Their collection is one of the finest that we have met with, and there is nothing surprising in the fact, if we reflect that their garrison is placed in the centre of ancient Gandhāra (cf. *ibid.*, p. 27, or *Sur la frontière indo-afghane*, p. 39, and the maps at the end of those works).





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## PLATE XII

Cf. pp. 121, 123, 124.

I. An engraving borrowed from *Sur la frontière indo-afghane* (Paris, Hachette et C<sup>ie</sup>, 1901, fig. 11; cf. *Tour du monde*, Nov. 1899, p. 543): executed from the author's photographs. On the left, beyond the ploughed land, is seen the village of Shâhbâz-Garhî. In the background rises the hill of Mekhâ-Sandhâ, once sanctified by the legend of prince Viçvantara (cf. *ibid.*, p. 55; *Notes sur la géographie ancienne du Gandhâra*, in *B. É. F. E.-O.*, I, 1901, pp. 347-59; and above, p. 123). Quite to the right stands the rugged hill-side, on which is still to be found the inscription of Açoka (cf. p. 121).

II. A photograph taken by the Archæological Survey and placed at our disposal by Dr. J. Ph. VOGEL (cf. p. 124). In the foreground we see the central spur, on which stands the principal monastery: the view extends towards the north-east above the hills of the little range of Takht-i-Bahai as far as the Swât mountains. For other views of the same site cf. *Sur la frontière indo-afghane*, fig. 14, or *Tour du monde*, *ibid.* p. 545, and *Art g.-b. du Gandh*, figg. 1 and 63-4 (with plan and description of the buildings, pp. 160-163).



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## PLATE XIII

Cf. p. 124.

I. — An engraving borrowed from *Sur la frontière indo-afghane*, fig. 15 (or *Tour du monde*, Nov. 1899, p. 544); after a photograph taken by the author. The eminence, increased in height by the slow accumulation of the dust of the past, is still surrounded by a magnificent wall, now buried in the earth. The people of the country continue to maintain a connection between the village and the hill of Takht-i-Bahai, situated at a distance of less than a league to the north, which would represent respectively the capital and the « throne » of one and the same rājāh (cf. p. 124).

II. — An Archæological Survey photograph, communicated by Dr. J. Ph. VOGEL, representing a corner of the recent excavations of Dr. D. B. SPOONER in one of the neighbouring tumuli of Sahri-Bahlol (cf. p. 124). These excavations have been described by their author in the *Archæological Survey of India, Annual Report, 1906-7*, pp. 102-118. For previous explorations of the same district see H. W. BELLEW, *General Report on the Euzufzai* (Lahore, 1864) and *Punjab Gazetteer, Peshawar District* (1897-1898), pp. 46 sqq.; for the more modern researches (1912) of Sir Aurel STEIN see, on the other hand, *Annual Report of the Archæological Survey of India, Frontier Circle, 1911-12* (Peshawar, 1912, with map).





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PLATE XIV

Cf. pp. 126-129.

I. — An engraving borrowed from *Sur la frontière indo-afghane*, fig. 40, (or *Tour du Monde*, nov. 1899, p. 556). The identification of this tumulus with the « Pagoda of Kanishka » (cf. above, p. 129) was first developed in our *Notes sur la géographie ancienne du Gandhâra* (B. É. F. E.-O., I, 1901, pp. 329-333, with maps). Of the excavations by which it was verified an account has been given by Dr. D. B. SPOONER in *Archæological Survey of India, Annual Report, 1908-9*, pp. 38-59.

II. — The four coins reproduced are borrowed from the *Catalogue of Indian Coins in the British Museum, The Coins of the Greek and Scythic Kings of Bactria and India*, by Percy GARDNER (London, 1886), pll. IV, 1; II, 9; XI, 7; XXVI, 8 : *a.* Head of « Alexander, son of Philip », wearing a lion's skin, like Heracles; on the reverse, mention of the « reigning king, Agathokles the just », inscribed round a Zeus seated on a throne with a back, holding in his raised left hand the long sceptre and on his extended right hand the eagle (cf. p. 126). — *b.* Head of a king, wearing a diadem and a helmet in the form of an elephant's head; on the reverse, mention of « King Demetrios », inscribed on both sides of a standing Heracles, bearing in his left hand the club and the lion's skin and with the right hand crowning himself with an ivy-wreath (cf. p. 126). — *c.* Diademed head of the « Saviour King Menander »; on the reverse, Pallas Athene, bearing the aegis and hurling the thunderbolt : round her the same inscription, but this time in the Indian alphabet and language of the north-west (cf. p. 127). — *d.* Full-length portrait of the « Shah of Shahs, Kanishka the Kushan »; spear in the left hand, the right extended above a pyre; on the reverse, a standing Buddha, having an aureole and a nimbus (cf. p. 128).





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## PLATE XV

Cf. pp. 129-132.



I. — Archæological Survey photograph, supplied by Sir Aurel Stein (for other reproductions cf. *A. S. I., Annual Report*, 1908-9, pll. XII XIII). At the top a Buddha is seated on the slightly expanded stem of a lotus, whose petals decorate the upper face of the lid, between two standing lay persons, probably Brahmā and Indra. On the lip of the lid is a frieze of geese (*hamsa*). On the main body of the casket itself a Buddha seated in meditation and two half-length deities repose in the waves of a garland supported by frolicking Cupids. On the left we see the profile of the standing figure of Kanishka. It will be observed that not only is the design superior to the execution, but also the mantles of the Buddhas cover them right to the neck and hide their crossed feet, and that their hands as yet know only two *mudrās*, that of meditation and that of reassurance. It is therefore permissible already to speak of stylization and even of decadence, but not yet of the ultimate decline of the school (cf. p. 130).

II. — Statue of Bodhisattva, obtained from Shāhbāz-Garhi, at present in the museum of the Louvre (cf. p. 132). With its costume formed of two pieces of material, one for the trunk and the other for the lower limbs, with its turban, its sandals, its rich adornments, and finally its nimbus, this statue represents that ideal type of the great lay noble which in India serves for kings and gods. (For a heliogravure and a detailed description of this particular one cf. *Sculptures gréco-bouddhiques du Musée du Louvre* in *Monuments et Mémoires*, vol. VII, part I, 1900).



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PLATE XVI

Cf. pp. 133-136.

Figure  
1.

I. — The type of Bodhisattva and that of Buddha are borrowed from a frieze in the museum of the Louvre (cf. *Art g.-b. du Gandh.*, fig. 134) ; that of the monk from a bas-relief in the British Museum. For the reason of their being placed together cf. pp. 133-134.

II. — The image of Christ is reproduced from a plate in Professor STRZYGOWSKI's *Orient oder Rom* ; let us not omit to confess that it has been artificially isolated from the rest of the sarcophagus. In contrast to its slender figure the image of Buddha (no. 527 of the Lahore Museum ; height m. 0,60) is noticeably squat. The gesture of the left arm we shall find again in the Buddha of this same plate XVI, 1, and in the sixth of the seven which are ranged on the base of plate XXVI, 1. For comparison the Sophocles of the Lateran museum may be found reproduced in most manuals of classical archæology. (Cf. pp. 135-136).





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## The Tutelary Pair in Gaul and in India <sup>(1)</sup>

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When turning over the leaves of the monumental and valuable *Recueil des bas-reliefs, statues et bustes de la Gaule romaine* of M. Espérandieu, we see again and again a figure usually entitled « Abundance » or « Goddess Mother ». Rare in Provence, where apparently it is better concealed under the purely classical features of Demeter and Fortune, it shows itself from time to time in Aquitaine with an appearance already more indigenous ; then multiplying itself, it passes into « Lyonnaise », where we have counted it no less than forty times (vols. III-IV) : the sequel of the publication will tell us whether it enjoyed the same favour in Belgian Gaul. Its most usual type, very close to that of the pullulant *Matres*, holds in the left hand a horn of abundance, and in the right a patera. In no. 3225 (Langres) we see moreover on either side of the goddess two little genii, one of whom « dips into a purse placed between her feet ». If it is not she, then it is one of her sisters, who elsewhere is represented with a child in her arms, like a Madonna (nos. 1326-1334, Saintes), or with a sack on her knees, from which drop coins (no. 1367, Ruffec). At times fruits are also placed actually on the lap of the goddess (nos. 2350, Mont Auxois ; 3237, Langres). Lastly, the patera is occasionally replaced by a cake (nos. 1528,

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(1) *Revue archéologique*, 1912, II, pp. 341-9.

Bourges), or, in the more debased pieces, by a goblet of the special form called an *olla* (nos. 1161, Puy-de-Dôme; 2112, Beaune). These last attributes seem to be only borrowings from another Gallic divinity, or rather two others who are masculine and likewise of frequent occurrence. Their usual attributes are the *olla* and the purse, often difficult to distinguish from one another; but local and barbarous variants represent them as holding likewise the cake and the sack of money (no. 1555, La Guerche, Cher), or even a child (no. 2882, Auxerre), when they do not in their turn borrow the patera full of fruits (no. 2263, Entrains) or the horn of abundance (nos. 2162, Mâcon; 2166, Chalon-sur-Saône). One of the types is bearded like Jupiter, whose long sceptre it replaces, as we know, by the handle of a mallet. The other, beardless, most often hides his personality under the figure of Mercury. The intimate relationship of both with the goddess, or goddesses, of « Abundance » is certain: for a proof we require only the numerous groups in which they appear in company, standing on the same stele or seated side by side on the same seat. Some represent the god without a beard, and indicate clearly — from the wings on his feet up to the petasus, taking the caduceus *en route* — his assimilation to Mercury (nos. 1800, Fleurieu-sur-Saône; 1836, Autun), or give him the appearance of a « local Mars » (no. 1832, Autun). The majority resort to the model of the bearded god with a mallet (nos. 2066, Nuits; 3441, Dijon etc.). Often they assign to the husband, as mark of office, the same horn of abundance as to his companion, unless they lend to the latter the purse (no. 3382, Châtillon-sur-Seine), or make both place their hands on the same *olla* (no. 2118, Beaune). In one case a child is playing at their feet (no. 1830, Autun). For the necessities of our case we will



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his career ; but the « purse of gold », which he holds in his right hand, would sufficiently prove, even if we were not expressly told, that he had already transformed himself from a jealous gaoler into a generous dispenser of riches. Whilst the miserly demon was thus changing into a liberal genius, his wife Hâritî was undergoing a parallel evolution, and from an ogress was becoming a matron. Originally she personified some terrible infantile epidemic; and, although herself a mother of five hundred little elves, she found her food in the children of men; but when she is depicted for us by religious art, she is supposed to have been already converted by Buddha, and her sole function is to accord to the vows of the faithful a numerous progeny. If we care to translate the myth into Greco-Roman terms, Lamia was metamorphosed into Lucina. Most often she is represented as holding on her knees, or even suckling, her last-born, which has caused her to be called the Buddhist Madonna (1), whilst numbers of her sons frolic around her or, climbing about her person, make her look like an Italian allegory of Charity. The authors of pl. XVIII, 1 and 2 have expressed the traditional conception of the fruitful and fructifying Hâritî in a manner more sober than usual, being content with putting a *cornucopia* into her left hand. They forget only one point, namely that according to Indian ideas a horn or any other remnant of a dead animal (except the black antelope) is an unclean thing, and that only people of the currier caste, the least fastidious and the most despised of men, can touch such an object. For us Europeans, who are not disturbed by such refinements of delicacy, this attribute, far from shocking, only awakens in the delighted mind ideas of fer-

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(1) Cf. *infra*, the last essay.

tile maturity and maternal prosperity. This is, indeed, how the Indo-Greek sculptors understood it, and the mere choice of this symbol would be sufficient to prove that they were more Greek than Indian : but the meaning of these abridged versions remains evidently the same as that of the more ornate replicas, which encumber with urchins the pedestal, the knees, and even the shoulders of these same persons (cf. pl. XLVIII, 1). The mere sight of the god leaning lovingly on the arm or the shoulder of his companion, and the latter not fearing to caress his knee in public, leaves us in no doubt that popular imagination and cult have in fact united in matrimony the genius who dispenses riches and the fairy who grants posterity.

We should be willing to believe that the Gallic groups, like their Indian prototypes, must practically answer to the same eternal desires of humanity for offspring and for money — although our modern civilization seems to detach itself from the one to the advantage of the other. As far as the god is concerned, whether it be a question of the Gallic Mercury, who, we are told by Caesar, controlled the gains of commercial transactions, or of that *Dis Pater*, who seems to be the native double of Plutus, as well as of Pluto, the purse which he holds in his hand is in all languages an expressive emblem : and as for the goddess, by whatever name she may be called, Rosmerta, Maïa, Tutela, Nantosvelta, or simply Bona Dea, her horn of abundance signifies fecundity. According to all appearance, whilst her husband was more particularly destined to fulfil the aspirations of the men, her task was to satisfy those of the women ; and thus in Gaul, as in India, both sexes must have found satisfaction in the worship of this divine pair. Besides, it is sufficient or four purpose that their tutelary character should be incontestable. What chiefly interests us is the analogy

between the procedures followed by the artists of such distant countries, in order to picture before our eyes ideas on the whole analogous.

Between the two groups reproduced in our plates the only contrast at all striking consists in the respectively inverse positions of the two spouses. But, inverted as it is, it retains the same intention of reserving for the goddess the place of honour in relation to the man — that being according to the old Indian custom on the left, and not on the right as with us <sup>(1)</sup>. The stool placed beneath the left foot of the persons in pl. XVII, 1 is lacking in pl. XVIII, 1 and 2; but it exists on other replicas, and, besides, the group of pl. XVII, 2 dispenses with it likewise. The scaly decoration of the pedestal of pl. XVIII, 1, made of coins half covering each other, is only a paraphrase of the signification of the purse. The double seats on pl. XVIII allow a sight of their four feet, turned on the lathe in the Indian manner: but, on the other hand, the nimbus which emphasizes the divine character of the pair is perfectly familiar to our western eyes. Then, beside these small local differences, what resemblances are to be observed! If we leave aside the leggings and the large earrings of the Indian genius, his costume even, consisting of a tunic and a cloak, is not so very different from that usually worn by his Gallo-Roman equi-

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(1) For other conjugal pairs thus placed cf. *Art gréco-bouddhique du Gandhâra*, figg. 160-162. A curious fact to be noticed is that two Gallo-Roman groups, to be classed among those which have best retained the accent of their birthplace, also place the goddess on the left of the god; they are nos. 1319 (Saintes) in which the god with the purse is crouched down « à l'indienne » near the goddess with the horn of abundance, who is seated in the European manner, and 2334 (Auxois). We may ask ourselves if the custom of the Gauls was not the same as that of the Indians on this point, exactly as we know that it was the common custom of the two nations to count past time by nights and not by days, etc.





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tion of the forms and the employment of the same grammar, verbal or decorative: and in this particular case no specialist could turn over the leaves of M. Espérandieu's collection without noticing, in support of the cousinship of these distant schools, a number of details of composition and the constant return of the same ornamental subjects, amorini, griffons or tritons, garlands, acanthuses or flowers. But, after all, nothing is more striking and more persuasive for the public than a comparison bearing on vocabulary, especially if it is a question of a common significant word. This is just the kind of contribution that we believed we could supply here by noting the suggestive correspondence of the oriental and occidental expressions of the same ideas, or, better, of the same religious needs. In truth, these works, however complex they may be, only transcribe quite rudimentary notions; but notions only the more deeply grounded in human nature. Such as they are, these groups — which, besides, are nearly contemporaneous — seem to us to furnish for the moment one of the most palpable verifications of the fact that in the first centuries of our era the sculptors of the Gauls and those of Ariana had each learned at the school of the Greeks, and spoke from one end of the ancient world to the other the same common language, the same artistic « koinê ».

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## PLATE XVII

Cf. pp. 141-145.

These two bas-reliefs are nos. 80 (height m. 0, 46) and 81 (height m. 0, 30) of the Archæological Museum of Dijon; they were both found on Mount Auxois, the first in 1803, the second in 1834. With the kind consent of Major E. ESPÉRANDIEU, our plate reproduces the two stereotypes of nos. 2347 and 2348 of his *Recueil général des bas-reliefs, statues et bustes de la Gaule romaine*, whence, for the sake of greater impartiality, we content ourselves with reproducing the descriptions :

I. — « God and Goddess, seated facing us, booted and each with the left foot on a footstool. The god, on the right, is bearded, and wears a long tunic and a mantle; he holds in his right hand a naked sword, and with the other he leans on the iron of a mallet, the handle of which rests on the arm of his seat. The goddess, crowned with a tower, has a long tunic, which leaves her right shoulder and part of her breast bare; with her left hand she holds against her shoulder a horn of plenty, filled with fruits; with the other hand a slanting patera ».

II. — « God and Goddess seated facing us, their feet shod. The god, on the right, is beardless, his body naked, and he has a mantle over his knees; in his left hand he carries a lance, in the other an object which is scarcely recognizable, perhaps a purse. The goddess, clothed in a long robe which leaves a part of her breast and her right shoulder uncovered, holds in her right hand a patera and in the other a horn of plenty, filled with fruits ».



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## PLATE XVIII

Cf. pp. 141-145.

I. — Archæological Survey photograph, supplied by Dr. J. Ph. VOGEL, who himself published it in the *E. É. F. E.-O.*, VIII, 1908, p. 488. The original, bought at Sahri-Bahlol, is at present to be found in the Peshawar Museum; it measures m. 0, 21 in height. The genius, curiously clothed with a tunic, a chlamys and leggings, holds a long sceptre and a purse; the fairy, whose head is unfortunately lost, rests her right hand on her husband's knee, and with the other holds up the horn of plenty. At the two corners of the plinth two gaping vessels pour out streams of gold coins.

II. — The original (height m. 0, 18) is found in the Museum für Völkerkunde in Berlin (I. C. 32805), and for the photograph we are indebted to Prof. GRÜNWEDEL and Dr. von Le Coq. This time the genius bears the customary lance and purse. As in the preceding group, his left arm leans on the shoulder of his wife, whose right hand likewise caresses his knee. As to the latter, she clearly has for head-dress the *modius* or  $\kappa\acute{\alpha}\lambda\alpha\theta\omicron\varsigma$  (like the goddess on pl. XVII, 1 ?).





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# The Great Miracle at Çrâvastî <sup>(1)</sup>.

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## I

The narratives of the death of Buddha assert that after his cremation eight kings or ruling clans shared his ashes, and that they deposited their several portions under as many *stûpas*. We see no reason for disbelieving tradition on this point : the important thing is not at times to confuse these first eight sanctuaries with the historical « eight grand *cailiyas* » <sup>(2)</sup>. We know, indeed, for certain that eight towns of Madhyadeça had finally divided among themselves, not the relics, but the legend, of Buddha. In their immediate neighbourhood were eight specially holy places, supposed to preserve the vestiges of the eight principal miracles of the Master. This implies that they formed as many centres of attraction for pilgrims, the organized exploitation of whom — one of the few industries which still survive in India — must have constituted an appreciable source of income. It may easily be imagined that the definite choice of scenes and sites was not accomplished without rivalries

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(1) *Journal asiatique*, Jan.-Feb. 1909.

(2) That there is no lack of opportunity for these confusions we find proved at once in *Une poésie inconnue du roi Harṣa Çilâditya*, restored from Chinese transcription by M. S. LÉVI (*Actes du X<sup>e</sup> Congrès int. des Orient.*, 1894, I, p. 188, Leiden, 1895) and entitled « Hymn to the Eight Great *Cailiyas* », which enumerates still more. The « eight reliquaries » of stanza 5, followed by the *stûpas* of the « urn » and the « ashes », are evidently the 8 + 2 *stûpas* of the *Mahâparinibbâna-sutta*, VI, 62, and have nothing to do with the « eight great *cailiyas* » of the title.

and hesitations. At least four cities, indeed, received from the first an undisputed recognition. A relatively ancient text, the *Mahāparinibbānasutta*, already recommends the pilgrimages to the four sacred places of the Birth, the Illumination, the First Preaching, and the Death, of Buddha (1). On the square bases of the little *stūpas* of Gandhāra and the stelæ of Amarāvati these four scenes are invariably associated (pll. II-IV): only we must draw attention to the fact that in the latter case Kapilavastu is usually represented not by the nativity of the child Buddha, but by what might be called his birth into the spiritual life, we mean his « abandonment of home » (2). However, neither the cities of Gayā and Benares, nor certainly the obscure frontier market towns of Kapilavastu and Kuçinagara could pretend to monopolize between them the Buddhist legend and the advantages accruing therefrom. Through the disconnected accounts of

(1) V, 16-22; the *Jāti*, the *Abhisambodhi*, the *Dharmacakrapravartana*, and the *Parinirvāṇa* are similarly associated in the *Dīvyaavadāna*, ed. COWELL and NEIL, p. 244 and p. 397, l. 18.

(2) For the little *stūpas* of the north-west, cf. *Art gréco-bouddhique du Gandhāra*, fig. 208. For the stelæ of Amarāvati see J. BURGESS, *The Buddhist Stūpas of Amarāvati and Jaggayyapeṭa*, pll. XVI, 4; XXXII, 4; XXXVIII, 5; XLI, 6 (with the departure on horseback; cf. J. FERGUSON, *Tree and Serpent-Worship*, pl. LXXV on the right), and pl. XVI, 3 (with the farewell to Chandaka; cf. FERGUSON, *ibid.*, pl. LXXV, to the left). On all those stelæ which are complete the *Parinirvāṇa* is constantly symbolized by a simple *stūpa*. With these one may connect others, in which the *Abhisambodhi* and the *Dharmacakrapravartana* are figured by an empty throne under a tree or a wheel (BURGESS, *ibid.*, pll. XXXVIII, 3 and 6; XLV, 2 and 4; XLVI, 1-3; XLVII, 3; XLVIII, 1; FERGUSON, *ibid.*, pll. XCIII; XCIV, 1, 4). The most curious of this kind are those which shrink from representing not only the Buddha, but even the Bodhisattva, and wherein the *Mahābhiniṣkramaṇa* is no longer represented, except by a horse without a rider (FERGUSON, *ibid.*, pll. XCIII, to the left; XCVI, 3 and XCVIII, 2). It will be observed besides that on several stelæ of Benares (*Anc. Mon. Ind.*, pl. 67, 2 and 68, 1) the *Mahābhiniṣkramaṇa* is associated with the *Jāti* in the same framework.





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capricious divergencies of the texts the concordant precision of the figured monuments has fortunately permitted us to make out the list, and to sketch the traditional scheme, of the four supplementary great scenes, the miracle of Çrâvastî, the descent from heaven at Sânkâçya, the monkey's offering at Vaiçâlî, the subjugation of the savage elephant at Râjagriha ('). It is true that, in order definitely to fix this scheme, we have availed ourselves chiefly of miniatures in Nepalese and Bengali manuscripts of rather late date (XI<sup>th</sup>-XIII<sup>th</sup> centuries). At the most we had been able to compare with them only a few carved slabs, which came from the scene of the « first preaching », at Sârnâth, in the northern suburb of Benares, and which date back approximately to the V<sup>th</sup> century of our era. Unfortunately, these slabs were quite incomplete : we may be permitted, therefore, to emphasize the interest of the recent discovery at the same place of a stele in fairly good condition, divided into eight panels and consecrated precisely to the eight great scenes (pl. XIX, 1). Let us say at once that seven of these bas-reliefs only confirm what we already knew of the subjects which they represent and the conventional manner of treating them. Besides, Mr. J. H. Marshall has completely identified them. He has no hesitation, except as regards one single scene, « of which the identification », he says, « is doubtful, but which appears to have taken place at Çrâvastî » (2). And it is, in fact, concerning the traditional

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order, the artists made from the mass of the traditional accounts a quite different choice from the men of letters.

(1) See *Él. sur l'Iconogr. bouddh. de l'Inde*, I (1900, pp. 162-170), summarized, corrected and completed, *ibid.*, II (1905), pp. 113-114.

(2) See Mr. MARSHALL's (article in *J. R. A. S.* 1907, pp. 999-1000, and pl. IV, 1). We take pleasure in here thanking the very distinguished Director-General of Archaeology, India, for his extreme kindness in putting at

manner of representing the « Great miracle » of Çrâvastî that this new document will furnish us with useful evidence.

## II

The canonical importance of the *mahâ-prâtibhîya* of Çrâvastî is incontestable. The *Divyâvadâna* gives it expressly as one of the ten acts of which every perfect Buddha must necessarily acquit himself before dying (<sup>1</sup>). It is likewise in this text — that is to say, as MM. S. Lévi and Ed. Huber have shown, in the *Vinaya* of the Mûla-Sarvâstivâdins — that we find the most ancient and most detailed account of the miracles whereby on this occasion Çâkyamuni triumphed over his rivals, the six chiefs of sects. Thanks to the translation of Burnouf, this account is too well known to need citation here (<sup>2</sup>). We shall restrict ourselves to bringing out the essential points. After having wrought a few minor miracles, which were mere preliminary trifles, and refusing to allow anyone, monk or layman, man or

our disposal a photograph of the stele in question and authorizing its reproduction.

(1) *Divyâvadâna*, pp. 150 151; no Buddha of the past has failed in it *ibid.*, p. 147, ll. 24-27; according to the Tibetan testimonies the Buddha of our age accomplished it in the sixteenth year of his ministry (ROCKHILL, *Life of the Buddha*, p. 79).

(2) *Divyâdâna*, XII and BURNOUF, *Introduction à l'hist. du Bouddh. indien*, pp. 162 sqq. The XIII<sup>th</sup> story of the *Avadânakalpalatâ*, deplorably edited indeed in the *Bibl. Indica*, V, 1895 (see, below, p. 174, n. 5), adds, in accordance with the usual custom of Kshemendra, nothing but poetic graces; ROCKHILL (*Life of the Buddha*, pp. 79-80, following the Dulva) and SCHIEFNER (*Eine tibet. Lebensbeschr. Çâkyamuni's*, p. 293) restrict themselves to a reference to BURNOUF. For the connections of these various authors with the tradition of the Mûla-Sarvâstivâdins see also the very clear conclusions of Prof. S. LÉVI, *Journal Asiatique*, July-August 1908, pp. 102 and 104.



woman, to be substituted for him, so as to confuse the *Tirthyas* by the exhibition of a supernatural power, the Blessed One accomplishes successively, on the direct and twice repeated invitation of king Prasenajit, two kinds of miracles. At first he displays what in technical terms is called the *yamaka-prâtibhârya*, which consists in walking the air in various attitudes, while emitting alternately flames and waves from the upper and lower parts of his body ; in the second place, multiplying images of himself up to heaven and in all directions, he preaches his law. A violent storm, raised by a chief of the genii, completes the overthrow of the heterodox. An immense multitude is converted to the good law.

If now after the Sanskrit version we consult the Pâli tradition, we find that the *mahâ-prâtibhârya* of Çrâvastî is there usually designated « the miracle at the foot of the mango-tree ». The *Mahâvamsa* and the commentary of the *Jâtaka*, for example, give it no other name. According to the latter, as also according to the Singhalese and the Burmese (1) accounts, Buddha did, in fact, begin by accomplishing the magical operation which the jugglers of India are always endeavouring to imitate : from the stone of a mango planted in the ground he is supposed to have forthwith grown an enormous tree, covered at once with flowers and fruits. But then this is merely a simple extra, scarcely even a curtain-raiser. When the great day has come, the divinities assemble, and the introduction to *Jâtaka* no. 483

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(1) Cf. *Mahâvamsa*, ed. TURNOUR, pp. 107, 181, 191; ed. GEIGER, pp. 137, 241, 254; *Jâtaka*, ed. FAUSBØLL, I, p. 77, l. 23; 88, l. 20, etc.; *ambamûle*, or *gaṇḍamba-mûle*, is written; Gaṇḍa has become in the commentary of the *Jâtaka*, no. 483, and Gaṇḍamba in Sp. HARDY (*Manual of Buddhism*, 1<sup>st</sup> ed. pp. 295-296), the name of the gardener who supplied the mango : see also BIGANDET, *Life of Gaudama*, Rangoon, 1866, p. 205.



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preaching of the Master that later, if we may judge from the miniatures of the manuscripts, inspired the traditional image of the « great miracle » : at least, they represent it regularly by three Buddhas teaching, seated side by side upon as many lotuses ('). Now the stele recently exhumed from the ground of the ancient Mṛigadâva testifies, five or six centuries earlier, to this same manner of conceiving the subject : the compartment which we know beforehand to have been reserved for the miracle of Çrâvastî shows us, in fact, like the miniatures, three Buddhas seated on lotuses in the attitude of teaching. This is the new fact supplied by this discovery, and it will not be long before its consequences unfold themselves before our eyes.

But, first of all, a question arises as to whether we must restrict ourselves to merely stating, or whether we can succeed in explaining, the unexpected choice of the artists. If we consider only the stele in question (pl. XIX, 1), it seems that we may immediately see a reason, although an external one, for the course taken by its author. Let us observe, in fact, that of the four great supplementary scenes of the legend of Buddha there are two which absolutely necessitate a standing posture : they are the subjugation of the wild elephant and the descent from heaven. A legitimate care for symmetry in the alternation of the poses would have demanded a sitting posture in the corresponding scenes, not only in the monkey's offering, but also in the great miracle of Çrâvastî. Such, at least, is the idea imperiously suggested by an examination of the apportionment of the subjects on the new stele — the only one,

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(1) See *Icon. bouddh. de l'Inde*, I, pl. X, 1 (cf. BENDALL, *Catalogue of the Buddhist Sanskrit Manuscripts in the University Library, Cambridge*, 1883, pl. II, 1), and cf. *ibid.* p. 205, no. 82, and II, pp. 114, no. 4.

let us remember, that we possess with the eight scenes complete (cf. the table below).

<i>First Preaching</i> BUDDHA SEATED	<i>Parinirvāṇa</i> BUDDHA LYING DOWN
<i>Descent from Heaven</i> BUDDHA STANDING	<i>Miracle of Ārāvastī</i> BUDDHA SEATED
<i>Offering of the monkey</i> BUDDHA SEATED	<i>Subjugation of the elephant</i> BUDDHA STANDING
<i>Nativity</i> MĀYĀ STANDING	<i>Perfect enlightenment</i> BUDDHA SEATED

It is scarcely necessary to remark that this reason, valid for the whole, is inapplicable to an isolated panel. The reading of the texts will furnish an argument of wider bearing. It does not, in fact, take us long to perceive that they use and abuse the *yamaka-prātibhārya*. The general introduction of the *Jātaka* makes it to be wrought by Buddha as early as the eighth day after the Bodhi, and specifies that he repeated it under three other circumstances, (1) at the time of his visit to Kapilavastu and of his meeting with his father and his relatives, the Ākhyas, (2) at the time of his encounter with the heterodox monk Paṭikaputta, and last, (3) at Ārāvastī, at the foot of the mango-tree (<sup>1</sup>). The *Divyāvadāna* attributes it further to a simple monk; the *Mahāvastu* to Yaçoda or Yaças, the converted son of the banker of Benares; the *Sūtrālaṅkāra* to the five hundred *bhikṣuṇīs*, companions of Mahāprajāpatī; the *Jātaka-*

(1) *Jātaka*, I, pp. 77 and 88; trans. Rhys DAVIDS, *Buddhist Birth Stories*, pp. 105 and 123; on the first of the three other occasions cf. *Mahāvastu*, III, p. 115, and on the second the *Manual* of SP. HARDY, p. 331.

*mâlâ* to a Pratyeka-Buddha; finally, the *Mahāvamsa* twice places it to the account of simple relics of the Blessed One, etc. <sup>(1)</sup>. We receive the impression that the *yamaka-prātibhārya* has become hackneyed in consequence of being classic. Moreover when, after having accomplished it, Buddha returns and seats himself in his place, he informs king Prasenajit in a moment of proud modesty that « this kind of magical power is common to all the disciples of the Tathāgata » <sup>(2)</sup>. Hence it may be conceived that artists and worshippers were of one mind in no longer finding in this banal wonder anything to characterize with sufficient clearness the great scene of Ćrāvastî, and preferred the multiplication of the teaching images of the Master : for it is written that this last miracle is realizable only by the special power of the Buddha and the gods <sup>(3)</sup>.

Finally, if we must conceal nothing, we seem to detect in the texts themselves a tendency to confuse the two kinds of wonders, and even to eliminate the former in favour of the latter. First of all, there seems to have been at times a misapprehension as to the real meaning of the expression *yamaka-prātibhārya*. This technical term « twin miracles » does in fact lend itself to confusion. We know now from the very explicit descriptions of the *Divyāvadāna* and the *Mahāvastu* that it must be understood

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(1) *Divyāvadāna*, p. 378 ; *Mahāvastu*, III, p. 410 ; *Sūtrālaṅkāra*, trans. Ed. HUBER, p. 399 ; *Jātakamālā*, IV, 20 ; *Mahāvamsa*, pp. 107 and 191 (TUNOUR), 137 and 254 (GEIGER).

(2) *Divyāvadāna*, p. 161, l. 13 : *sarvaĉrāvaka-sādhāraṇa*. The text of the commentary of *Jātaka*, n° 483, IV, p. 265, ll. 12-13 : *Asādhāraṇaṃ sāva-kehi yamaka-p°*, which seems to mean the contrary, becomes in consequence most suspicious, at least if the two texts are speaking of the same miracle.

(3) *Divyāvadāna*, p. 162, *ad fin.* The power of holding a dialogue with a magic double is likewise stated a little further (on p. 166, l. 11) as a privilege of perfect Buddhas only and inaccessible to simple *ĉrāvakas*.





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represents himself as an eye witness. Now he no longer even mentions the *yamaka-prâtibhârya* : « And when, o! Great King, in order to triumph over the Tîrthyas, the great miracle was accomplished at Çrâvastî by the Blessed One, and there was created an array of Buddhas which mounted up to the heaven of the Akanishṭha gods, at that time I was there, and I saw these sports of Buddha (¹) ». Here it is no longer a question of anything but the second miracle. Finally, we again find this latter, reduced to its most simple expression, in the *Buddhacarita* of Aṣvaghosha, whose descriptions are always so close to the figured monuments. According to him (so far as we can trust the English translation made by the Rev. S. Beal from the Chinese translation of the original Sanskrit) Buddha restricts himself to rising into the air and there remaining seated, and « diffusing his glory like the light of the sun, he shed abroad the brightness of his presence ». In this version — by a strange coincidence, but one which in our opinion it would be vain to seek to press further — the *mahâ-prâtibhârya* quite assumes the characteristics of a Transfiguration : « His face did shine as the sun, and his raiment became white as the light (²) ».

### III

These waverings of tradition, as they are thus indicated in the texts, may help us to understand the at first somewhat surprising choice of the Indian image-makers. Regarding

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(1) *Divyâvadâna*, p. 401 (cf. BURNOURF, *Introd.*, p. 398) : it will be noticed that these are exactly the same terms as are employed on two occasions in the previously quoted *sûtra* (*Divyâvadâna*, p. 162, ll. 16 and 26). — P. 401, l. 15, read probably *aham* instead of *mahat*.

(2) *Sacred Books of the East*, XIX, p. 240; *Gospel according to St. Matthew*, XVII, 2.



the fact of the choice itself there is, as we said above, no room for doubt. Let us resume the examination of the new panel, no. 5 of plate XIX, 1 : On a lotus, whose peduncle issues from a ripple of waves rolled into volutes, Buddha is seated with crossed legs in the hallowed posture, and his hands are joined in the gesture of instruction; on his right and left, again, there rises a *padma* with a long stalk, bearing another smaller Buddha, similar in all respects to the first... Now it is written in the *Divyâvadâna* that at that moment — namely, at a second invitation from Prasenajit and when the first series of miracles was already accomplished — « Buddha conceived a mundane thought ». Immediately the Gods rush forward to execute it : Brahmâ takes a place at his right and Çakra at his left, while the two Nâga kings, Nanda and Upananda, create entire a wonderful lotus, on the corolla of which the Blessed One seats himself. Then by the force of his magic power, « above this lotus he created another, and on this one also a Buddha was seated with his legs crossed : and thus in front, behind, at the sides... » The crowd of Buddhas, holding themselves in the four consecrated attitudes (erect, walking, seated, or recumbent), soon rise to the highest heavens (1). The bas-relief, unable to juggle, like the text, with numbers and forms, shows us just three of them, all alike seated : but by now there is for us no question that we must see in this restricted space an attempt, however timid, to realize the legendary phantasmagoria.

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(1) Cf. *Divyâvadâna*, p. 162. We know that the heaven of the Akanishṭhas is the highest heaven of the *Rûpadhātu*, at the 23<sup>rd</sup> story of the Buddhist paradises. We remember also that the two kings of the serpents, « Nanda and his junior », play a part in a number of episodes in the life of Buddha, beginning with the bath which followed the nativity. We shall find information concerning them extracted by M. Ed. HUBER from the *Vinaya* of the Mûla-Sarvâstivâdins in the *B. É. F. E.-O.*, VI, 1906, pp. 8 sqq.

With this abridged version we may connect immediately other more developed pictures, such, for example, as that which totally covers another stele originating from Sârnâth <sup>(1)</sup>, and in which are staged no less than four rows of Buddhas, seated or standing pl. (XIX, 2). On seeing the upward-branching lotus stems which bear these small figures, we might believe ourselves in the presence of a genealogical tree of Buddhas. Thus we are invincibly led to recall those which, either carved or painted, entirely cover great stretches of the walls of several of the subterranean temples of Ajañtâ. One of these frescoes, of which a copy has been published, very gracefully combines wreaths of flowers and foliage with the dreamy figures of the seated or standing Buddhas <sup>(2)</sup> : it decorates the wall on the right, in the antechamber of the sanctuary of Cave I;

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(1) Again let us cite no. (Sârnâth) 1 of the Calcutta Museum (ANDERSON, *Catalogue*, II, p. 4; *Anc. Mon. India*, pl. 68, 1), the left upper division of which unfortunately broken) represents similarly the « great miracle » of Çrâvasti opposite to the « descent from heaven » (cf. below, p. 164, n. 1). It will be observed that on two other stelæ of the same origin (*Anc. Mon. India*, pll. 67, 3 and 68, 2 : *Art g.-b. du Gandh.*, fig. 209, and *Iconog. bouddh. de l'Inde*, I, fig. 29, to the right) analogous representations of the same miracle decorate the borders of the stone and enclose the scene.

(2) See GRIFFITHS, *The Paintings of Ajañtâ*, pl. XV (cf. on the plan of the grotto the letter O and X, *ibid.*, pl. IV and pl. VIII) and BURGESS, *Notes on the Bauddha Rock Temples of Ajañtâ*, p. 17; the paintings of this cave are usually attributed to the VI<sup>th</sup> century. — In Cave II the walls of the antechamber of the sanctuary are likewise adorned with figures of Buddha, of a very inferior make to those of the preceding ones. M. Griffiths counted 1055 of them, measuring about 0 m. 20 high and covering a surface of 22 square metres : he has reproduced some of them, pl. XXIV (cf. p. 28, and BURGESS, *loc. cit.*, p. 35, § XVIII *ad fin.*). — One may immediately connect with these frescoes the « thousand Buddhas » painted on the vault of the grotto no. 1 of Murtuk, a specimen of which Prof. GRÜNWEDEL has reproduced in his interesting *Bericht über Archæologische Arbeiten in Idikut-schari und Umgebung im Winter 1902-1903*, pl. XXX : notice the strangely stereotyped character of the support of this Buddha, affecting both a cloud and a lotus.



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more than a single one at one time in each world-system.

It follows that we must at the outset suspect the existence of this subject every time that we find ourselves in the presence of multiple images of Buddha : not, certainly, where they are isolated in separate sections or merely juxtaposed, but where they are evidently associated in the same action (1). If from this point of view we examine the reliefs and the frescoes of Ajaṇṭā, we shall not fail to discover a whole series of replicas, somewhat less prolix, but not less surely identifiable, than the preceding. Here we will restrict ourselves to citing the most typical of these variants. It seems that we shall have to look for them in the immediate neighbourhood of the inner sanctuaries : « On the back wall, between the left chapel and antechamber [of the adytum of cave II], a large Buddha has seated himself under an *āmba* (mango) tree with an Indra on his right and a Bodhisattva on his left (2). His feet rest on a

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(1) This restriction is necessary for three reasons. First, we must reckon with the progressive crowding together of images of Buddha on the façade or inner walls of the same sanctuary at the expense of various donors. — Secondly, we must not forget the relatively ancient juxtaposition (cf. pl. XXVI, 1) of the seven Buddhas of our age : but we are prepared to believe that there may be a close connection between this motifs and the « grand miracle », either because in the latter the Buddhas prefer to affect the number 7 in rows (cf. p. 161, n. 1 and p. 163), or because the representations of the « seven Buddhas » are strongly influenced by those of the *mahâ-prâṭihârya* (as is notably the case at Ajaṇṭa for the pl. XCI of GRIFFITHS, in contrast to pl. LXI). Finally, we do not pretend to deny that at a fairly late period there may have been sought, in a mechanical repetition of images of the Master, an automatic accumulation of merit : but it is our opinion that the origin of this inept procedure must be sought in the single motif where its employment was canonically justified.

(2) Dr. BURGESS, *loc. cit.*, p. 34, § XVII : we think it necessary to make a choice and say : « between Brahmā and Indra », or « between two Bodhisattvas » : but that can be decided only on the spot. Let us remark also that a mango-tree cannot be a Bodhi-druma. The letters E-F mark the place of this panel on the plan of Cave II, given by Mr. GRIFFITHS, pl. XX. e W must

white lotus : a worshipper is below a little to the left. Across the top are seven Buddhas in various *mudrās*, each on a lotus, the stalks being brought up from below. On each side of the *Bodhi-druma*, or sacred tree, are two Buddhas... Below these, on each side, were two pairs more », etc. We borrow this description from the notes of Dr. Burgess : it would not be possible to find a better one for the « great miracle » of Çrāvastī, including the mango-tree of the Pāli tradition. It is again the same subject which in Cave XVII, on the right wall of the vestibule of the sanctuary, forms a pendant to the no less famous miracle of « the descent from heaven » <sup>(1)</sup>; and this replica, unfortunately very much damaged, contains also a topical and rather exceptional detail : « The right end of the antechamber », says Dr. Burgess <sup>(2)</sup>, « is painted with standing and sitting Buddhas ; the lower portion, however, is destroyed, except a fragment at each end. The portion remaining at the right side is very curious, representing a number of Digambara Jaina *bhikṣhus* helping forward an old fat one, and carrying the *rajoharana* or *picchi*, a besom to sweep away insects, etc. Most of them are shaven-headed and stark naked. One or two, who wear their hair, are clothed. On the extreme left are an elephant and a horse with two men. The intermediate painting is completely destroyed ». By now it is not difficult for us to recognize — exactly as

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add that the fresco is approximately dated « by an inscription painted in the alphabet of the VI<sup>th</sup> century ».

(1) The *Devāvatāra* is there represented in three stages, as on the pillar of Barhut (CUNNINGHAM. *Stūpa of Barhut*, pl. XVII) : at the top is seen the « Preaching to the Trayastrimṣa Gods », in the middle the « Descent from Heaven », at the bottom the « Questions to Çāriputra ». Only these last two episodes are represented on GRIFFITHS' plate LIV ; for the plan of Cave XVII cf. his plate LIII.

(2) *Loc. cit.*, p. 69, § XXXIII.

on plate LXVIII of the *Anc. Mon. of India* (¹) — at the left at least an indication of the royal presence of Prasenajit, to the right the demoralized troop of Tîrthyas ; and doubtless the obese and naked old man, whose steps these have to support, is the Pûraṇa Kâçyapa whom the Buddhist legend denotes as their leader and whose defeat is about to have for penalty an ignominious suicide (²). It is again he whom we believe we can identify on the left side of the new panel of plate XIX, 1, by his shaven head, his nakedness and, especially, by his strange backward posture, in striking contrast to the devout attitude of the Buddhist monk who forms a pendant to him on the other side. But, on the whole, representations of monks belonging to other sects are rather rare in Buddhist art, even where their presence would be most expected : and the pictures of the Master's triumphs willingly dispense with the not very edifying spectacle of the vanquished. It would be only the more desirable that we should possess a good reproduction of what is still to be found of this Ajaṇṭâ fresco. Lacking this, we must content ourselves with giving a sketch of one of those which adorn the principal archway of Cave IX (pl. XXI, 1). We know the curious aspect of that little subterranean chapel, with its three naves, its portal gallery and its *stûpa* marking the position of the altar : the warm, ruddy tones of its frescoes give the finishing touches

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(1) At the bottom of the upper compartment on the left we perceive, indeed, in addition to the two *nâgarâjas* who are holding up the stem of the central lotus, 1<sup>st</sup>, at the left of the spectator, King Prasenajit, who is recognizable by his parasol-bearer and his elephant, and 2<sup>nd</sup>, facing him, also seated upon a stool, Pûraṇa Kâçyapa, in the form of a fat, naked man, with shaven head, who is supported from behind under the arms by one of his companions. We may connect with this type that of the same person in *Art g.-b. du Gandh.* (fig. 261 and 225 c), and read, *ibid.*, pp. 529 and 537, remarks on the rarity of these representations of « sectarians ».

(2) *Di vyâvadâna*, p. 165





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Çrâvastî ; and this profusion of replicas is sufficiently justified by the enormous surface which the sculptors of the monuments had received instructions to decorate. We content ourselves here with reproducing the group placed at the left of the eastern staircase, which we know was that of the façade (pl. XXII). On the other side an analogous group forms a pendant thereto, except that it is still more complex and contains no less than seventeen images of the Blessed One. The general arrangement of these compositions is a compromise — doubtless imposed by the dimensions of the rectangular panels, which were much wider than they were high — between the line taken by plates XIX, 2 and XX and that by plate XXI, 1 : but on one side or the other all the topical features are to be found. This symmetrical reduplication of Buddhas, supported by lotuses and surrounded by divinities, suffices to establish not only the undeniable relationship of the schools, but also the fundamental identity of the subjects.

Inevitable, again, is the connection with many of the great rock-sculptures of northern China, less remote in time, but not less distant in space, from their Indian prototypes. We shall note especially, among the gigantic images which decorate the grottos of Ta-t'ong-fu (V<sup>th</sup> century), those recently published by M. Chavannes, which, as he informs us, owe the possibility of their being so clearly photographed to the fact that the crumbling of the rocky façade has left them open to the sky (pl. XXI, 2). The presence of a second Buddha standing at the left of the great seated one, — the acolyte on the right has disappeared in the fallen débris — is sufficient to recall the *mahâ-prâtibhârya* : and the innumerable figures of the Blessed One, superposed upon a kind of band, which form nimbuses and aureoles on the flamboyant background of the *tejas*, finally convince us

that we have to deal with a representation of this miracle in the traditional form of the multiplication of Buddhas (¹).

All these works of art, painted or carved, whether Chinese, Japanese, or Indian, represent more or less, in fact, — to make use of the expression employed in literature, — the *vaipulya* method of sculptured tradition. Let us return to our starting point, I mean to the quite summary lesson presented to us by the stele of the Archæological Survey (pl. XIX, 1) : we shall see connected with it also a series of replicas no less sober than itself. A carving, which we believe to be unpublished, will furnish us with a type of them, at least as far as Magadha is concerned (pl. XXIII, 1). A great Buddha, seated, in the attitude for teaching, on a lotus whose stem is flanked by two Nâgarâjas, is inserted between two other images of himself, with feet also resting on lotuses. The only novelty introduced is that the two acolyte Buddhas, instead of confronting the spectator, as in plate XIX, 1, or being turned towards the central person, as in plate XXI, 1, or slightly turned from him, as in plate XIX, 2, are looking in exactly opposite directions. This slab, of rather rude workmanship and late date (²), will serve as a perfectly natural transition to the miniatures of the Nepalese or Bengal manuscripts of the XI<sup>th</sup>-XIII<sup>th</sup> centuries,

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(1) We should like to connect with these groups from Ta-t'ong-fu others somewhat later, which decorate the grottos of the pass of Long-Men (Ho-nan), of which also M. CHAVANNES has brought back photographs taken in the course of his last mission in China (see, already, *T'oung Pao*, Oct. 1908, fig. 4; cf. *Journal asiatique*, July-August 1912, figg. 1-4; *Bull. École fr. Extr.-Or.*, V, 1905, fig. 36) : but here the two acolyte Buddhas have been changed into two simple monks! The transformation might in strictness be explained by scrupulous orthodoxy (cf. above, pp. 161-162).

(2) For a reproduction of an analogous group, of the same provenance and likewise preserved in the Museum of Calcutta, see *Ét. sur l'Iconogr. bouddh. de l'Inde*, I, fig. 28, where these three Buddhas are placed just below a representation of the Nativity.

where the representation of the « great miracle » of Çrāvastī by three Buddhas back to back has become the constant rule <sup>(1)</sup>. The identification of our plate XXIII, 1, which already flowed naturally from the analogy of the new stele of Sârnâth, receives, on the other hand, an interesting confirmation *in extremis* from these latest indigenous manifestations of Buddhist art.

Whilst definitely taking this turn in eastern India, our subject became in the West by degrees stereotyped under a form equally abridged, but sensibly different. The place occupied by Elias and Moses in the Christian pictures of the Transfiguration is now, in the representations of the Buddhist « great miracle », no longer held by the two acolyte Buddhas, but by two divine attendants. The imagery of the valley of the Ganges had reduced their part to almost nothing, or even omitted it entirely : here, on the contrary, they end by figuring alone at the side of the Master, standing on lateral lotuses and retaining in their hands their fly-flappers. As to the central Buddha, at one time he continues to sit in the Indian manner upon a *padma* like that of plates XIX-XX ; at other times, and more frequently, he is installed on a throne after the manner of Europeans, as in plate XXI, 1, and only uses the necessary lotus as a footstool : but nevertheless the two traditional Nâgarâjas continue to hold up its stem. We borrow from a mural sculpture of Kuḍâ the most reduced type of the first variant (pl. XXIII, 2) : a no less summary specimen of the second would be furnished by one of the caves of Kondivtē <sup>(2)</sup>. But, above all, we must recognize that all the cave-

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(1) Cf. above, p. 154, n. 1.

(2) See BURGESS, *A. S. W. I.*, IV, pl. XLIII, I, left part (cf. *ibid.*, p. 71). Cf. the fuller replicas of Kaṇheri, *ibid.*, fig. 22 ; *Buddh. Art in India*, fig. 60, and *Cave Temples of India*, pl. LVI (cf. *ibid.*, p. 358), etc.



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Buddhist iconography is concerned, the routine force of tradition, that, in order to succeed in this second part of our task, it will suffice to determine with exactitude the distinctive feature common to all the verified representations of the *mahâprâtihârya*. Now, if you turn over the plates afresh, you will very soon observe that what characterizes them above all is the special form of this lotus « with a thousand petals (<sup>1</sup>), as broad as a chariot wheel, of solid gold, with a diamond stem », standing out entirely from the plinth. Whether supported or not by the two Nâgarâjas, whose masterpiece it is, it constantly serves as a throne — or at least as a footstool — to a Buddha seated in the attitude of teaching. By this sign we must henceforth retrospectively identify a whole series of Greco-Buddhist stelæ, the greater number of which have already been published, but not explained, and which for the convenience of the reader we have here collected together before his eyes (pl. XXIV-XXVIII, 1).

The most sober type (and the one which most closely resembles that of plate XXIII, 2) presents to us a Buddha, flanked simply, in addition to the usual worshippers, by two standing divinities (<sup>2</sup>), who, like him, are sheltered under

(1) *Divyâvadâna*, p. 162, ll. 9-11. Cf. the epithet of Buddha in Kshemen-dra's *Daçâvalâracarita*, IX, 54 : *Bhûnirgata-pratata-kâñcana-padma-prstha-padmâsanastha...*

(2) We may connect with this group that of the British Museum, reproduced by Dr. BURGESS (*Journ. of Indian Art and Ind.*, no. 62, 1898, pl. 8, 2 = *Anc. Mon. India*, pl. 92, in the middle): the teaching Buddha and the two divinities are seated, or standing, on the enlarged pericarp of a lotus flower. In the acolyte at the right we recognise Brahmâ by his head-dress and his water vessel, in the one on the left Çakra by his diadem. The two worshippers are withdrawn to the bottom of the stele and separated by what is usually the stalk of the central lotus, but is here treated as a pyre. — We pay no regard to another image (that of the Calcutta Museum), likewise published by Dr. BURGESS (*J. I. A. I.*, no. 69, Jan. 1900, fig. 24 = *Buddh. Art*

parasols, adorned with garlands (pl. XXIV, 1). On plate XXIV, 2 we scarcely divine the suggestion of the lotuses on which rest the seat of the Master and the feet of his two acolytes : on the other hand, two other busts of the Blessed One are interposed in the hollows delimited by the lines of their shoulders : except for the exchange of place between the two gods and the two magical Buddhas, it is evidently the same group as on plates XIX, 2 (first row) and XXI, 1. At other times the ingenious art of the sculptor erects graceful architectures (pl. XXV) above the three principal characters : doubtless we must here recognize the *prâtihârya-maṇḍapa*, built expressly for the occasion of the miracle ; but we remain free to admire in it, together with the Mûla-Sarvâstivâdins, the royal munificence of Prasenajit, or, with the Theravâdins, the divine skill of Viçvakarman (¹). At one time (²) it is a simple portico that presides above the three seated figures (pl. XXV, 2). At another time bolder constructions lodge beneath their domes or arches images of Buddha or even accessory epiphanies (ppls. XXV, 1 and XXVI, 1). On this last plate the two divinities, again standing, have each provided themselves with a long garland, which we shall find in their hands on all the reproductions that we still have to examine (ppls. XXVI, 2-XXVIII, 1). The latter, like those first cited, place the scene — or rather, the vision — in the open sky : at the most, they

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in India, fig. 112) : here Buddha is indeed seated between the two worshippers on the characteristic lotus, but — by an exception which, for the rest, is since the last excavations of Takht-i-Bahai (cf. below. p. 172, note 1) not unique — he is making the gesture of meditation, instead of that of instruction.

(1) *Divyâvadâna*, p. 155, l. 18 : *Jâtaka*, IV, p. 265, l. 10.

(2) From the point of view of the arrangement of the attendants we may connect with this plate the fragment published by Dr. J. Ph. VOGEL in *Archæol. Survey Report*, 1903-1904, pl. LXVIII b (with the Nâgarâjas) and c.

shelter some small figures under aerial ædiculæ. However, the number of divine spectators increases in a striking manner. Now they are placed one above the other on their lotus supports, profiting by all the liberty which a picture of apparitions allows to be taken with the laws of perspective. At the same time the central Buddha becomes bigger, and his figure still more disproportionate to his surroundings. The garlands which used to hang above his head no longer suffice; there is now added a crown, borne by two little genii, with or without wings; once even other marvellous beings, with their busts terminating in foliage, hold still higher a parasol of honour. Lastly, among the images which have emanated from the Blessed One, some, as if better to emphasize their supernatural and magical character, are surrounded by an irradiation in the form of an aureole composed of other Buddhas (').

These specimens are more than are required to prove that we have not to deal with the fancy of some isolated artist, but, in reality, with a traditional subject, constantly

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(1) See the two upper corners of plate XXVIII, 1 and compare fig. 78 of *Art. g.-b du Gandh.*, and especially the panel recently discovered by Dr. D. B. SPOONER at Takht-i-Bahai and published by Mr. J. H. MARSHALL in the *J. R. A. S.*, Oct. 1908, pl. VI, 3. Here again we recognize the *mâha-prâtihârya*. The lotuses which once decorated the bottom of the slab have almost disappeared through the defacement of the stone; but it is not so with those which support the characters above, that is, five little seated Buddhas (three of whom are at the top among foliage), and the two divine garland-bearers. By way of an exception the principal Buddha affects the pose of meditation. The front of his parasol is curiously adorned with a crescent moon, doubtless in order to emphasize the aerostatic character of the miracle. But the point which specially holds our attention is the indication on each side of his body, between the knee and the shoulder, of four little Buddhas, standing on lotuses and arranged obliquely like the outspread feathers of a peacock's tail. — It is known that Sir AUREL STEIN found this procedure in use also on the sculptures of Rawak in Chinese Turkestan (*Ancient Khotan*, I, figg. 62-65; cf. *Sand-buried Ruins of Khotan*, frontispiece).





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datta and his wife, « the mother of Riddhila » (¹), who in turn and in vain proposed to the Blessed One to accomplish the miracle in his stead. Likewise, on plate XXV, 2, the text expressly invites us to recognize in the monk and nun kneeling at each side of the Master the *agraçrâvikâ* Utpalavarnâ (²) and the *agraçrâvaka* Maudgalyâyana, who also asked, and saw themselves successively refused, the same authorization. It is, then, these same four personages, rather than commonplace worshippers, whom we should prefer to recognize on plate XXIV, 2. We should be equally ready to find King Prasenajit, the impartial (³) president of this public manifestation : but, even where the number of spectators is increased, his royal equipage never appears, as later, to betray his incognito (⁴). In front of the four men of good caste seated at the bottom of plate XXVI, 2, it seems that we are rather, as on plates XXVII and XXVIII, 1, in the presence of the four guardian gods of our terrestrial horizon. Among the crowd of divinities we shall recognize immediately on plate XXVII, above the right shoulder of Buddha, his faithful companion Vajrapâni, to whom also by certain texts a part is given in the story, he being made to intervene in order to hasten the dénouement (⁵). The feminine figure facing him

(1) On this *upāsaka* and *upāsikā* information taken from the *Vinaya* of the Mûla-Sarvāstivādins will be found in the already quoted article of M. Ed. HUBER (*B. É. F. E.-O.*, VI, 1906, pp. 9 sqq.).

(2) For this title given to Utpalavarnâ, cf. for example, the commentary on the *Dhammapada*, ed. FAUSBØLL, p. 213.

(3) For this impartiality cf. *Divyâvadâna*, p. 146, l. 23.

(4) Cf. above, p. 164, note 1.

(5) According to the *Divyâvadâna* (pp. 163-164) the *yaksha-senâpati* who, understanding the impossibility of otherwise overcoming the obstinacy of the Tirthyas, raises a violent storm to disperse them, is called Pâñcika; but the *Bodhisattvâvadâna-kalpalatâ* calls him Vajrapâni (XIII, 57). Only we must

would perplex us greatly, did not her crown of towers signalize her at once as the incarnate *nagara-devatâ* of Çrâvastî, an edified witness of the miracle which will henceforth assure her fame; it is in no other form that, for example, the native town of Buddha is seen on other Greco-Buddhist bas-reliefs (¹). But the most interesting feature to be observed is that, if we are to credit the *Divyâvadâna*, the two chief divine acolytes can be no other than Brahmâ on the right of Buddha and Çakra on his left. As a matter of fact, on several replicas the sculptors obviously emphasize this identification by the aid of the usual procedures of the school: to the much bejewelled turban of Indra they oppose, as is the custom, the chignon of Brahmâ, or they even endeavour to designate the latter expressly by the indication of a water-vessel or of a book (²).

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warn the reader that this stanza *vasantatilakâ*, as it is given in the *Bibl. Indica*, I, v, p. 427, has no kind of plausible meaning. Prof. S. LÉVI has kindly restored the text for us, by the help of the Tibetan translation on the opposite page. It should read (the corrections are indicated by the italics):

Atrântare Bhagavataḥ satatam vipakṣān  
 Sarvātmanā kṣapaṇakān avadhārya Yakṣaḥ |  
*Kṣiptogravātavṛtavaraṣavaraic cakāra*  
 Vidrāvya randhraçaraṇān bhuvi Vajrapāṇiḥ ||

We should translate: « In the meanwhile, perceiving that the Sectarious persisted in remaining obstinate adversaries of the Blessed One, the Yaksha Vajrapāṇi, raising a violent storm accompanied by rain, dispersed them, and forced them to seek a shelter in the hollows in the earth ».

(1) See *Art g.-b. du Gandh.*, figg. 183-184 a, and p. 360.

(2) Cf. the procedure of distinction employed *ibid.*, figg. 152, 154-156, 164 a (cycle of the nativity), 197 (march to Vajrâsana), 212 (invitation to the preaching), 243 (preaching to the Trayastrimças), 264 (descent from heaven), where we know that we have to deal at the same time with Çakra, the Indra of the Gods (cf. fig. 246), and with Brahmâ, the *Çikhiṇ*. In the particular case with which we are concerned their positions are at times exchanged from one stele to another (cf. plate XXIV with plate XXV and p. 170, note 2), either because on this point the tradition was uncertain or

It would take too long to enter further into the details of each variant; and besides on this point we may refer to the notices which accompany the plates : only, we should wish to be allowed to make three remarks of a general character. The first bears on the importance which already in the school of Gandhâra we have been led to attribute to the *lakshana*, or sign of recognition : it seems indeed that here we find a fresh proof of the antiquity and wide extension of this proceeding ('). In this very case it is a lotus with a stem rising from the ground or from the waters, that serves as a distinctive mark for a whole series of monuments and has allowed us to follow the series for more than a thousand years, through the four corners of the peninsula. It is quite exceptional that, as on plate XXV, 2, the peduncle of the flower should be hidden and its pericarp covered by a cushion : and, if the artists of western India prefer that Buddha should cause his teaching to be heard from the height of a throne (*simhâsana*), the typical *padma* is retained at least as a stool for his feet. Henceforth, therefore, we may rank this « lotus emergent and usually attended by two Nâgarâjas », to use heraldic terms, side by side with, for example, the « wheel flanked by two gazelles, either back to back or face to face », among the specific symbols of the great events of Buddha's life. In the second place, this identification seems to us to confirm another rule which we had thought ourselves in a position to lay down, and in accordance with which there is scarcely any Gandhârian bas-relief, however passive and motionless the characters therein may be, which does not, even under

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because there had been a confusion, which is always easy, between the right and the left of the statue and those of the spectator.

(1) *Art gr.-b. du Gandh.*, p. 607.





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aside this prudent reserve. So long as the sculptures do not furnish us with an image bearing a written inscription, the verbal statements of the Scriptures will always take precedence over their mute velleities of expression. Likewise, the more we advance in familiarity with the old artists of the north-west of India, the nearer are we to believing that the names of Avalokiteçvara and Mañjuçrî were as strange to their thought as to that of the compilers of the *Divyâvadâna* and the *Mahāvastu*.

## V

It will be felt how far this question passes beyond the limits of the present article, and we will not here insist upon it further. All that remains to ask ourselves, in order to complete the study of the representations of the *mahâ-prâ-tibhârâ*, is whether it was represented or not on the most ancient monuments of central India. Now it seems indeed that the old native school had already essayed in regard to it one of those conventional and summary pictures of which it possessed the secret. The pillar of the southern entrance in the railing of the *stûpa* of Barhut has three of its faces decorated. Of the three upper bas-reliefs (1), the first represents, we believe, by the symbol of the Bodhi-tree, the « perfect illumination » ; the second, by the symbol of the *stûpa*, the *parinirvâṇa*; the third, by the symbol of the garlanded wheel, the « great miracle ». This, at least, is suggested by two inscriptions on the last named, from which we are not certain that all the admissible inferences have hitherto been drawn (see pl. XXVIII, 2). At the bottom a king issues from his capital, mounted in his quadriga : the

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(1) CUNNINGHAM, *Stûpa of Barhut*, pl. XIII.

epigraph, by informing us that he is called « king Prasenajit of Koçala », gives us at the same time the name of the town and localizes the scene at Çrāvastî. Now this king and his suite are going in the direction of a building of imposing appearance, which shelters a wheel surmounted by a parasol, and bearing a heavy garland suspended from its nave. For all students of ancient Buddhist art the allegory is clear : but, for fear the spectator should conceive the slightest hesitation, a second helpful inscription informs him that it is indeed « the wheel of the Law of the Blessed One » which is represented. The symbol, therefore, if translated into the style of the later schools, is the exact equivalent of an image of an instructing, and consequently converting, Buddha. On each side, standing in a devout attitude with joined hands, is a personage in splendid lay costume, such as India has always indifferently conceived its kings or its gods (¹). Accordingly it is impossible for us in the presence of this group not to think of Buddha attended by Indra and Brahmâ, in the presence of this edifice not to think of the *maṇḍapa* constructed for the purpose of the « great miracle ». Cunningham, with his accustomed instinct, has already connected with this bas-relief the passage in the *Divyâvadâna* translated by Burnouf, which does precisely on this occasion make the king of Koçala betake himself « in his good chariot » to the presence of the Master: but he did not follow out the identification to the end (²). In truth, we see no reason for stopping half way.

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(1) For some quite similar images of gods on this same balustrade of Barhut see also CUNNINGHAM, *loc. cit.*, pl. XVII.

(2) *Ibid.*, pp. 90-91. — It will be noticed that the visit of Ajâtaçatru to Buddha, which on the pillar of the western entrance forms a pendant to this one, is likewise of importance from a legendary point of view (*ibid.*, pl. XVI and p. 89).



Evidently it was not a question of an ordinary visit, but of a meeting having a solemn character. We know from a sure source, namely the inscriptions, the exact locality of the scene, that is Çrâvastî, the capital of Koçala, and the names of the two principal actors, Prasenajit and the Blessed One ; the bas-relief shows us the devout ardour of the one, and suggests the converting gesture of the other ; finally, the accessory details of the two attendants standing beside the invisible Buddha and the great hall which shelters him harmonize equally well with the traditions relative to the « great miracle ». We shall not escape the conclusion that such indeed was the subject which the sculptor had proposed to himself. The counter-proof is easy : let us imagine that precisely this task had been set him ; granted the customary procedure of the old school, we do not see how he could have accomplished it otherwise (').

Thus we should end by restoring to this subject of the *mahâ-prâtibhârya* the sphere which legitimately belongs to it and which until now had been too parsimoniously measured out. We are now in a position to sketch its history from the earliest to the last surviving monuments. Treated allegorically — and with good reason — by the old native school, it is not long in utilizing for its own advantage the type of Buddha created by Indo-Greek art. From

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(1) Again an interesting replica of our plate XXVIII, 2 will be found on plate XXXI, 1, of CUNNINGHAM. We should be quite willing to connect with it the representations of wheels on pillars, like that of plate XXXIV, 4 (cf. at Sanchi, FERGUSSON, *Tree and Serpent Worship*, pl. XLII, 1). Perhaps it would even be necessary to see a reference to the *mâha-prâtibhârya* in the wheel which, according to the evidence of Fa-hien and Hiuan-tsang, surmounted one of the two columns raised at the entrance to the Jetavana.



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left upper compartment); (on the lateral borders) 67, 3, and 68, 2 (Gupta Style; 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> centuries);

4. Ajañṭā : pll. XX-XXI, 1; *Paintings of Ajañṭā*, pll. 15, 24, 39; *Arch. Survey. West. India*, IV, pl. XXXVII, 2 (Cālukya style, 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> centuries);

5. Magadha : pl. XXIII, 1; *Ét. sur l'Iconogr. bouddh. de l'Inde*, I, fig. 28 (Pāla style, 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> centuries);

6. Konkan : pl. XXIII, 2; *Arch. Surv. West. India*, IV, pl. XLIII, 1, and fig. 22 = *Buddh. Art in India*, fig. 60; *Cave Temples of India*, pl. LVI (Rāshṭrakūṭa style, 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> centuries).

Henceforward the picture of the *mahā-prātihārya* would not be missing from any school : we await only that of Mathurā. This is just what might be expected from the importance assumed by the episode in the legend, as a compulsory prodigy of every « Blessed One » worthy of his name. It would have been too astonishing, considering the constant parallelism between the two forms, written and figured, of the tradition, if no ancient illustration had corresponded on this point to the texts. Our hypothesis fills a real gap; and it is only just that « the great miracle of Ćrāvastī » should advantageously, as far as the number of known replicas is concerned, bear comparison with the three other great scenes from the teaching career of Buddha.

Why then — and this is the last point on which we are conscious of owing the reader some explanation — why has it been so tardily and so laboriously recognized, whilst its three pendants were identified long ago and at first sight? To this question we may reply, first of all, that the *mahā-prātihārya*, especially in the preaching form which had prevailed, does not lend itself, as we have abundantly experienced, to anything more than a picture almost void of movement, if not of picturesqueness ; to effect its instant recogni-

tion, it has neither the exceptional role of the monkey or the elephant, nor the characteristic decoration of the triple ladder : and here we have, doubtless, an excellent reason. There is room, in our opinion, for adding another. We are so accustomed to utilize the archæological information of the Chinese pilgrims in India, that we no longer think of being grateful to them for it; in order to measure the value of their help, we have to be once without it. That is the case on this occasion : Fa-hien and Hiuan-tsang, so explicit as regards the three other episodes, scarcely mention the one which interests us here. The places where Çrāvastî and the Jetavana had been, the favourite sojourn of the Master, evoked too many remembrances pell-mell for the « Great Miracle » not to be swamped in the crowd of those which on all sides, through the mouths of the guides, solicited their devout interest. We must likewise reckon with the fact that the story of the rivalry between the Master and the Tîrthyas was on the spot inevitably entangled with the calumny of the novice Ciñcâ, or with the assassination of the courtesan Sundarî : and these dramatic stories could not fail to encroach upon the miracle of Buddha, which was after all so neutral and quasi-passive. Thus, when the pilgrims finally arrive at the temple which marked the locality of the purely doctrinal and magical conflict, they both specify indeed that a statue of the Blessed One was *seated* (¹) there ;

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(1) We believe, in fact, after careful reading, that the *mahâ-caitya* of Çrāvastî, marking the locality of Buddha's victory over the other chiefs of sects, was the temple (*vihâra*), 60 or 70 feet high, which Fa-hien and Hiuan-tsang both saw and mentioned at the west (that is to say, at the right) of the road leading to the south of the town towards the Jetavana, about 60 or 70 (Chinese, therefore double) paces in front of the eastern gate of the park, opening from the same side upon the same road (trans. BEAL, I, p. XLVII, and II, p. 10 ; WATERS, I, p. 393). It will be noticed that this situation corresponds fairly well with the indications of the texts (cf.

but they both forget to tell us on what kind of seat and accompanied by what attendants. Accordingly, do not ask why the connection between the narratives and the representations of the « Great Miracle » has been so tardily realized. Cease likewise to be astonished that we are still even at the present time posed by the question whether the two divine acolytes retained to the very last (as we are certain they did in the representation of the « Descent from Heaven ») their names of Brahmâ and Çakra, or whether they ended by transforming themselves, in the eyes of the faithful, into Bodhisattvas, and, in that case, at what moment the transformation took place. Fa-hien and Hiuan-tsang tell us nothing concerning this. One feels how valuable their testimony would have been to us, by reason of its mean date as also of the central situation of the country from which they would have borrowed its elements, forming a bridge between the ancient works of the north-west and the later, but identified, productions of eastern India. If we have been able ultimately to dispense with it, this is because the stele recently discovered at Sârnâth and immediately published by Mr. Marshall put into our hands precisely the missing middle of the conducting wire, and thenceforward all that we have had to do has been to follow its direction, downwards to the disappearance, upwards to the sources of Buddhist art. For this let us thank the Archæological Survey!

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above, p. 149, n. 2): it seems that it is expedient to set aside in its favour the « preaching hall » built by Prasenajit, which was to be found in the centre of the town, and the *stûpa* next to that of Çâriputra, which is mentioned by Hiuan-tsang only. As regards the latter, Watters states that he did not know where to place the « tope » of the « great miracle »; he forgets that the eight great *cailas* are not necessarily all *stûpas*; we know, for example, that that of the *Sambodhi* at Bodh Gayâ is a temple, and the same is explicitly told us by Fa-hien and Hiuan-tsang concerning the *Devâvatâra*.





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3. At the top, on the left, the First Preaching (*Dharma-cakra-pravartana*), at the Mṛigadāva, near to Benares, symbolized by the gesture of instruction and the Wheel of the Law between the two gazelles facing each other, to which the two lions of the throne (*simhāsana*) turn their backs; the two acolytes, who can only be monks, have, under the mechanical chisel of the sculptor, assumed the mien of Buddhas.

4. At the top, on the right, the definite Death (*Parinirvāṇa*), near to Kuçinagara, on the usual bed and in the accustomed position, with the habitual cortège of sorrowing monks.

These are the four chief episodes; let us pass on to the four others.

5. In the second compartment on the right, starting from the top, is the « Great Miracle » (*Mahā-prātihārya*), near to Ćrāvastī : for the description cf. above, p. 159, and for the identification of the two attendants at the bottom, p. 164. Note further the two lotus flowers, which bend so as to fill the space underneath the seat of the central Buddha.

6. In the second compartment on the left, counting from the top, the « Descent from heaven » (*Dhvavāḍra*), near to Sāṅkaçya : on the right of Buddha, who is standing and whose right hand is in *vara-mudrā*, is Brahmā, bearer of a water-vessel and probably of a fly-flapper; on his left Çakra, holding a parasol (cf. *Étud. sur l'Iconogr. bouddh. de l'Inde*, I, p. 157, and *Art g.-b. du Gandh.*, p. 537).

7. In the third left compartment from the top, the « Offering of the Monkey », near to Vaiçālī : he enters by the left of the spectator, holding the bowl of *madhu*, which he places between the hands of Buddha, seated on his throne, and then disappears on the right into a well, above the curb of which only his feet are still to be seen ; at the top, on the

right, is seen what is probably a flying divinity (cf. *Id. b. Inde*, I, p. 168 and II, p. 114; *Art g.-b. du Gandh.*, p. 512);

8. In the third compartment from the top, on the right, « the Taming of the Maddened Elephant », at Rājagṛiha; on the right of Buddha, who stands, with his right hand in *abhaya-mudrā*, the elephant is kneeling beneath a *stūpa*; on his left, Ananda holds in his right hand his long mendicant's staff or *khakkhara* (cf. *Id. b. Inde, ibid.*, and *Art g.-b. du Gandh.*, p. 542).

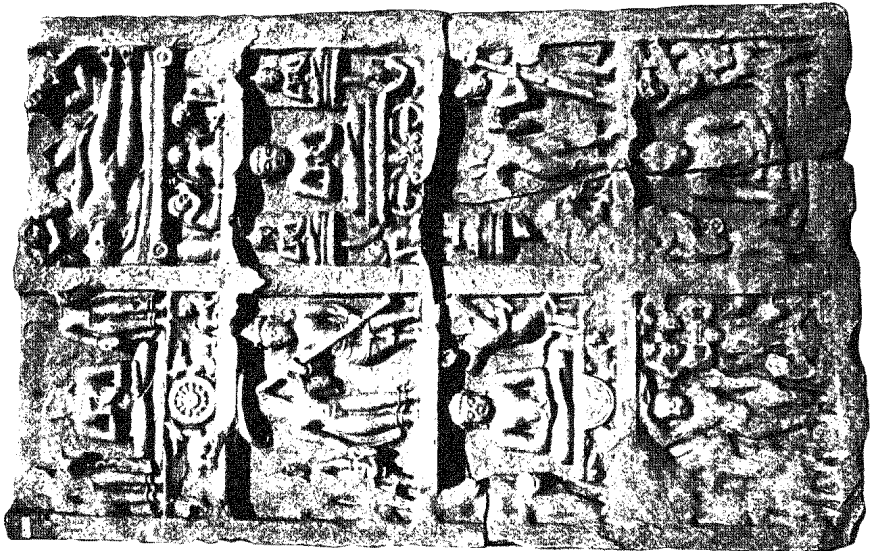
II. — This stele is derived, like the preceding one, from the site of the ancient Mṛigadāva, in the northern suburb of Benares. Offered to the Asiatic Society of Bengal by « Captain » CUNNINGHAM in 1835-1836, it is at present preserved in the museum at Calcutta and catalogued under no. S(*arnidh*) 5 (cf. ANDERSON, *Catalogue*, II, p. 7). Its height is about m. 0.90. We believe it to be unpublished, and we reproduce it from a photograph which we took in January 1896.

At the bottom, from some bubbling waves, there springs up a large lotus, on which Buddha is seated with his legs crossed in the manner of the Indians, and his hands joined in the attitude of instruction. Around him radiate six other stems, which also branch as they mount higher and open out into tiers of *pādmas*, bearers of thirteen other Buddhas, seated or standing, in various *mudrās*. At the bottom, on each side of the central Buddha, two attendants, who by their head-dresses and jewels can be recognized as laymen — gods or Bodhisattvas —, are fanning him with fly-flappers; at the top, two little flying genii fill up the rect angular corners of the slab. It will be noticed that on the part of the three Buddhas of the bottom row there is a tendency to look in different directions (cf. above, pp. 160 and 167).





AT BENARES







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These two bas-reliefs are nos. 80 (height m. 0, 46) and 81 (height m. 0, 30) of the Archæological Museum of Dijon ; they were both found on Mount Auxois, the first in 1803, the second in 1834. With the kind consent of Major E. ESPÉRANDIEU, our plate reproduces the two stereotypes of nos. 2347 and 2348 of his *Recueil général des bas-reliefs, statues et bustes de la Gaule romaine*, whence, for the sake of greater impartiality, we content ourselves with reproducing the descriptions :

I. — « God and Goddess, seated facing us, booted and each with the left foot on a footstool. The god, on the right, is bearded, and wears a long tunic and a mantle ; he holds in his right hand a naked sword, and with the other he leans on the iron of a mallet, the handle of which rests on the arm of his seat. The goddess, crowned with a tower, has a long tunic, which leaves her right shoulder and part of her breast bare ; with her left hand she holds against her shoulder a horn of plenty, filled with fruits ; with the other hand a slanting patera ».

II. — « God and Goddess seated facing us, their feet shod. The god, on the right, is beardless, his body naked, and he has a mantle over his knees ; in his left hand he carries a lance, in the other an object which is scarcely recognizable, perhaps a purse. The goddess, clothed in a long robe which leaves a part of her breast and her right shoulder uncovered, holds in her right hand a patera and in the other a horn of plenty, filled with fruits ».

THE GREAT MIRACLE OF GRÂVASTĪ



AT AJANTA







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I. — Simple sketch made from plate 38 of Mr. J. GRIFFITH'S great publication, *The Paintings in the Buddhist Cave-temples of Aianlâ* (London, 1891, in folio), I (cf. pl. 39 and p. 31, or BURGESS, *Notes R.-T. Aj.*, p. 49, § 4). The original is a very much damaged fresco, decorating the bottom part of the archway of the principal nave of Cave IX, towards the back and to the right, at the spot marked F on the plan published by Mr. GRIFFITHS, *ibid.*, pl. 36.

In the middle Buddha is seated in the European fashion, leaning against a cushion, on the traditional throne, the back of which is formed of superposed animals, and the front legs carved in the shape of lions (*simhāsana*). His hands are joined in the attitude of teaching, while at the same time he holds with the left the hem of his monastic cloak. His feet rest on a lotus.

On his right and left, in the first row, two other Buddhas, likewise sheltered under parasols and with their feet resting on lotuses, stand with one hip projecting and turn towards the central character. Their right hands make the gesture of charity; their left hands are turned back to hold up the hems of their robes.

On both sides of the throne of Buddha, and behind, two persons in grand lay costume — gods or Bodhisattvas — hold fly-flappers in their right hands. Above the group hang garlands. (Cf. above, pp. 164-5).

II. — Pl. XXI, 2, was taken from a photograph brought back by M. Ed. CHAVANNES from his last mission to China (1907-1908), and first appeared in the *Bulletin du Comité de l'Asie française*, April 1908, fig. 5. From the inscriptions M. CHAVANNES dates the execution of the original in the V<sup>th</sup> century of our era, under the dynasty of the Northern Wei.

In its present state the group consists only of the remains of a seated Buddha, and another standing on his left. Both are of gigantic size, as may be judged from the man placed between them. The attendant one, draped to the neck, like the Gandhâra images, makes with his right hand the gesture intimating absence of fear. The splendour of their *tejas* covers the whole rocky wall with a tracery of tongues of flame; from this background stand out nimbus and aureoles in the form of circular or elliptical bands bearing a quantity of small figures of Buddha seated in the Indian manner in the attitude of meditation. Above the head of the acolyte a group of two little Buddhas, side by side in the same niche, seems to materialize what we are told by the texts (cf. above, p. 157) of the conversations of the Master with his magic double, or with his colleague in another world-system, the Buddha Prabhûtaratna (*Lotus de la bonne Loi*, trans. BOURNOUF, pp. 151-2, etc.), who once came into ours to pay him a solemn visit. (Cf. above, p. 166.)

## THE GREAT MIRACLE OF ÇRĀVASTĪ









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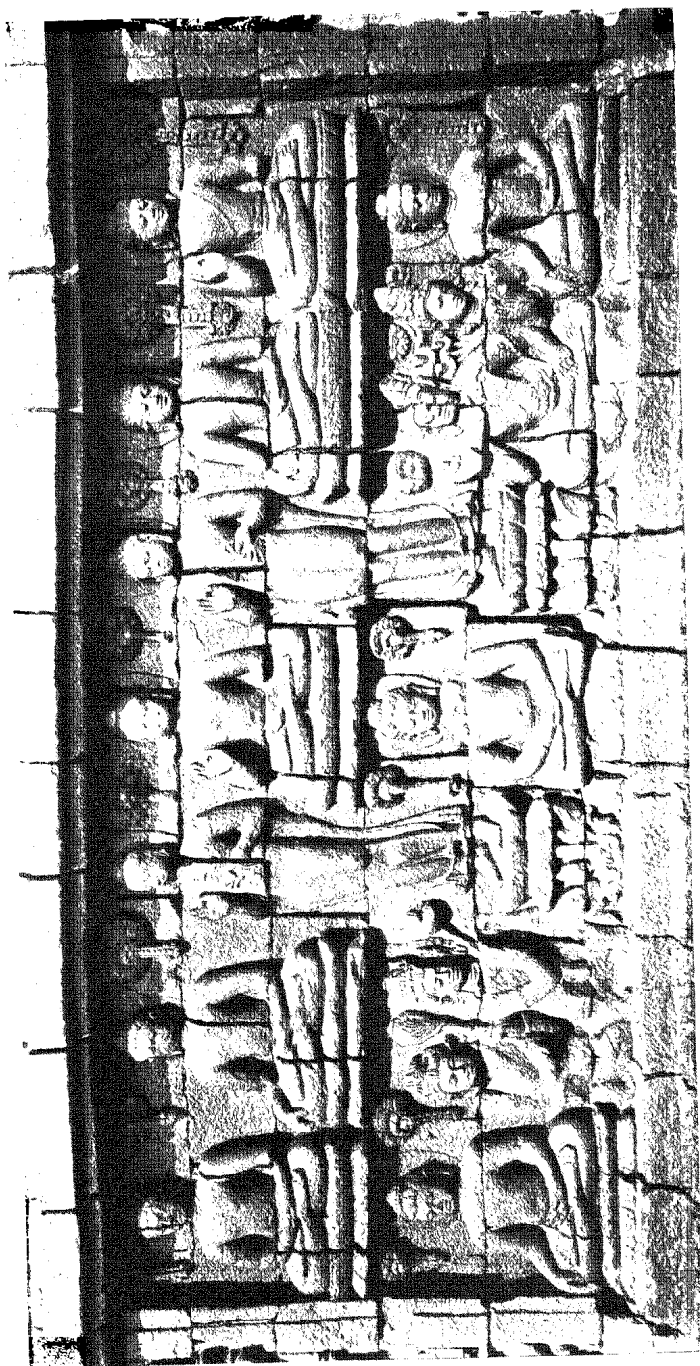


This photograph, kindly supplied by Major van ERP, compares advantageously with WILSEN's drawing, lithographed on plate CCCLVI, 1, of the great album which accompanies the volume of LEEMANS, *Bordour dans l'île de Java*. The original is situated to the left of the staircase of the eastern façade, at the height of what LEEMANS calls the fifth gallery, which, since the discovery of the original base of the *stūpa* by Heer YZERMAN, we know to be the fourth; it is, moreover, the last polygonal sculptured gallery before the three circular pseudo-terraces of the summit (cf. our pl. XXXII and LEEMANS, *ibid.*, pp. 291 sqq. and pl. CCCLVI-CCCLXXXVIII, especially the first and the last, which form pendants to one another on each side of the eastern entrance).

Two Buddhas, standing on lotuses supported by leaves, enclose two other Buddhas, and are themselves enclosed by six others in various *mudrás*, all seated on aerial lotuses.

At the bottom are four lay attendants: two of them, the one on the left holding a fly-flapper and the one on the right with his hands joined, seem to be simple worshipping divinities; but in the two nearer to the standing Buddhas we must, according to all appearance, by the flowers which serve as attributes to them recognize two Bodhisattvas; on the right Maitreya, who in his position as future Buddha has an equal right to the honour of a lotus seat, holds a *nāga-pushpa*; on the left Avalokiteśvara holds a *padma*. Garlands hang down; it rains flowers. (Cf. above, pp. 165-6).





ON THE BORO-BUDUR, JAVA





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I. — Pl. XXIII, 1, which we believe to be unpublished, reproduces a photograph taken by us in January 1896 at the Calcutta museum from among the sculptures received after the completion of Mr. ANDERSON'S catalogue. The original comes from Magadha and measures m. 0,70 in height.

At the bottom, the two *Nāga-rājas*, Nanda and Upananda, whose busts terminate curiously in the curling and scaly tails of serpents (we may compare with them those on one of the frescoes of Ajanṭa, GRIFITHS, fig. 16 = *J. Ind. Art. and Ind.*, no. 69, 1900, fig. 19), encircle, with their joined hands, the peduncle of a great lotus rising from waves, upon which a teaching Buddha is seated in the Indian manner. Behind each of these Nāgas stands one attendant, and two others either crouch or kneel; the nimbus of the middle one on the left may be distinguished. Between the heads of the two outside attendants rise the stems of the lotus stools on which rest the feet of two other teaching Buddhas, seated in European manner and looking in opposite directions.

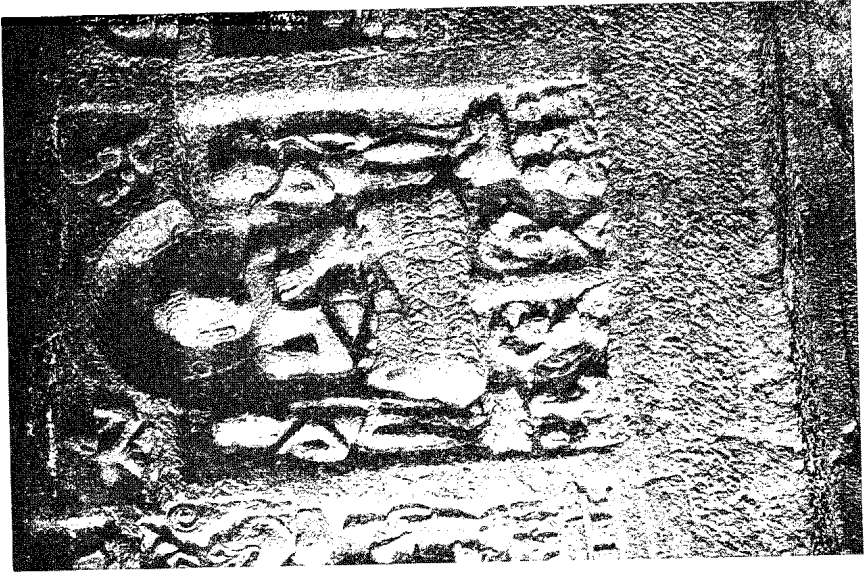
At the top, round the head of the central figure, may be distinguished, first, two little figures of seated Buddhas, then the two traditional worshipping divinities; finally, a Buddha lying crosswise above reflects completely the words of the texts concerning the four attitudes assumed by the emanations of the Master (cf. above, p. 159). Before the face of each of the two largest attendant Buddhas (the head of the one on the

left is broken) appear, in fact, two little standing Buddhas, one of whom must be supposed to be walking. Above, a stem with three branches supports at each side, on three lotuses, a group exactly analogous to the principal composition; a third group, between two flying genii, occupies the summit of the stele. (Cf. above, p. 167.)

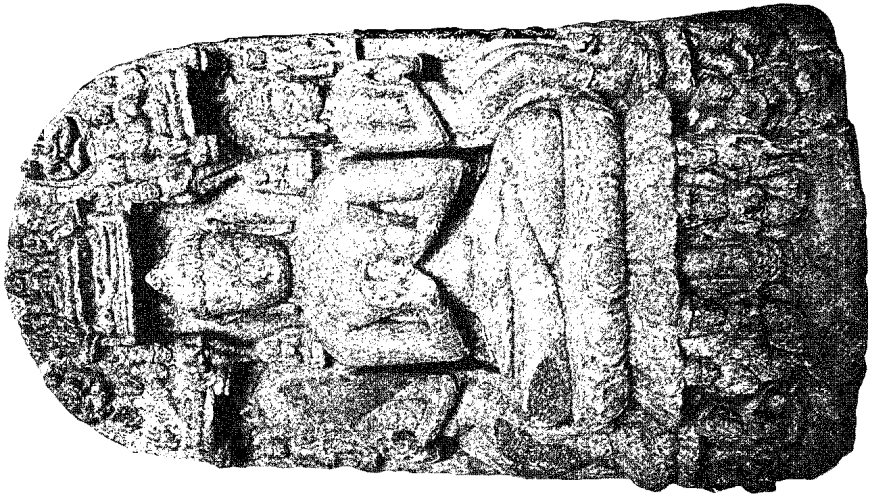
II. — Pl. XXIII, 2 is only a reproduction, for the convenience of the reader, of the middle part of plate 164 of *Anc. Mon. and Temples of India*, published by Dr. BURGESS (London, 1897). The original decorates the largest of the twenty-six caves of Kuṣā, in the district of Kulābā, to the south of Bombay (cf. FERGUSON and BURGESS, *Cave-Temples of India*, pp. 206 sqq.; *Arch. Survey West. India*, IV, pp. 12 sqq.)

The two *Nāga-rājas*, Nanda and Upananda, are with both hands supporting the stalk of a large lotus, on which a teaching Buddha is seated in the Indian manner. At either side, on two other *padmas*, stand two divine personages, both armed with fly-flappers. Considering the late date of the sculpture, we must apparently recognize in them two Bodhisattvas, and more especially in the one on the right, judging by the long sinuous stem of the pink lotus which he holds in his left hand, an Avalokiteśvara Padmapāṇi.

Five kneeling worshippers at the bottom are, perhaps, the donors; in the top corners are two flying genii. (Cf. above, p. 168.)



2. — IN THE KONKAN



1. — IN MAGADHA







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I. — Plate XXIV, 1, represents a stele furnished at the top with the handle of a parasol, and at the bottom with a tenon, which must have fitted into a base in the form of a lotus similar to the one on plate XXV, 1. It has already been reproduced in the *J. Ind. Art and Ind.*, no. 69, 1900, fig. 23 = *Buddh. Art in India*, fig. 121. The original, which came from the excavations at Loriyān-Tāngai (Swāt), is preserved in the Calcutta museum; in height it measures m. 0.45.

In the middle, on a lotus which springs from the soil, Buddha is seated in the Indian manner and the attitude of teaching. It will be noticed that in Gandhāra — contrary to what takes place, for example, on plate XXI, 1 — it is the *left* hand which holds, between the thumb and index finger, the little finger of the *right* hand (cf. pll. XXIV, 2-XXVIII, 1). As also on the following plates, his right shoulder is uncovered. Garlands of flowers are twined above his head, which was moreover, together with the stele itself, to be surmounted by a detached parasol.

Analogous parasols, on the stele seen only in profile, shelter his two acolytes. Standing, with their hands broken off, they bear between their eyebrows the mark of the *śrīrṇā*, which is regarded as a characteristic of Bodhisattvas; but at the same time, according to the customs of the school (cf. above, p. 175), the rich turban of the one on the right of Buddha designates Indra, as the hair-knot of the one on the left does Brahmā.

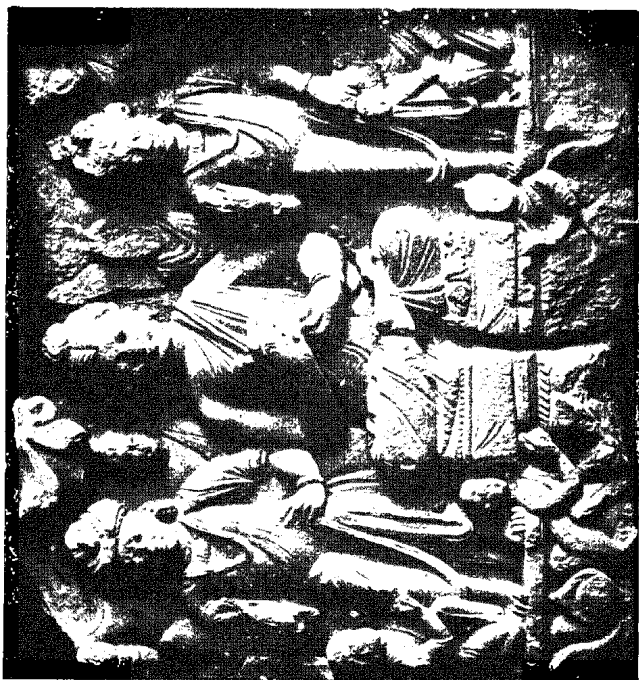
At the bottom, on each side of the lotus, are two kneeling worshippers, laymen, apparently of different sexes, perhaps Lūhasudatta and his wife, the « mother of Riddhila ». (Cf. above, pp. 173-4).

II. — Plate XXIV, 2, is a direct reproduction of part of a photograph, the plate of which is preserved in the Calcutta museum and has been used previously for plate 98 of the *Anc. Mon. India*. We do not remember having anywhere met with the original of this bas-relief; but from the known dimensions of the sculptures near it in the photograph it must have measured in height about m. 0.40.

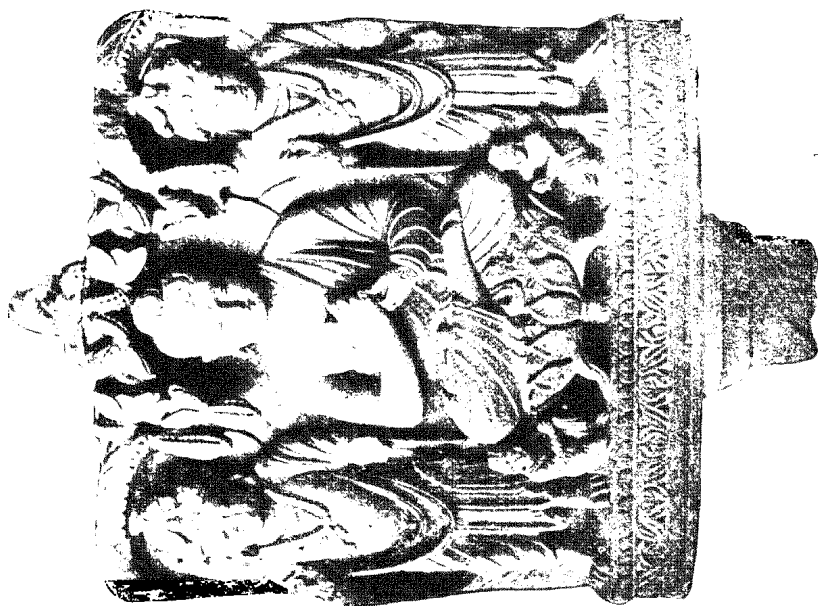
By an exception of which we do not know any other example previous to the recent excavations at Takht-i-Bahai (cf. above, p. 172, n. 1, and *J. R. A. S.*, Oct. 1908, pl. VI, 3) the pericarp of the traditional lotus is, in this case, covered with a tapestried seat. Under the feet of the two acolytes an indication of two other lotuses can be seen. Buddha is seated in the Indian manner, and makes the gesture of teaching. Between him and his attendants can be seen the busts of two other figures of Buddha, one of which is broken.

The attendant on the right, whose *śrīrṇā* is still visible, has for his head-dress, after the fashion of the god Indra, a turban enriched with jewelry, the buckle of which resembles the expanded tail of a peacock; he holds in his left hand (broken) what we take to be a bending purse. The one on the left, whose head-dress is damaged, holds in his left hand a vase, which in Gandhāra was an attribute of Brahmans and of Brahmā (cf. the references, p. 175, n. 2).

The top of the panel is filled — a rather rare case — by the partly preserved foliage of a tree (cf. above, p. 163 and pl. XXVI, 2) and by two divinities throwing flowers. For a possible identification of the four worshippers, religious and lay, if, at least, they are of different sexes, see likewise above, pp. 173-174.



2



1

IN GANDHARA







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In the bottom corners two kneeling worshippers, a monk and a lay female devotee — strangers, it seems, to the scene and only inserted for a purely decorative purpose — are, perhaps, the donors, perhaps two of the usual attendants. (Cf. above, pp. 173, note 1, and 173-4).

II. — The original of plate XXV, 2, measuring in height m. 0,45, comes likewise from Loryân-Tangai and is preserved in the Calcutta museum. It has already been published by Dr. BURGESS (*J. Ind. Art and Ind.*, no. 69, 1900, fig. 22 = *Buddh. Art in India*, fig. 147).

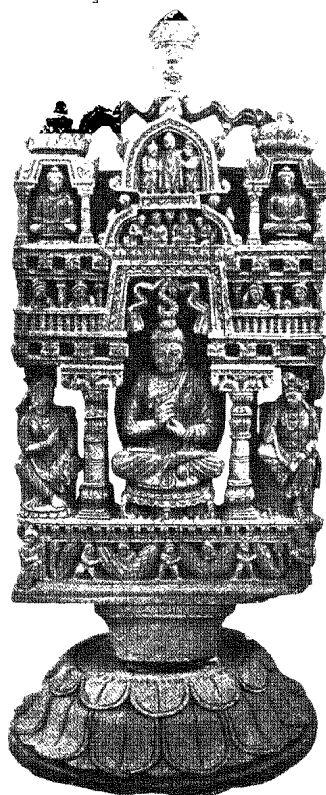
Here the lotus which serves as a seat for the teaching Buddha is supported by the two *Nāga-rājas*, Nanda and Upananda, who are visible only as far as the waist. The one on the right (in relation to Buddha) is of a curious type of Brahmanic ascetic, with his beard and voluminous chignon; he holds in his right hand an object which reminds us very much of the dolphin similarly carried by certain of his congeners (cf. *Art g.-b. du Gandhāra*, fig. 126), but which, in fact, seems to be nothing but the head of a serpent coming out of his neck. As for the one on the left, no less strange with his moustache and his striped hair, we cannot say whether he holds in his left hand a bent paddle or a hooded serpent (cf. *Arch. Surv. Rep.*, 1903-1904, pl. LXVIII, b). On either side of the Nāgas kneel a monk and a nun, perhaps Maudgal-yāyana and Utpalavarnā (cf. above, p. 174).

The two divine attendants are again seated on rattan seats; both rest their elbows symmetrically on their raised knees, while their foreheads, marked with the *ūrṇā*, recline upon the tip of one finger: we know that this pensive pose has been ascribed by Sino-Japanese art to Avalokiteṣvara. The attendant on the right, who, like Brahmā, has no head-dress other than his hair, holds in his right hand the book (in the form of a palm-leaf manuscript) which will be one of the attributes of Mañjuṣrī; the turbaned one on the left holds in his left hand an object which, from its granular appearance and the fold which it makes at the bottom, we believe to be again a purse, fastened by a kind of clasp in the form of a medallion and analogous to those in the hands of the attendants on the left of pl. XXIV, 2 and right of pl. XXV, 1, but which on plate LXVIII, c, of the *Arch. Surv. Rep.*, 1903-1904 is plainly a lotus.

To conclude, let us note the curious porch which shelters the three persons, and which, trapezoidal in the centre and arched at the sides, rests on brackets decorated with lions' heads. As usual, birds are represented on the roofs. (Cf. above, p. 171.)



1



2



IN GANDHĀRA

✓





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Only the middle part of the panel seems to be consecrated to the *Mahā-pratīkārya*. The teaching Buddha has his hair curled after the fashion of the later Indian schools. Under the side arches two other little magic Buddhas (one of which is broken), hovering on lotuses above the heads of the divine attendants, make one think prematurely of the *Dhyāni-Buddhas*. As for the two attendants, very much damaged, they are here, as also on the following plates, reduced to the rôle of garland-bearers. The state of the stone no longer allows us to decide whether the two kneeling persons who are embracing the lotus are the *Nāga-rājas* or human worshippers.

The upper corners of the slab are occupied by two scenes, of which the Bodhisattva is the hero (cf. pl. XXVII, at the top), and the two upper tiers of the gable by two episodes from the *Mahābhiniṣkramaṇa*, the « Sleeping Women », and the « Departure from Home » (cf. *Art g.-b. du Gandh.*, pp. 349-361).

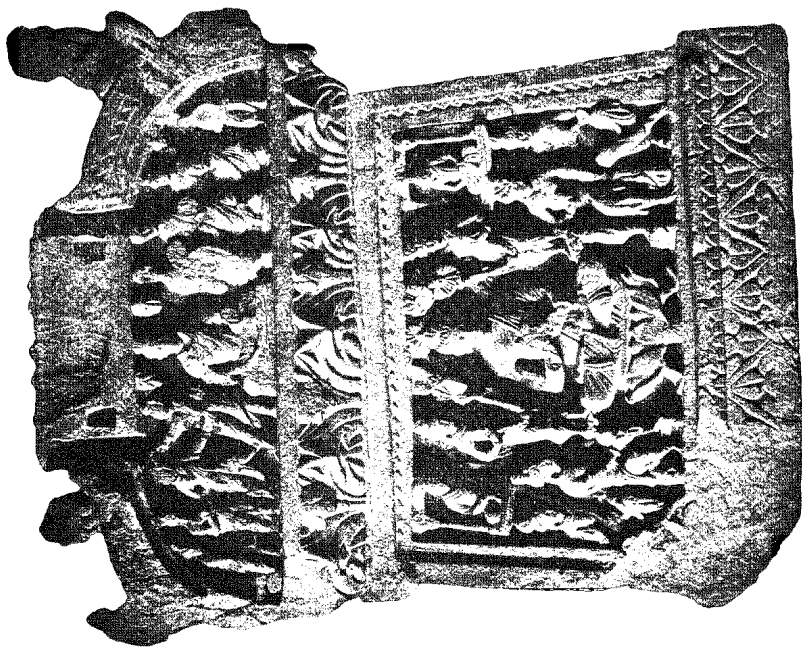
The framework at the bottom is filled by a row consisting of the six predecessors of our Buddha, of Ćākyamuni himself, and of his presumptive successor Maitreya (for the possible connection with the middle scene cf. above, p. 162, n. 1). Seven human beings, probably the donors (cf. p. 173, n. 1), surround them : on the spectator's right we recognize a monk, then a male and female devotee; on his left, two male devotees, one female and a child.

II. — Plate XXVI, 2, was made from a photograph which we believe to be unpublished, and for which we are indebted to the kind

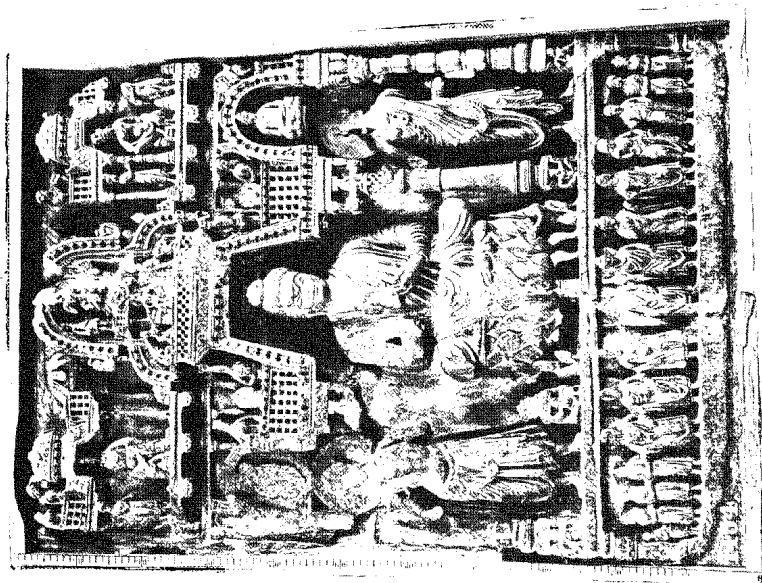
communication of Dr. Burgess; the original formed a part of a private collection in England, now transferred to the Ethnographical Museum in Berlin : in height it measures m. 0,65; it comprises the two lower stories of a gable of a *stūpa* (cf. *Art g.-b. du Gandh.*, pp. 128 and 186).

At the bottom a teaching Buddha, seated on a raised lotus, seems to be placed under garlands or the very artificial foliage of a tree (cf. pl. XXIV, 2); two other little Buddhas (the one on the right, in relation to the central image, seems rather a *cāraṃabbāṇika* Bodhisattva, similar to fig. 145 of *Art g.-b. du Gandh.*), appear under aerial *ædiculæ* in the upper corners of the panel. Of the two divine acolytes, the one on the right wears a chignon, and the one on the left a turban. Moreover, four tall lay persons are seated beside Buddha; those with chignons in the corner have their feet crossed in the same manner as has the right-hand attendant on plate XXV, 1; the two others, who are turbaned, are in attitudes which we shall find again on plates XXVII and XXVIII, 1 : their number makes us think of the four Lokapālas (cf. above, pp. 173, n. 1, and 174).

At the top we believe we can identify a representation — unique, so far as we know — of the *vyākaraṇa* of Jyotipāla (*Mahāvastu*, I, pp. 314-335 and 335-338) : Ghaṭikāra, the Potter, is bringing by force to the Buddha Kāṣyapa his childhood's friend, the young Brahman Jyotipāla, the same who later became Ćākyamuni, dragging him, in spite of his resistance, by the hair. On the left of Kāṣyapa five monks, seated or standing, represent his community. The corners are filled with worshipping figures; still others adorned the exterior of the half-arches.



2



1

IN GANDHĀRĀ







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The original of this plate, the exact origin of which is unknown, is preserved in the museum at Lahore (no. 572), where we photographed it; it measures m. 0.85 in height. As yet it has been published only by Dr. BURGESS (*J. Ind. Art and Ind*, no. 62, 1898, pl. 8, 1).

Only the middle part of the stele is devoted to the *Mahā-pratibhāya*. Under the large lotus two persons, whose bodies are only half seen, but who are not otherwise characterized, and who are leaning back to look at the Master, must be the two traditional *Nāga-rājas*. Above the head of the great central Buddha, which is of disproportionate size, two little genii, flying without wings, hold up a crown of jewellery under ornamental foliage. On each side appear two other small figures of Buddha, analogous to those on plate XXV, 1, and placed respectively beneath a Bodhisattva in the costume of a Buddha (cf. pl. XXVI, 2) surrounded by a radiating halo, and beneath a group consisting of Buddha in conversation with a monk. The two usual attendants, standing on lotuses with bent stems, hold up their garlands (cf. pls. XXVI and XXVIII, 1). Above them, on the right of Buddha, is Vajrapāṇi, bearing his thunderbolt, and having on his head a tiara often worn by Indra (cf. *Art g.-b. du Gandh.*, fig. 246); and opposite to him, wearing a turreted crown, the *nagara-devatā* of Ārāvastī (cf. above, pp. 174-5). About ten other gods are seated in various attitudes, all resting on lotuses, except those (who also have haloes) on the first row at the bottom (the four Lokapālas, two of which on the right are damaged; cf. pl. XXVI, 2).

In the top panel a sort of apotheosis of the Bodhisattva corresponds to the transfiguration of the Buddha: the former, accompanied by ten persons with haloes, is seated, with feet crossed and a water-flask in his hand, under a parasol, on a low rattan seat covered with a cushion. From numerous analogies, and notably that of a bas-relief in the Louvre, where this scene immediately follows that of the Nativity (*Art g.-b. du Gandh.*, fig. 164), we seem to recognize the *saṃcodana* of the Bodhisattva Siddhārtha (*Lalitā-vistara*, chap. XIII), a pendant to the *adhyeshana* of Buddha (*ibid.*, chap. XXV). The point to be noted here is the close connection between the types and attitudes of the gods in the upper and lower scenes. On each side of the Bodhisattva are the same garland-bearers on lotuses; at the two bottom corners are the attendants in the same attitude as on plate XXV, 2; the first attendant on the left at the same level is turning round to express to his neighbour his admiration, as on plate XXVI, 2, etc.

At the bottom is depicted the adoration of the *pātra*, or alms-vase of Buddha, placed on a throne (cf. *Art g.-b. du Gandh.*, p. 419) and surrounded probably by donors.









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II. — Plate XXVIII, 2, reproduces, by the gracious authorization of the Secretary of State for India, a direct photograph published by CUNNINGHAM, *Stupa of Bharhut*, pl. XIII (cf. *Anc. Mon. Ind.*, pl. 16). The original is preserved in the Calcutta museum (cf. ANDERSON, *Catalogue*, I, p. 66).

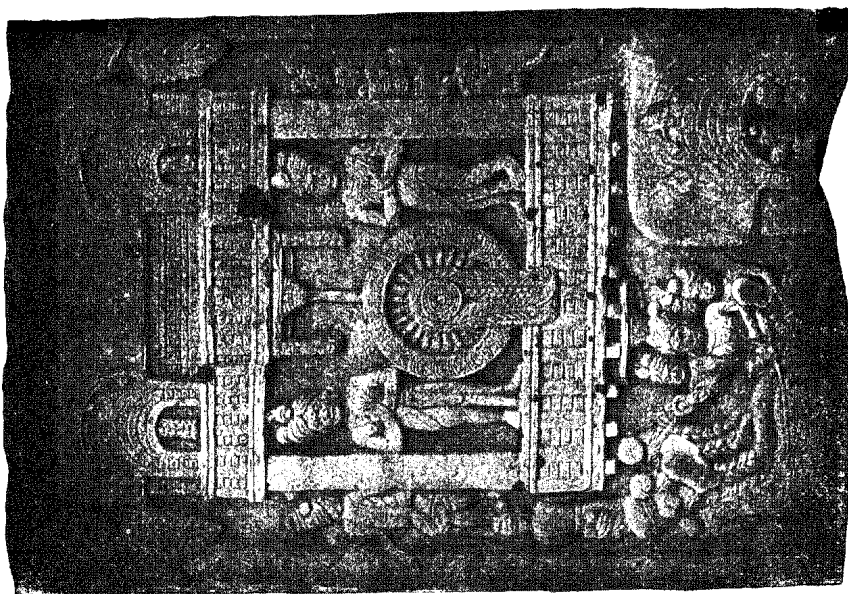
At the bottom there issues from an arched gateway of a palace or a town an equipage, of which only the heads of the two horses and of the occupant are to be seen : it is probably the same two-wheeled chariot with four horses that comes out in full view on the left. A king has taken his place in it, accompanied by three attendants holding respectively a parasol, a fly-flapper, and the reins. The manes of the horses are plaited and adorned with tufts, and the precaution has been taken of attaching their long tails to what might be mistaken for a trace. In front run two men on foot, and two horsemen, seen from behind. If they are supposed to be making the *pradakṣiṇā* of the edifice which occupies the greater part of the panel, it would then be the head and not the tail of the procession which would be represented by two persons on the right, mounted on elephants, and having *anikuṣas* in their hands.

The building is two-storied, ornamented with railings; the second storey, pierced by windows with projecting arches, is covered in its turn by a rounded roof, surmounted by a row of pinnacles. The lower one is shown as a great open hall containing a wheel, from the nave of which hangs a heavy garland under a parasol ornamented in the same way. At each side stands an important lay personage, with his hands joined. On the roof of each of these two edifices can be read an inscription; the two borders of the stone are treated as stems of the fan-palm. For the interpretation of this scene cf. above, pp. 178-180.

#### CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE OF PLATES XIX-XXVIII

No. of their order.	Origin.	Approximate date.
Plates XXVIII, 2.	Barhut.	II <sup>nd</sup> Century B. C.
— XXIV-XXVIII, 1.	Gandhāra.	1 <sup>st</sup> -II <sup>nd</sup> — A. D.
— XIX.	Benares.	V <sup>th</sup> — A. D.
— XXI, 2.	Ta-t'ong-fu.	V <sup>th</sup> — A. D.
— XX-XXI, 1.	Ajanā.	VII <sup>th</sup> -VII <sup>th</sup> — A. D.
— XXIII, 2.	Kuṣā.	VII <sup>th</sup> — A. D.
— XXII.	Boro-Budur.	IX <sup>th</sup> — A. D.
— XXIII, 1.	Magadha.	X <sup>th</sup> — A. D.









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workman, such are they still to-day ; or at least, if they are likewise subject to mutilations and susceptible, strictly speaking, of being counterfeited, no attempt at rifacimento or interpolation, that scourge of Indian literatures, could in their case pass unperceived. Guaranteed against the insidious address of the diasceuasts, they are equally so against the individual fancy of their own authors, who are forcibly restrained by the material conditions of their technique. It results from this that they can be arranged with perfect assurance in chronological order and dated with a sufficient approximation. It is in this sense that we are able to say with Fergusson, that « in such a country as India, the chisels of her sculptors are ...immeasurably more to be trusted than the pens of her authors<sup>(1)</sup> ». It is in virtue of this advantage that the figured versions seem to us able in their turn to render some service to the written accounts of the same legend. In short, after having so often applied the texts to the interpretation of the monuments, we should like on this occasion to essay the application of the monuments to the chronology of the texts.

# I

For this purpose we will direct our attention to a celebrated legend, which, however, it may not be useless briefly to recall to the reader, that of the « elephant with six tusks » (Skt. *Shaḍdanta*, Pâli *Chaddanta*, Chinese *Lieu ya siang*). Of course, this marvellous animal was none other than one of the innumerable past incarnations of our Buddha ; and

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(1) FERGUSSON, *History of Indian and Eastern Architecture*, Preface to the first edition, 1876, p. VIII (2<sup>d</sup> edit., 1910, p. x).

he lived, happy and wise, in the company of his two wives and of his troop of subjects in a hidden valley of the Himâlayas. However, the second wife, wrongly believing herself slighted for love of the first, gives herself up to death in an access of jealous fury, making a vow one day to avenge herself upon her husband for his supposed want of affection. In the course of her succeeding existence she becomes, thanks to some remnant of merit, queen of Benares, and possesses the gift of remembering her previous birth. She astutely obtains from the king permission to despatch against her former husband the most skilful hunter in the country, with orders to kill him and bring back his tusks as a proof of the success of his mission. The man does, in fact, succeed at great risk of his life in striking the noble elephant with a deadly arrow. But the soul of the Bodhisattva is inaccessible to any evil passion : not content with sparing his murderer, he voluntarily makes a present of the tusks whereof the man had come to rob him. When the hunter finally brings back to the queen this mournful trophy, she feels her heart break at the sight of it.

Such is this touching story, reduced to its essential and most generally reported features : for it is known under multiple forms. We know, in particular, that it appears in the Pâli collection of the *Jâtaka* (n° 514). Since 1895 M. L. Feer has compared with this text, point for point, the Sanskrit account in the *Kalpadrûmâvadâna* and two Chinese editions, taken, the one from the *Lieu tu tsi king* (Nanjio, n° 143) and the other from the *Tsa pao tsang king* (Nanjio, n° 1329); but, with perhaps excessive prudence, he was careful not to draw any conclusions from this detailed comparison (1). More recently the translation of

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(1) *Journal Asiatique*, Jan.-Feb. 1895. For the version of the *Kalpadrûmâ-*

the *Sûtrâṅkâra* of Aṣvaghosha, so excellently rendered by M. Ed. Huber from the Chinese of Kumârajîva, has made accessible to us a new and most important version <sup>(1)</sup>. Finally, a publication by M. Ed. Chavannes has placed at the disposal of Indianists generally both a complete translation of the two texts quoted by M. L. Feer, and also a translation of the corresponding passage of the *Ta che tu luen* (Nanjio, n° 1169), ascribed to Nâgârjuna <sup>(2)</sup>. So much for the literary sources of our study <sup>(3)</sup>. If we now turn to the works of art, we observe that we have been no less fortunate in having preserved to us at the same time a medallion from Barhut <sup>(4)</sup>, another from Amarâvatî <sup>(5)</sup>, a lintel from Sâncî <sup>(6)</sup>, a fragment of a frieze from Gandhâra <sup>(7)</sup>, and finally two frescoes from Ajañtâ, the one

*vadâna*, cf. the Sanskrit Ms. 27, fol. 232 v°-240 v° of the Bibliothèque Nationale and RAJ. MITRA, *The Sanskrit Buddhist Literature of Nepâl*, pp. 301-303. — We refuse to take into account the commentary of vv. 26-27 of the *Dhammapada*, which, as Mr. FEER also remarks, has scarcely any feature in common with the *Shaddanta* legend.

(1) Ed. HUBER, *Sûtrâṅkâra*, Paris, 1908, ch. XIV, n° 69, pp. 403 sqq.

(2) Ed. CHAVANNES, *Cinq cents contes et apologues extraits du Tripitaka chinois*, three volumes (1911). The story n° 28 (I, p. 101) represents the passage in question from the *Lieu tu tsi king*; the two other extracts will appear in vol. IV. Strictly one might connect with it the story n° 344, which also presents the characteristic trait of the gift of the tusks, but in quite different surroundings. We are happy to take this opportunity of thanking M. CHAVANNES, whose great kindness permitted us to make use of the relevant pages of his work prior to publication.

(3) As to n° 49 (not yet published in the *Bibl. Indica*) of the *Bodhisattvâ-vadânakalpalatâ*, we cite it merely for record : for this narrative is missing from the only ms. (*Sanscrit* 8) of the Bibliothèque Nationale (see below, p. 204, n. 1).

(4) A. CUNNINGHAM, *Stûpa of Barhut*, 1879, pl. XXVI, 6.

(5) J. BURGESS, *Buddhist Stûpas of Amaravati and Jaggayyapeṭa*, 1887, pl. XIX, 1.

(6) Rear face of the middle lintel of the southern gate; cf. J. FERGUSSON, *Tree and Serpent Worship*, 2<sup>d</sup> ed., 1873, pl. VIII.

(7) *Art gréco-bouddhique du Gandhâra*, fig. 138 (fragment of the counter-





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only since the V<sup>th</sup> century A. D.; but in their view this could only be the translation into Pâli of a prose which was quasi-contemporaneous with the verses (1). Of the *Kalpādrumāvadāna* all that we can say without imprudence is that this versified amplification does not bear the marks of high antiquity. As to the dates at which the Chinese translations were made and which, according to the information kindly communicated by M. Chavannes, extend from the end of the III<sup>rd</sup> century to that of the V<sup>th</sup> of our era, they naturally can furnish us only with a *terminus ad quem*. Thus, as far as the texts are concerned, practically every extrinsic element of chronological classification is lacking. Happily we are a little better served, as regards the images. Each of these forms part of a whole to which either votive inscriptions or technical considerations permit us to assign a determinate epoch. It is established that the bas-reliefs of Barhut and of Sâncî go back to the II<sup>nd</sup> or I<sup>st</sup> century B. C. (2). Those of Gandhâra and of Amarâvatî are by common accord attributed to the I<sup>st</sup> or II<sup>nd</sup> of our era (3). It is to the same epoch at the latest that, on the strength of the inscriptions and the style, Messrs. Burgess and Griffiths ascribe the archaic paintings of Cave X at Ajanthâ : on the other hand, the same authorities bring the decoration of Cave XVII down to the beginning of the VI<sup>th</sup> century (4). Certainly these are only approximate dates : but it is a good thing to have even so much, and we must consider ourselves fortunate, if we succeed, by using

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(1) Cf. RHYS DAVIDS, *Buddhist Birth-Stories*, 1880, Introduction, pp. I-II.

(2) See above, pp. 4, 34, 67.

(3) Cf. *Art gréco-bouddhique du Gandhâra*, p. 42.

(4) For the « Cave X » see GRIFFITHS, *loc. cit.*, pp. 5 and 32; BURGESS, *Notes*, p. 50; for the « Cave XVII » GRIFFITHS, *ibid.*, p. 5; BURGESS, *ibid.*, p. 61 (cf. p. 57).

these figured monuments as so many land-marks, in dating some of our texts with a similar degree of approximation. Nay, were we not able to call to our aid these hitherto unutilized auxiliaries, it would be wiser to surrender in advance every attempt at historical classification.

## II

Certainly we should not for that reason remain completely disarmed before the confused mass of these often divergent versions; and it would be our part to introduce — by recourse, for want of anything better, to some internal principle of coordination — an order at least theoretical. It is indeed the favourite occupation of folklorists thus to draw up genealogical trees of what they have decided to call « families of tales ». But, if the enterprise is possible, and the pastime permissible, it goes without saying that the result can be of value only upon a double condition, namely that we shall have known how to choose the topical detail which must act as main-spring for the establishment of the series, and that we shall have well observed and followed out, in the arrangement of this series, the natural course of human affairs. Now, in the case of the *Shaddanta-jâtaka* we are in no wise puzzled to discover at once the characteristic trait and the way in which to use it. It is a well recognized law that successive versions of narratives of this kind have a tendency continually to outdo each other in the direction of increasing edification. The usual effect of this pious inclination is, let us say in passing, to destroy by degrees the whole salt of the story together with its probability and its ingenuousness, while substituting for it compositions whose insipidity is sweetened to

the point of nausea. Nevertheless there is no religious literature, and the Buddhist less than any other, which, its original raciness once evaporated, escapes this deplorable and fatal invasion of convention and artificiality. Now what, in the theme with which we are at present concerned, is the essential point, wherein exactly its edification lies? In order that we may not be accused of choosing arbitrarily and to suit the necessities of the case, let us appeal to the *Lalitavistara*, which happens to sum it up in a verse <sup>(1)</sup> : at the time of his previous birth as the elephant Shaddanta (it is the Gods themselves who subsequently remind the Bodhisattva, in order to encourage him to follow his vocation) « thou didst sacrifice thy teeth of dazzling beauty, but morality was saved. » This is indeed the point of the story, which has caused it to be ranged under the category of the « perfection of morality », or better, « of goodness » <sup>(2)</sup> : it is the surrender by the elephant of his beautiful ivory tusks, as sanction to the pardon granted to the hunter who has just mortally wounded him. But there is more than one way of returning good for evil, and it can be done with more or less good grace. In this particular case the virtuous elephant might have limited himself to allowing his enemy to work his will; or, better, he might have facilitated the operation for him; or finally, which quite attains to the sublime, he might have done the deed himself for the advantage of his murderer. It is evidently

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(1) *Lalitavistara*, ch. XIII, 40; ed. LEFMANN, p. 168, l. 9 : *Parityaji te ruci-raçubhadantâ na ca tyaji çilam*. — Naturally it is this same point that is emphasized in the résumé of Hiuan-tsang to which reference will be made below, p. 199.

(2) *Çila-pâramitâ* : this is the classification of the introduction to the *Jâtaka* (ed. FAUSBØLL, I, p. 45; trans. RHYS DAVIDS, p. 55) and of the *Lieu tu tsi king* (CHAVANNES, *Cinq cents contes*, I, pp. 97 sqq.).





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plantain! In the *Kalpādrumāvadāna*, the *Ta che tu luen* (which besides is simply a very summary résumé) and the *Tsa pao tsang king*, the hero does not even trouble himself to borrow from his murderer any instrument whatever: he himself breaks off his tusks, according to the first two accounts against a rock, according to the third against a big tree. But to the *Sūtrālaṅkāra* belongs the palm for spontaneity in the action of the martyr: it is simply « by slipping his trunk round his teeth » that this time the elephant pulls them out, not without pain or grief, while the hunter respectfully waits for him to present them expressly to him. Further than this it is impossible to go.

Thus, then, we obtain a first classification of all our texts. Theoretically it is unassailable; practically we must not form any illusions as to its historical value. If notwithstanding we proceed to arrange the figured monuments according to the same criterion, the chances of arriving by their intervention at a less conjectural result assume immediately a better aspect. In fact we are not long in perceiving that the order thus obtained coincides exactly with that already forced upon us by the purely archæological data. At the head of them there always comes, in its simplicity, the medallion of Barhut: on the left the hunter, having put down his bow and arrows, sets about cutting off the elephant's tusks with a rude saw ('). The latter has kindly crouched

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*danta* occurs in the text very frequently in the plural and not in the dual. On the other hand, it is unfortunately impossible to know what was said on this particular point by texts of which we no longer possess more than the Chinese translation.

(1) See above, p. 39. Perhaps it is worth while to remark that, in the Barhut version, the cause of the drama is evidently the same as in the *Lieu tu tsi king*, that is, the gift of a lotus to the first wife, if at least, as is said in the *Kalpādrumāvadāna*, she did not receive two, one to decorate each of her temples. This reason is cited by the prose commentary of the Jātaka



down to further the wishes of his enemy and to render his task less difficult (pl. XXIX, 1). The case is the same in Gandhâra and at Amarâvatî, where in addition we see represented the episode of the hunter hiding in a ditch, in order to wound the elephant in the stomach with an arrow (pll. XXIX, 2 and XXX, 1). The fresco of Cave X of Ajañṭa shows us likewise, in the words of Mr. Griffiths (*loc. cit.*, p. 32), « the huge six-tusked elephant lying down and a hunter engaged in cutting off the six tusks ». It is, as a matter of fact, six tusks — more or less distinctly separated, but always carefully noted — that the elephant has in all these representations, except that from Gandhâra. But, when we pass on to the painting of Cave XVII, the picture is changed : « the huge white Elephant King », says Mr. Griffiths (*ibid.*, p. 37), is standing, « with only one tusk, upon which he rests his trunk, while a man kneels and makes profound obeissance before him ». In reality (cf. pl. XXX, 2), the elephant, to whom the artist no longer lends more than his two normal teeth, has already torn out one, and is about, as it is written in the *Sūtrālaṅkāra*, to twist his trunk round the second, in order to pull that out in its turn. And during this time the hunter, in adoration before him, awaits the accomplishment of the magnanimous sacrifice. There is, as we see, a striking parallelism of development between our two kinds of documents ; and it is continued from one end to the other of the two series.

If now we bring the two lists together, we obtain, always

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only as a subsidiary one : of the first, a very ingenious one, that he advances, — and according to which the great elephant one day, unintentionally, by shaking a *çâla* tree in full blossom, caused to fall on his second wife, who was standing to windward, only twigs of wood, dry leaves, and red ants, while the first, who was to the leeward, received flowers, pollen and green shoots — there is no more question at Barhut than in the texts, except this particular commentary.

by virtue of the same principle and by the simple intercalation of the various versions (') in the position respectively belonging to them, the following combination :

**I. Stanzas of the Pāli Jātaka :**

*The hunter cuts off the teeth with a knife.*

**II. Medallion of Barhut (II<sup>nd</sup> century B. C.) :**

*The hunter cuts off the elephant's teeth with a saw.*

**III. Medallion of Amarāvati**

**IV. Fresco of Ajantā, Cave X**

**V. Counter-step of Gandhāra**

**I<sup>st</sup>-II<sup>nd</sup> century A. D. :**

*The same version as at Barhut.*

**VI. Lieu tu tsi king (trans. by Seng-houei, d. 280):**

*The same version (the instrument is not specified).*

**VII. Prose Commentary of the Jātaka (rendered into Pāli in the V<sup>th</sup> Century) :**

*The elephant himself saws off his teeth.*

**VIII. Kalpadrumāvadāna :**

*The elephant himself breaks off his teeth against a rock.*

**IX. Ta che tu luen (trans. by Kumārajīva between 402 and 405) :**

*The same version as in the Kalpadrumāvadāna.*

**X. Tsa pao tsang king (trans. by Ki-kia-ye and T'an yao in 472) :**

*The elephant himself breaks off his teeth against a tree.*

**XI. Sūtrālaṅkāra (trans. into Chinese by Kumārajīva towards 410) :**

*The elephant himself pulls out his teeth with his trunk.*

**XII. Fresco of Cave XVII of Ajantā (VI<sup>th</sup> century) :**

*The same version as in the Sūtrālaṅkāra.*

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(1) It will be noticed that the final list differs slightly from that which we drew up at the beginning of this study. On the one hand, we have had to leave aside the lintel at Sanchi, which, treated too decoratively, did not supply us with any information upon the precise point which we are now considering; on the other hand, the tenor of the commentary of the *Jātaka* has shown itself so divergent from that of the text that we have had to divide this source into two. On the whole, then, we always reckon twelve versions, five artistic and seven literary.



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him the colour of the monastic coat is the sole sign of the Buddhist adaptation of the ballad. Beginning with the *Lieu tu tsi king* (n° 6), it is no longer sufficient that the clothes of the hunter should be naturally of a reddish-brown, like those of that hunter (1) from whom Buddha formerly borrowed his first monk's coat : henceforward the man will deliberately disguise himself as a monk, in order to inspire confidence in his prey. But, since he now employs this infallible means of approaching within easy reach, there is no longer need for him to hide in ambush : and in fact, beginning with the *Kalpadrûmâvadâna* (n° 8), he ceases to have recourse to this obsolete proceeding. At the same time, as he has approached openly, it will be necessary that by a refinement of pity his victim should defend him against the vengeance of his first wife, if not from the rest of the herd : this is what the Bodhisattva fails not henceforth to do (n° 9-11). Soon — with n° 10 — scruples are aroused in the mind of the hunter, thus protected : he no longer dares to lay his sacrilegious hand on the tusks of the « Great Being », for fear that it may fall from his body. Finally, in the *Sûtrâlanakâra* (n° 11), to these interested fears is added a real and too legitimate repentance. Thus is seen how a striving after increased edification has by degrees modified a whole concordant assemblage of details : and so it is not, as might be imagined, for an isolated reason, but by a whole sheaf of proofs, if we had time to consider them more closely, that the order of the preceding table would be justified.

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(1) And doubtless, of all people of low caste : for the costume of his order of mendicant brothers Buddha would quite naturally have chosen the coarsest material of the cheapest colour. At least we do not see that the tradition relative to the *kâshâya*, if it had any meaning, can at the bottom signify anything else. For its variations in form cf. also *Art gréco-bouddhique du Gandhâra*, p. 369.

Does this mean that we must blandly accept for the known documents all its features, and that, on the other hand, in order to fix the date of every new version, it will be sufficient to refer it to the corresponding degree on this chronological scale? In the case of a figured monument we should be rather inclined to believe so, provided that it is upon inquiry verified whether by chance it were not a case of some more or less archaizing imitation. As soon as it is a text that is concerned, the question becomes much more delicate, and from the very beginning we fall again into our difficulties. For the most part the table furnishes us with nothing more than simple presumptions, and these need still to be correctly interpreted. It affirms, for example, that the *Sûtrâlaṅkāra* represents the state of the legend current from the V<sup>th</sup> century of our era ; and of this fact we have, in truth, two indisputable proofs. The one, of an artistic order, is the fresco of Cave XVII of Ajaṇṭā (VI<sup>th</sup> century). The other, literary, but by a happy chance dated exactly as belonging to the second quarter of the VII<sup>th</sup> century, is nothing less than a passage from Hiuan-tsang : the story of the Shaḍḍanta, gathered by the great pilgrim at Benares, is, as M. S. Lévi has already pointed out in his admirable article on the *Sûtrâlaṅkāra et ses sources*, « an exact and faithful résumé of the story of Aṣvaghosha » (1). What are we to deduce from these statements? As the name of the author scarcely allows us to bring the work lower down than the II<sup>nd</sup> century of our era, must we has-

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(1) Cf. M. S. LÉVI, *Aṣvaghosha, le Sûtrâlaṅkāra et ses Sources*, in the *Journal Asiatique*, July-August 1908, p. 175. Stanislas JULIEN (I, p. 360) translates in fact : « The elephant tore out his tusks », and WATERS (II, p. 53) says exactly the same. According to BEAL (II, p. 49) he « broke off his tusks ». M. CHAVANNES admits that this second translation might literally be possible : but, not to mention that the sense of « breaking » is given in the dic-

ten to conclude, as we might be tempted to do, that the account of the « white elephant with six tusks » is only a late addition ? This story forms a part of the XIV<sup>th</sup> chapter. Now M. Ed. Huber warns us in his preface « that one of the first catalogues of the Chinese *Tripitaka*, the *Li tai san pao ki*, drawn up in A. D. 597, gives only ten chapters » to the *Sûtrâlaṅkāra*. Besides, we feel to what a degree this collection of tales (which, like that of the *Jātakamālā*, must at a very early date have been used by Buddhist sermon-writers for the needs of their daily preachings) was ill-defended against interpolations... — This is all very well and good ; and after all the thing is possible : but surely the place assigned to the *Sûtrâlaṅkāra* in our list by its conception of the *Shaddanta-jātaka* does not authorise us to conclude from it anything of the kind. What, in fact, does it prove ? That this text already contains the form which the legend had assumed in the imagination of the artist painters of the VI<sup>th</sup>, and in the memory of the guides of the VII<sup>th</sup>, century. And in what way does it prevent the poetic talent of Aṣva-ghosha from having been the first to put into circulation the elaborate version which, as we have just seen, was coherent in all its parts and destined to have great success and definitely to supplant the far too primitive account of the stanzas of the *Jātaka* ? Two or three centuries may not have been too much for this literary production to become popular in its turn ; and here we find positively no peremptory reason invalidating its authenticity. The best course, with a view to the solution of this question — as of the question how far the Chinese translation is adequate to the Sanskrit origi-

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tionary of Couvreur as a secondary meaning, it is that of « tearing out » which corresponds to the description of the attitude in the *Sûtrâlaṅkāra*, and its representation in the fresco of cave XVII of Ajanṭā.





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I. — From CUNNINGHAM, *Stūpa of Bharhut*, pl. XXVI, 2 ; for the description cf. above, pp. 39 and 194-5.

II. — From a photograph taken by the author at the Madras museum in December 1896. The number and variety of the episodes collected together on this single medallion, among trees and rocks used as frames, give it, in contrast to the simplicity of that at Bharhut, an especially entangled and confused appearance. — 1. On the lower part, to the right, we see the miraculous elephant with six tusks, standing between his two queens, of whom the first, on his left, holds over his head a parasol, whilst on the right the second flourishes a fly-flapper. — 2. He moves in the direction of the lotus pond, which occupies the bottom of the picture, and where we see him sporting with a numerous company : the apparently female pachyderm who is coming precipitately out of the pond on the left and who then seems to crouch in order to throw herself down some precipice, would perhaps be intended to awake the remembrance of the jealous wife and her suicide? — 3. Whatever may be the fact concerning this detail, the story is now continued on the right, in the upper portion of the medallion. The great elephant is depicted standing at the moment when he crosses the fatal ditch in which lurks the hunter, whose bust only is to be seen between the animal's legs. — 4. A little more to the left the elephant, whose forepart only is shown, is kneeling, in order that the hunter may cut off his tusks by the aid of a saw furnished with a curved spring, much more elaborate than the tool used at Bharhut. — 5. Finally, right at the top, the latter carries away, on the two ends of a pole balanced on his right shoulder, the *spolia opima* of the Bodhisattva. It is curious to observe that the tusks are twelve in number, six ( $2 \times 3$ ) at each end of the pole ! Here and there indications of antelopes and deer, while lending animation to the scene, only add to the crowding.



1. — AT BARHUT



2. — AT AMARAVATI







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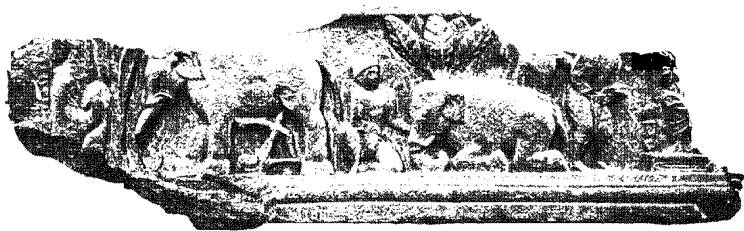
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I. — A frieze from the Lahore museum (no. 1156, height m. 0,16), which formerly decorated one of the counter-steps of a staircase on Karamâr Hill; from a photograph taken by the author (cf. *Art g.-b. du Gandh.*, I, fig. 158). The elephant has only one pair of tusks. — 1. On the left he is wounded in the stomach by the arrow of the hunter hidden in a ditch. — 2. He then kneels down, to allow his teeth to be sawn off. — 3. Finally, on the right, the hunter, twice represented, brings back on his shoulder his bundle of ivory, and then offers it to the royal pair of Benares. We shall note the striking contrast between the distributive order of the episodes according to the ancient Indian school and according to the Indo-Greek school of Gandhâra, there crowded together inside the same pannel, here deployed one by one along a frieze.

II. — From GRIFFITHS, *The Paintings in the Buddhist Cave Temples of Ajantâ*, pl. 63 (fragment). For the description and interpretation of the attitude of the great white elephant cf. p. 195. The hunter is represented twice, first prostrate at the elephant's feet, with his head on the ground, then still squatting, but already balancing on his shoulder the double burden of tusks, which the magnanimous animal has just delivered to him.





1. — IN GANDHĀRA



2. — AT AJANTĀ





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little further (p. 41, l. 23) glosses his « six tusks » by « two tusks of six colours »; for you know that the latest mode was to ascribe to him only one pair. Where the good monk will perhaps seem to go rather far, is when he translates *khura* by *kakaca* (p. 52, l. 9), and unblushingly essays to make you believe that knives are saws, in other words, that chalk is cheese. But soon you will content yourself with shrugging your shoulders before this strange and systematic perversion of the text which he was supposed to interpret; the fact is that you read his hand in advance and see why, before allowing the hunter to descend into the ditch specified by stanza 23, he believes it necessary to clothe him in the *kāshāya* of a monk (p. 49, l. 8); why, when according to stanza 24 the whole troop is scattered to the « eight cardinal points », he considers it more suitable to detain by the side of the wounded one at least his faithful wife (p. 50, l. 9); why, a few lines further down, he has her brutally driven away, for fear she should punish the assassin (p. 50, l. 19), etc. And when finally to stanza 32 — which states merely that the hunter took his knife, cut off the elephant's tusks, and departed — he openly opposes (p. 52) the absurd and pathetic account which we have already analysed<sup>(1)</sup>, the measure is heaped up and the cause decisively heard. If the *gāthās* have all the characteristics of an ancient popular plaint, which the barbarity of the proceeding employed by the hunter to get possession of the ivory forces us to declare anterior to the Barhut medallion,

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(1) See above, p. 193. — It on all these points we have not referred to vol. V of the English translation carried out under the direction of Professor COWELL, it is because the metric version of Mr. W. FRANCIS (either through blind confidence in the commentary or on account of the necessities of the rhyme) seems to regard it as a duty to palliate all the divergencies between the prose and the verse. Thus it is that the beginning of stanza 32 becomes on page 29 : « The hunter then the tusks did *saw* » etc.

that is to say, to the II<sup>nd</sup> century B. C., it is no less evident that their *aṭṭhakathā* was not merely translated into Pāli, but also accommodated to the taste of the times by a cleric of the V<sup>th</sup> century of our era. It is a chasm of at least seven centuries that opens before our eyes between texts which at times some persons have desired to believe contemporaneous.

Thus, whether we arrive at simple points of interrogation or at real certainties, according to the case, it is worth while to take note of these first results. It is well known that in matters of chronology the Indianist is accustomed to be satisfied with very little. He can no longer neglect the data afforded by a comparison of the texts and the monuments, wherever they lend themselves to it. We have certainly chosen a relatively favourable specimen for our attempt : but as regards more than one *jātaka*, and even more than one miracle of Buddha, it would already be possible to draw up a table analogous to that whose spontaneous generation we have just encouraged. We may augur that these studies in detail, in proportion as excavations and new editions supply their constituent elements, will come to each other's aid, and that by a series of tests chronological data will in the end become more and more precise. From that time it would no longer be of such or such a particular episode, but of the whole Buddhist legend that we should succeed in distinguishing the successive states. If it is permissible even to print prognostications which are still so vague, we should be very much surprised if we did not see reproduced, in a general way, the fact dominating the present list of the versions of the *Shaddanta-jātaka*. In fact, it is self-evident that these latter divide nearly equally into two large groups, profoundly divergent from one another, between which the Singhalese com-

mentator of the *Jātaka* vainly endeavoured to construct a bridge. The six first are closely connected with the old native tradition : the five last proceed no less unanimously from a new spirit, which probably filtered into India through its north-west frontier, as a result of foreign invasions. Thus, this table would be before all an excellent illustration of the « crisis » which a succession of great political upheavals at last, a short time after the beginning of our era, provoked in the Indian conscience, and which has already been described in a masterly fashion, by M. Sylvain Lévi, writing of Aṣvaghosha (<sup>1</sup>).

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(1) *Loc. cit.*, pp. 73-74. — Since the above article was written Prof. RAPSON has been so good as to have copied by one of his pupils. Mr. W. H. B. THOMPSON, under his direction and for our use, the version of the *Shaddantāvādāna* from the *Bodhisattvāvadāna-kalpalatā*, which is lacking in the Paris ms. (cf. above, p. 188, n. 3), according to the mss. Add. 1306 and 913 in the University Library at Cambridge. The kind communication of this copy has enabled us to prove the identity of this version — with the exception of three interpolations — with that of the *Kalpādrumāvadāna*. It appears that the author of the latter collection restricted himself to reproducing, without however (in any way) informing the reader of the fact, the work of Kshemendra, except that on two points he has lengthened the narrative of his predecessor, which in his opinion was too much abbreviated. This fact, however unexpected it may be, naturally does not change anything in our conclusions, as far as concerns the general chronology of the successive forms of the legend : it only causes us to think that the *Kalpādrumāvadāna* and *Bodhisattvāvadāna-kalpalatā* agree in preserving for us the version of the canon of the Mūla-Sarvāstivādins, which, as we know (cf. above, p. 151, n. 2), usually serves as a basis for the poetic lucubrations of Kshemendra. On the other hand, it supplies us with an excellent illustration justifying the reservations expressed above concerning the chronology of the texts : here, in fact, we are dealing with a well-known author, who wrote at the beginning of the XI<sup>th</sup> century, and who yet makes use of a version older than that of the *Sūtrālaṅkāra*. Thus it was wise on our part to consider as an acquired result only the demonstration of the difference of time between the stanzas of the Pāli *Jātaka* and their commentary. We are happy to be able on this last point to connect with the already cited evidence of M. SENART and Professor LÜDERS that of Prof. OLDENBERG (*Nachrichten der k. Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen, Phil.-hist. Klasse*, 1911, pp. 441 sqq.).





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to the native tradition, fixed Java to the bottom of the ocean. The flat and marshy borders of the Cambodian Great-Lake have nothing to compare with this sublime scenery; and yet it is a fact of common experience that Boro-Budur produces at first sight a general impression much less profound than does Angkor-Vat.

No doubt, we must in the first place take account of the difference in dimensions. The rectangular base of the Khmer monument has an exterior measurement of 187 by 215 metres; the lower terrace of the Javanese building forms a square of 111 metres on each side. The former attains an elevation of 57 metres, whilst the present summit of the second does not reach 35 metres above the first steps. It is well likewise to note that the latter, older by three centuries or so and exposed to the same destructive agents — torrential rains and the luxuriant vegetation of the Tropics — is in a worse state of preservation (1). But, after all, we must acknowledge that the two monuments, even at the time of their unimpaired splendour, had from an architectural point of view nothing in common. Angkor-Vat deploys on tiers rising above the plain its three enclosing galleries, intersected by portals, flanked by eight towers and crowned by a ninth : Boro-Budur encompasses the summit of a hill with the sacred number of its nine terraces, connected at the four cardinal points by staircases and surmounted by a dome. At Angkor-Vat the eye ranges through the colonnades or follows in the distance

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(1) Boro-Budur is commonly ascribed to the IX<sup>th</sup> Century, and Angkor-Vat to the XII<sup>th</sup>. The leaning walls of the Javanese Stûpa threaten ruin to such a degree that the Government-General of the Dutch East Indies has been moved thereby. The friends of archæology will learn with pleasure that a first grant of 60,000 florins (about £ 5,000) is at present being devoted to works of preservation under the expert direction of Major VAN ERP, of the Engineers.

the ever narrowing flight of the porticoes ; at Boro-Budur the lower galleries, interrupted by twenty right angles and confined on the exterior by a high parapet, narrowly enclose the visitor in their successive recesses (1). In Cambodia, whether from the end of the paved approaches he contemplates the clearly defined silhouette of the towers, or whether from the top of the central group he dominates the widely spaced plan of the enclosures, the spectator always embraces in his view the grandiose scheme of the design. In Java, from the foot as from the top, nothing is ever perceived but a compact mass confusedly bristling with 432 niches and 72 little cupolas forming so many pinnacles. The fact is that Angkor-Vat led the devotee by the perspective of long avenues straight to the dwelling of a god ; Boro-Budur, on the contrary, opened no access in its massive sides, which were destined solely as a shrine for relics. In one word, the first is a Brahmanic temple ; the second is a *stûpa*, or Buddhist tumulus.

That the architectural form of the temple is infinitely more favourable to the effect of the whole than that of the mausoleum, no one will deny. Still this reason is not entirely satisfying ; nor does it suffice to explain what at first sight is « wrong » with the aspect of Boro-Budur (pl. XXXI, 1). It is not a dome with simple lines, like the most ancient Indian *stûpas* which are preserved to us, for example at Sâncî and at Mânikyâla. Neither is it a superposition of quadrangular diminishing terraces, a kind of pyramid in steps, such as the Chinese pilgrims describe the « pagodas » of north-western India. Nor has it the lengthy slenderness of its Burmese or Siamese congeners, which point very high into the air as it were the handle of

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(1) Cf. pll. XXXI, 2 and XXXII, 2.

an enormous bell. To speak candidly, it seems to have been unable to decide clearly whether to be conical, pyramidal, or hemispherical. The vertical indented walls of the first six galleries give the impression that the monument is about to mount up straight towards the sky : but with the three upper circular galleries this start is suddenly frustrated, and the whole structure assumes a crushed and heavy appearance. Doubtless we must make allowance for the disappearance of the crown and the depression of the summit under the influence of the rains. Neither must we forget that the wide band of masonry which now forms the first terrace was constructed round the edifice as an afterthought and contributes in no slight degree to the appearance of heaviness (<sup>1</sup>). But, all taken into account, the disappointment of the impartial observer exists none the less. That a great tumult can never be anything but a kind of huge pudding, he is quite ready to admit : but there are puddings which are more or less successfully constructed. Without irreverence we may say that the *stûpa* of Boro-Budur, with the endless zig-zags of its passages and the profuse ornamentation of its pinnacles, gives at first the impression of a pasty, as badly « raised » on the whole as it is minutely carved in detail (<sup>2</sup>).

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(1) We know that the discovery of this peculiarity is due to an engineer, Heer J. W. YZERMAN. The primitive plinth must have very early been buried in the new masonry along with the bas-reliefs wherewith there had been a commencement of decoration. Doubtless it was found necessary to strengthen the foundations, which threatened to give way under the thrust of the upper stories : at the same time perhaps orthodox tradition found the addition of a terrace advantageous, thus completing in the most patent manner the sacred number of nine. This addition is indicated on pl. XXXII, 1 by the divergent hatchings.

(2) In case the reader should be tempted to think that these criticisms are made by a prejudiced and particularly surly visitor, he is begged to refer





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its direct ancestor is called Amarâvatî<sup>(1)</sup>. And this theory, imposed on the most uninitiated by observation of the monument, is confirmed beyond all hesitation by an examination of the plans and elevations which have been drawn up by specialists. The ruling lines of Boro-Budur, notwithstanding the right angles and vertical walls of its lower galleries, are all curves.

Have the goodness to cast a glance either at the designs contained in the grand album accompanying Leemans' book, or at our plate XXXII. The elements of the latter were borrowed from drawings recently executed under the care of Major Van Erp, who was kind enough to communicate them to us. We have restricted ourselves to adding to the second, for the purpose of our demonstration, the dotted lines. Thanks to this simple artifice, the principles which presided over the construction of Boro-Budur will become quite clear. The plan demonstrates to us in the most evident manner that each of the lower galleries, however angular they may be, is inscribed within a circle, and is itself, at its principal points, tangent to an inner circle. On the elevation we perceive that the initial project of the architect involved the construction of an edifice assuming the general form of a segment of a sphere.

Henceforth nothing remains but to offer him our humble apology and to try to enter into his views. Naturally our observations of fact still hold good; but

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(1) Cf. *Art. g.-b. d.: Gandh.*, fig. 58, a model of a *stûpa* from Amarâvatî, where the procedure in decorating the walls of the monument with the aid of bas-reliefs and the recourse to a promenade intended to facilitate access to the upper row of these latter are already clearly indicated. Let us add that the excavations judiciously conducted by Major VAN ERP have already borne fruit in the discovery of fragments of the balustrade, furnished with doors, which formerly surrounded the base of Boro-Budur.



what we took for defects no longer appear to us anything but necessities logically imposed by the initial decision. It was in order to keep more closely to the horizontal sections of his segment of a sphere that he gave twenty angles to the parapets of the first four galleries and twelve to that of the fifth : if, in his desire to furnish his band of sculptors with plane surfaces, he had made these galleries simply quadrangular, they would have extended too far beyond the primordial inner circle. It is because a semi-circular profile does not mount like a pyramid, that the upper promenades, themselves circular, are necessarily lowered. This explains at once the contrast between the steepness of the first steps and the gentle slope of the last (cf. pl. XXXIII, 2) : not otherwise does one mount the outline of the upper section of a globe <sup>(1)</sup>. Neither is it the fault of anyone, but rather in the nature of things, if, having once reached the top of the rounded sides, one can no longer see the foot, just as from the base it is impossible to perceive the summit. If we likewise reflect that the architect of Borobudur was deprived of our favourite resource of colonnades, we shall understand why to the use of mouldings he has added that of antefixes, of niches and cupolas; and we shall no longer be astonished at the symmetrical multiplication

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(1) The difference between the steps at the bottom and those at the top is so great that from the first to the second gallery, for example, thirteen steps only go back m. 3,56 in rising m. 3,84, whilst the seven steps which lead to the first circular gallery, the sixth of the whole, have a depth of m. 3,40 in rising m. 1,80; Wilsen (ap. LEEMANS, p. 576) asks whether we must not, in the steepness of the first steps, see a symbol, suggested to the minds of the faithful by the intermediary of their legs, of the difficulty of attaining to *Nirvāṇa*! We conjecture, at least, that the impossibility of imposing upon them still steeper ones is one of the reasons which decided the architect not to conform in all things to the ancient Indian formula of the « air bubble on water », and made him recoil before the idea of assigning to his monument the form of a complete hemisphere.

of these decorative elements. On the whole, in every point where we were ready to criticize him, we must now, on the contrary, recognize the ingenuity with which he has turned to advantage the ready-made formula which he had inherited from the ancient religious tradition of India, and to which from the very beginning he was bound as far as possible to conform. We cannot render him responsible for the mediocre architectural effect which his monument must always have had, even at a time before the uneven ruin of the decorations, the subsidence of the summit, and the crumbling of the corners had broken and distorted the lines. Let us add that his first plan, by at once raising the level of the first gallery almost six metres above the pavement, indicated much better and in an incomparably more elegant manner, the form of the edifice. But for the heavy terrace in which he very soon had to bury the original foundation of Boro-Budur, and which still to-day gives the structure an awkward look, we flatter ourselves that we should have made fewer mistakes and felt less hesitation concerning the real intentions of its author.

## II

### THE BAS-RELIEFS OF BORO-BUDUR

(PRINCIPAL WALL OF THE FIRST GALLERY)

Whatever from an architectural point of view has been lost to Boro-Budur through the tyranny of religious tradition is abundantly compensated in the decorative aspect. The 2,000 bas-reliefs, more or less, which formerly covered its walls, and of which about 1,600 still exist to-day, are all borrowed from the legend, or from the Pantheon, of Indian Buddhism; and it was the testimony of these that



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whereof about 400 remain, Dr. S. d'Oldenburg has already identified a number of *jātakas*, or previous lives of Buddha<sup>(1)</sup>. On the wall itself of the *stūpa* (the « back wall » of Leemans) Wilsen had early recognized in the upper row scenes from the last life of the same Çākya-muni; and Dr. C. M. Pleyte has recently published a detailed explanation, according to the *Lalita-vistara*, of the 120 panels which it contains<sup>(2)</sup>. As regards those of the bottom row, the greater number still await an interpretation. We remark at once, by the light of the identifications already made, that these pictures conform in the order of their succession to the general rule of the *pradakṣiṇā*<sup>(3)</sup>; that is to say, they follow the direction taken by the worshipper who circumambulated the *stūpa*, keeping it on his right hand. It results quite naturally from this that, on the walls of the

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(1) S. D'OLDENBURG, *Notes on Buddhist Art*, St. Petersburg, 1895 (in Russian, translated into English in the *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, XVIII, 1, January 1897, pp. 196-201).

(2) C. M. PLEYTE, *Die Buddha-Legende in den Skulpturen des Tempels von Boro-Budur*, Amsterdam, 1901, in-4°. — In general we are in agreement with Dr. PLEYTE as to the identification of the 120 figured scenes, which in fact follow religiously the text which they have undertaken to illustrate. All the same, his figure 14 seems to us to represent not « Çakra and the Guardians of the Cardinal Points », which would convey nothing particularly edifying, but the Bodhisattva, supposed to be seated in his mother's womb beneath the « pavilion of precious stone », at the moment when Brahmā brings to him in a cup the drop of honey, quintessence of worlds, which he has just collected in the magic lotus figured in the preceding scene side by side with the Conception (*Lalita-vistara*, ed. LEFMANN, pp. 63-4). — As to figures 47 and 48, not identified by Dr. Pleyte, we believe, paradoxical as the assertion may seem, that they represent twice the episode of the Bodhisattva's wrestling, first with a single competitor, and then with all his rivals together (*Lalita-vistara*, pp. 152-3). This is why on fig. 47 we see a single individual, and on fig. 48 all the young Çākyas, standing motionless and facing the Bodhisattva, who also is motionless and standing: so inveterate was the horror of the sculptors of Boro-Budur for all violent movements. — See below the additional note on p. 269.

(3) Cf. *Art gréco-bouddhique du Gandhâra*, , p. 268.

parapet, the scenes follow one another from left to right, while, on the building, the succession is from right to left. On both sides they accompany the visitor who makes the round in the only direction compatible with the religious and auspicious character of the monument.

It is all the more expedient not to ignore this law, inasmuch as the identification of the bas-reliefs of this first gallery is, as we have said, very far from complete. Our attention was immediately and forcibly drawn to the 120 magnificent panels on the right wall, below the scenes from the last life of Buddha. Measuring, like these last, from m. 0,70 to m. 0,80 in height by *circa* m. 2,40 in length, about three quarters of them have until now — partly through the fault of the artists and much more through the imperfections of the only reproductions which have been published (1) — resisted all attempts at explanation. At the time of our visit we had at our disposal nothing but the text of the *Divyâvadâna* and the excellent *Guide* of Dr. J. Groneman (2). The latter indicates in the series in question only two identifications, both again due to Dr. S. d'Oldenburg: one is that of the legend of Sudhanakumâra; the other, which is connected with the history of Maitrakanyaka, has quite recently been corroborated and developed by Prof. Speyer and Dr. Groneman at the cost of an extensive

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(1) We would speak of the enormous folio album of 393 lithographed plates, which is annexed to the already mentioned work of LEEMANS and which was so uselessly and so expensively designed at Java by Wilsen and Schönberg Mulder from 1849 to 1853, then published in Holland from 1855 to 1871 under the care of the Government-General of the Dutch Indies.

(2) *Boeddhistische Tempelbouwwallen in die Prâgâ-Vallei, de Tjandis Bârâ-boedoer, Mendoet en Pawon*, by Dr. J. GRONEMANN, Semarang-Soerabaia, 1907. The venerable archæologist of Jogjakarta was so kind as to accompany us himself into the galleries and even to the summit of Boro-Budur; we cannot thank him too warmly for his trouble.

correction of one of Wilsen's drawings. The reading of the *Divyâvadâna* gave us at once the key to the illustrations of two other stories, those of Rudrâyaṇa and of Mândhâtara. Then two or three of these rebuses in stone themselves bear their own solutions. On the whole, two thirds of the 120 panels in the row are thus clearly elucidated by direct comparison of the texts and the originals. At a time when the government of the Dutch Indies is preparing to endow the world of letters with photographic reproductions of all the sculptures of Boro-Budur, it is, perhaps, worth while to publish, without further delay, these first results, which cannot but open the way to the complete explanation of the whole (1).

I. SOUTH-EASTERN CORNER. — We shall begin our *pradakṣiṇâ*, according to rule, at the gate facing the east, which formerly constituted the principal entrance. The proof, if any is needed, is given by the fact that here begins on the upper series of bas-reliefs, the legend of the Buddha Çâkyamuni. The 30 pictures of this series which are comprised between the eastern and southern staircases exhibit the very early events of his last life, from the preparations for his descent from the heaven Tushita until, and including, his last rebirth upon earth. Of the 30 corresponding panels of the

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(1) In order to save the reader all confusion and to facilitate the references to the already published documents, we should explain that we here treat in detail only the 120 bas-reliefs called by LREMANS « lower row of the back wall of the second gallery », which, occupying the base of plates XVI to CXXXV of his album, are described (but not identified) from page 194 to page 217 of his book. We will retain provisionally between parentheses the numbers 2-240 assigned to them, — the odd numbers 1 to 239 being reserved for the 120 bas-reliefs of the « upper row » on this same wall, the row which, reproduced at the top of the same plates and described on pp. 121-193, is entirely devoted to the last life of Buddha and has been studied by Dr. C. M. PLEYTE.





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neighbour of the young *nāga* Janmacitraka, who resides in a pond near the capital of northern Pāñcāla, and who by « dispensing at an opportune moment the exact amount of rain which is necessary » assures abundance to the country. But we can hardly rely upon the resemblance between the Brahman ascetic who goes before him, bearing in his right hand a kind of bent pruning-bill, and the snake-charmer whose witchcraft we are soon to witness.

3. (L., 6). The following panel represents no less than three episodes. On the right the young *nāga*—recognizable, as on the sculptures of India, by his coiffure of serpents' heads—asks upon his knees, and obtains, the protection of the hunter Halaka. In the middle (cf. pl. XXXIV, 1) the same Janmacitraka, grieving and under compulsion, is driven from the midst of the waters and lotuses of his pond by the influence of incantations pronounced (at his right side) by a Brahmanic ascetic before a sacrificial altar; fortunately the hunter, standing (on the other side) with his weapons in his hands, is watching over him. According to the text, he is about to put the charmer to death, not without first having made him annul the effect of his charm. In the third group (on the left) we must therefore, it seems, recognize the same Brahman, not reporting to the king, whose agent he is, a mischance which he has not survived, but at the moment when he receives from this king his secret mission. It follows, therefore, that, by an exceptional, but not impossible, arrangement, the episode on the left, like that on the right, must have preceded in time the one which they both enclose.

4. (L., 8). Next, in the text, comes a brilliant reception at the house of the father and mother of the young *nāga* in honour of the saviour of their son. This is indeed what the bas-relief represents; but then we are forced to admit

that for this occasion the hunter has donned a princely costume, much superior to his caste. It is also necessary to supply the fact that in the meantime he has received from his hosts a lasso which never misses.

5. (L., 10). The following picture transports us to the Himâlaya mountains. On the right we perceive the lean ascetic figure of the old anchorite whose thoughtless chatter has guided the arm of the hunter Halaka. The latter, who is in a squatting posture, holds the *Kinnari* Manoharâ imprisoned at the end of his infallible lasso, while the companions of the latter, likewise represented in human form, rush towards the left in their aerial flight over a pond of lotuses.

6. (L., 12). At this moment, we are told, Sudhana, the Royal Prince of northern Pâñcâla, is passing with a hunting party : Halaka perceives him, and, in order that his captive may not be forcibly taken away, presents her to him. We believe we must twice recognize the hunter in the two persons respectfully stooping down between the prince and the fairy, who are standing : in the first row he is offering his captive; in the second he receives the reward for it. Leemans was wrong in speaking of « a few women of rank » : Manoharâ is the only person of her sex. It goes without saying that, as in our stories, love springs up immediately between the young people.

7. (L., 14). A king, seated in his palace, in the midst of his court, is in conversation with a Brahman. Without the text we should never be able to guess that this king is the father of Sudhana, and that the interlocutor is his *purohita*, or chaplain, the traitor of the melodrama. The latter is in the act of perfidiously counselling his master to confide forthwith to the royal prince the perilous task of subduing a rebellious vassal, against whom seven expeditions have already failed.

8. (L., 16). The unhappy prince, in despair at having to leave his beloved Manoharâ, obtains permission to say farewell to his mother before beginning the campaign, and begs her to watch over his young wife. That the bas-relief does, in fact, represent an interview between a mother and a son is clearly proved by the higher seat of the queen and the respectful attitude of the prince.

9. (L., 18). Sudhana, as it is written, stopped « at the foot of a tree » near to the rebellious town. Fortunately, Vaiçravaṇa, one of the four gods who reign in the air, foreseeing his defeat, sends to his aid his general Pâṇcika with a troupe of *Yakshas*, or genii. These are the « five giants, or evil spirits », mentioned by Leemans. The latter continues :

10. (L., 20). « A prince, seated in his house with his wife and two servants, is giving audience to six men, perhaps wise Brahmans, with whom he is engaged in a very animated conversation... » Here, again, it is only from the text that we learn that the locality of the scene is transferred back to Hastinâpura, the capital of northern Pâñcâla, and that the father of Sudhana is asking his Brahman astrologers for an explanation of a bad dream. The wicked chaplain takes advantage of this to prescribe, among other remedies forestalling such bad omens, the sacrifice of a *Kinnari*. The king seems to make a gesture of protest, and his wife shows manifest signs of sorrow.

11. (L., 22). But in the heart of the king the instinct of self-preservation at last gains the victory. Thus, on the following picture we see the fairy Manoharâ, with the assent, and even the complicity, of the Queen Mother, flee away gracefully through the air (pl. XXXIV, 2).

12. (L., 24). Meanwhile Sudhana, by the aid of the genii, has triumphed, without any shedding of blood. His





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Druma. At this very moment a crowd of *Kinnaris* is engaged in drawing water in great quantities for the bath of the princess — because, they say, of that human odour which she has brought back with her from the earth, and which will not disappear. Sudhana takes advantage of this to throw the ring of recognition into one of the pitchers, which he recommends to the servant as the first to be emptied over the head of Manoharâ. According to the text the trick is played without the knowledge of the *Kinnari*; but according to pl. XXXV, 2, so elegant in its morbidezza, it cannot be that she is deceived concerning the intention of the gesture and the motive for the recommendation of the young man.

17. (L., 34). The stratagem succeeds : Druma, warned by his daughter of the arrival of the prince, after threatening « to make mincemeat of him », is appeased, and consents to prove him. The bas-relief represents Sudhana standing at the left, his bow bent, ready to pierce seven palms with one single arrow ; on the right Druma, seated and with a halo, witnesses his prowess.

18. (L., 36). Finally he resolves, as is written and as we can see, to grant the prince his daughter's hand.

19. (L., 38). The newly-wedded couple lead a life of pleasure in the midst of the gynæceum. According to the customary Indian and Javanese formula these delights are provided by a dancing girl, accompanied by an orchestra of musicians of both sexes. As Leemans has shrewdly remarked, the royal couple do not seem to pay great attention to these amusements : they do not, in fact, suffice to cure the prince of homesickness.

20. (L., 40). And this is why, on the following and last picture, we see him and his wife signalizing by a distribution of bounty their return to Hastinâpura.



Here, we believe, ends, both on the monument and in the text, the story of Sudhana-kumâra and the *Kinnari* Manoharâ, or, as we may translate it, of Prince Fortunate and the fairy Charming. The ten panels which continue the line as far as the southern staircase seem to be devoted to another story, in which the exchange by sea and land of portraits, or models, of the hero or heroine (1) plays a role sufficiently picturesque to suggest sooner or later an identification. For the present we prefer to abstain from all hypothesis. The example of the first twenty of these bas-reliefs proves clearly that it would be idle to attempt, without the aid of a text, an explanation founded solely on the intimations of the sculptors. Even a text is not always sufficient : it must also be well chosen. We have just remarked that our image-makers have, except for a few insignificant divergences, followed the letter of the *Divyâvadâna*. We should arrive at a quite different result, if we compared with their work another version of the same legend, preserved in the no less ancient and authentic collection of the *Mahāvastu* (2). There we have no more ques-

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(1) A story, likewise Indian and Buddhist, translated from the Chinese by M. CHAVANNES (*Fables et Contes de l'Inde, extraits du Tripitaka chinois*, in *Actes du XIV<sup>e</sup> Congrès international des Orientalistes*, I, p. 94) begins with this double and reciprocal exchange of ideal models : but the continuation of the story does not seem to accord with the scenes of our bas-reliefs. We may also recall, in the legend of Mahākācyapa, the detail of the fabrication of a type of girl in gold (BEAL, *Romantic Legend*, p. 317; SCHIEFNER, *Textes traduits du Kandjour in Mélanges Asiat. de St. Péterb.*, VIII, pp. 296 sqq., or *Tibetan tales*, p. 191).

(2) Ed. SENART, II, pp. 94-115. On the other hand, the version of the Tibetan *Kanjur*, translated by SCHIEFNER (*Tibetan tales*, pp. 44-74), follows exactly the text of the *Divyâvadâna*, that is, as has lately been shown by MM. S. LÉVI and Ed. HUBER, the canon of the Mûla-Sarvâstivâdins; we shall have to return to this point. Let us again cite two versions of the *Sudhanakumârâvadâna*, the one from the *Bodhisattvâvadânakalpalatâ* (no. 64), the other (pointed out by

tion of a preamble, containing the adventures of the *nāga* Janmacitraka and of the snake-charmer : also it is not with an infallible lasso, but thanks to a « truthful word », that the hunter gets possession of the *Kinnari*. There is no longer any wicked chaplain, any expedition of the prince against a rebel, any bad dream of the king : it simply happens that Sudhana, having in the excess of his love neglected his duties, is put into prison by his father, and the fairy is sent home, but not by way of the air. Then it is with two hunters, and not with an anchorite, that Manoharâ leaves her ring and her directions to her lover. It is a huge monkey who transports the prince and his three companions to the town of the *Kinnari*, where the best welcome awaits him, without having to undergo any trial of strength or skill. In short, if we had at our disposal only the *Mahāvastu*, scarcely two or three out of twenty bas-reliefs, for example the capture of the *Kinnari* by the hunter and the throwing of the ring into the pitcher, would be susceptible of a detailed interpretation by the aid of the text : and yet it is quite evident to us, thanks to the constant accord between the *Divyâvadâna* and the sculptures, that the identification with the legend of Prince Sudhana would be on the whole none the less just. This remark deserves to be borne in mind throughout the delicate enterprise of the explanation of these mute stories.

II. SOUTH-WESTERN CORNER. — We should be tempted to apply it without further delay to the bas-reliefs which we encounter immediately after having passed the point where the southern staircase crosses the first gallery of the *stûpa*.



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less version of the Pâli *Jâtaka* no. 258 had been of no assistance whatever. Neither had we been helped by the Tibetan text of the *Kanjur* in the translation of Schiefner, which, in fact, follows with great fidelity the *Divyâvadâna*, that is the version of the Mûla-Sarvâstivâdins. Kshemen-dra does the same, but for once, in the midst of his insipid *concetti*, he has, at the beginning, preserved for us one topical detail (st. 8-10) :

« One day Uposhadha, anxious to assure the protection of the anchorites by the destruction of the demons, mounted on horseback, and began to go through the hermitages.

« There certain *rishis* of royal race were holding a vessel ready for a sacrifice celebrated with a view to obtaining a son : very hot with the fatigue of the long journey, the king drank the contents at one draught.

« No one was there to prevent him ; and, because he had swallowed the contents of the enchanted vessel, the monarch, on returning to his capital, found that he had conceived... »

All the versions agree in telling us that there came on the head of king Uposhadha an enormous tumour, very soft to touch and in nowise painful. When it had matured, there issued from it a fine boy, for the charge of whose nurture the 60,000 women of the royal harem disputed. To the wonderful circumstances of his birth he owes his double name of Mûrdhaja and Mândhâtar — or even, by confusion of these two, Mûrdhâtar. But what is of special importance to us is that the Kashmir poet furnishes us with the only link which was missing in the interpretation of the bas-reliefs (1).

*Mândbâtravadâna*. — Henceforth nothing, indeed, prevents

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(1) Cf. nearly the same story in *Mahâbhârata*, *Dronâparvan*, LXII.

us from seeing in nos. 1 (L., pl. XLVI, 62) and 2 (L., 64) the rich alms which King Uposhadha himself bestows and causes to be bestowed with a view to obtaining a son. The reason for the expedition represented in no. 3 (L., 66) is no longer hidden from us : it is that undertaken by the king (who in this case travelled in a litter) for the protection of the anchorites. No. 4 (L., 68) takes us straight to a hermitage of the *rishis*; and we believe that we can see there the magic vessel to which Uposhadha owed in such an unusual manner the fulfilment of his desires. In any case, it is in the following picture (no. 5; L., 70) that the child so much desired is at last seen. Again, nos. 6 and 7 are probably there simply as padding, and they represent, the first (L., 72) the horoscope of the future *cakravartin* or sovereign monarch of the world, the second (L., 74) the donation intended to recompense the astrologer. These last incidents, like that of the alms, are very commonplace; it is easily intelligible that the compiler of the *Divyâvadâna* should have dispensed with a further repetition of them. On the other hand, the sculptors of Boro-Budur never fail to emphasize, as hints to visiting pilgrims, these edifying scenes of virtue in practice. But let us proceed : we are now on firm ground, supported by both a written and a figured form of the tradition in mutual accord.

8. (L., 76) « Having become a royal prince, Mândhâtara goes to see the country. » We do, indeed, perceive the young prince at the moment when, starting on his journey, he respectfully takes leave of his father.

9. (L., 78). During his absence the latter dies. Among the marvels susceptible of representation which are adjuncts of his coronation the text signalizes the sudden appearance of the « seven jewels » of the *cakravartin*. This is why we see depicted here among the surroundings of the prince, who

has become king, a disc, a jewel, a horse, an elephant, a woman, a general, and a minister.

10. (L., 80). The *Divyâvadâna* tells us, immediately after, that not far from Vaiçâlî there is a charming wood, in which reside five hundred *ṛishis*. Now extraneous noises are the scourge of pious meditations. A surly anchorite, annoyed by the noise of certain cranes, breaks their wings by a curse. King Mândhâtar, angered in his turn by this hardness of heart, requests the hermits to depart from his dominions. The bas-relief also shows us birds placed on the ground between the king, who is standing in conversation with a stooping courtier, and two *ṛishis*, recognizable by their big chignons and their rosaries, who are fleeing by the route of the air.

11. (L., 82). Mândhâtar, continuing his tour, decides not to have the fields of his kingdom any more cultivated; for the corn will rain down from heaven. The peasants do, in fact, gather up before his eyes bunches of ears of rice, which have fallen from the clouds : we expressly say bunches, and not sheaves, because in Java the rice is not cut, but gathered by hand.

12. (L., 84). In the same way Mândhâtar decides that his subjects will no longer need to cultivate cotton, or to spin, or to weave. Immediately there fall from the clouds pieces of woven material, which the people have only to catch in their flight and to fold up for subsequent use (pl. XXXVI, 1).

13. (L., 86). Somewhat vexed, because his subjects attribute partly to themselves the merit of all these miracles, Mândhâtar causes for seven days a shower of gold, but only within his own palace. This explains why, beside the king and his ministers, we see here only women, engaged in collecting the treasures pouring from jars set amid the clouds.





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ries his presumption so far as to wish to dethrone Indra, in order to reign alone in his place. But this time he has gone too far. Scarcely has he conceived this thought than he is thrust from the height of the heavens down to the earth; and he has hardly time, before he dies, to pronounce a few edifying words concerning the excess of his blind ambition. Consequently no. 18 (L., 96), which is quite analogous to no. 15, should represent the last consultation of the king with his minister; no. 19 (L., 98) should be dedicated to the last words which he pronounces after his fall, while on the left Çakra, standing and with a halo, should turn away from him; then finally no. 20 (L., 100) should show us his funeral and, as befits a *cakravartin*, the depositing of his ashes in a *stûpa*. But these explanations, plausible though they may be, have not the obviousness of the preceding.

*Çibi-jâtaka*. — We should say the same of those which we might propose for the ten bas-reliefs which continue the series as far as the western staircase, excepting the sixth (L., pl. LXXI, 112). It seems indubitable that this latter represents the essential episode of the *Çibi-jâtaka*, that is to say, that previous life in which the future Buddha ransomed a dove from a falcon at the price of an equal weight of his flesh (1). At least, nothing is wanting to the scene, neither the Bodhisattva seated in his palace, nor the bird of prey perched on a neighbouring tree, nor the

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(1) It is well known that we still have no Indian *Buddhist* version of this form of the legend. Except for the Brahmanic epopee, it is known to us only from the allusions of the Chinese pilgrims Fa-hien (trans. LEGGE, p. 30), Sung Yun (trans. CHAVANNES, *B. É. F. E.-O.*, III, p. 427), Hiuan-tsang (trans. Stan. JULIEN, I, p. 137), and from Chinese versions, such as that which was retranslated from Chinese by M. Ed. HUBER, *Sûtrâlaṅkāra*, Paris, 1908, p. 330, and from Tibetan by SCHMIDT, *Der Weise und der Thor*, p. 120.

pigeon, which appears twice, once placed on the back of the throne and once in one of the plates of the scales (pl. XXXVI, 2). This time the bas-relief would be sufficient for its own interpretation. We feel how rare is such a case among all these sculptures; and the greater number of those of the upper row — which in the south-west corner extend from the birth of Çākya-muni to the four excursions which determined his vocation — are not more expressive.

III. NORTH-WESTERN CORNER. — The bas-reliefs of the third portion of the first gallery (on the right-hand wall) are known to represent in the upper row the departure of Buddha from his home, that is to say, his entry into the religious life, and all the trials which preceded the attainment of perfect illumination. Out of the 30 in the lower row at least 22, and perhaps 25, are, as we shall show step by step, consecrated to the celebrated historical legend of king Rudrāyaṇa. Again it is in the *Divyāvadāna* that we may read it ('). In the *B. É. F. E.-O.* of 1906, M. Ed. Huber gave, in accordance with the Chinese translation and the Sanskrit text, an analysis of it, from which it clearly appears that this *avadāna*, like the preceding ones, is only an extract from the *Vinaya* of the Mūla-Sarvāstivādins. In this connection M. Huber had seemed to discern through the drawings of Wilsen that one of the episodes of the story, viz. that of the two cats (cf. below, no. 17), was represented at Borobudur; but, justly discouraged by the inexactitudes of the only accessible reproductions, he was obliged to abandon this clue. Direct comparison of the text with the monument has permitted us to follow it up from one end to the other.

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(1) XXXVII, ed. COWELL and NEIL, pp. 544-586. It is known that BURNOUNF translated a fragment of it in his *Introduction à l'histoire du Bouddhisme indien*, pp. 341-344.

The extremely exact and sufficiently detailed résumé published by M. Huber, to which we refer the reader, will allow us this time to insist a little less upon the history and a little more upon the sculptures.

*Rudrâyanâvadâna*. — First of all, we must state that we do not see any way of making the story on the stone begin at the corner of the western staircase, but only at the first reëntering angle after the face intersected by that staircase. Do the three first bas-reliefs on the left of the entrance, in which Çakra plays his accustomed rôle of *deus ex machinâ*, form a whole by themselves, or must they not rather be a continuation of those on the right? Or, on the contrary, may we not some day come to think that the story of Rudrâyaṇa also comprises a prelude omitted in the *Divyâvadâna*? Only the chance of reading some Indian text may some day tell us, even if we have not to await a solution by a Tibetan or a Chinese translation.

1. For the moment we begin with the *Divyâvadâna* at no. 128, pl. LXXIX of Leemans, where Rudrâyaṇa, king of Roruka, questions merchants, who have come from Râjagriha, the capital of Bimbisâra, concerning the merits of their master.

2. (L., 130). A king is seated in his palace; on his right a courtier holds in both hands a rectangular tablet: this must represent the letter which, in the first fire of his enthusiasm, the sovereign of Roruka resolved to write to his cousin of Magadha. Further, two suppositions are permissible: if the king represented is the sender, his name is Rudrâyaṇa; if, as seems more natural, he is the addressee, he is Bimbisâra. We do not ask our sculptors to decide this by attributing to each of the two monarchs a characteristic physiognomy: that would be exacting too much from them.

3. (L., 132). Then follows a grand reception to welcome,





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cognizable, that we think it advisable to give a photographic reproduction (pl. XXXVII, 1).

7. (L., 140). The total absence of landscape is sufficiently rare to render it worth our while to direct attention to it here. The whole height and breadth of the panel are occupied by a procession, in which the place of honour, between the arms of a man perched on an elephant, belongs to a kind of rolled up *kakemono*, on which we know that the silhouette of Buddha is painted. Doubtless, the scene is taken at the moment when the inhabitants of Roruka, who are come out to meet this supreme gift from Bimbisâra, bring it back with great pomp to their town.

8. (L., 142). This picture is quite analogous to no. 1, not to mention that it is likewise placed at the turn of an angle : only, in the interval the subject of the conversation has changed in a most edifying manner. It is no longer the merits of their king which are the boast of the people of Râjagriha, but those of Buddha himself.

9. (L., 144). Rudrâyana, as soon as converted, begged to receive instruction from a monk, and the master despatched to him the reverend Mahâkâtâyâna : a monk is, in fact, sitting at the right of the king, and even on a higher seat than he. In the most gratuitous — and also the most perplexing — manner the designer considered it necessary to surmount the shaven head of this monk (cf. pl. XXXVII, 2) with the protuberance of the *ushnîsha*, which is special to Buddhas. Let us add that Mahâkâtâyâna seems, in the midst of the edified hearers, to be making a gesture of refusal : what he refuses is, doubtless, to preach in the gynæceum of the king : that is the business of the nuns.

10. (The drawing is missing in L.). Thus the following panel shows us the nun Çailâ preaching from the height of a throne to the king and four of his wives, who are seated on



the ground (pl. XXXVIII, 1). Behind her a servant seems to be ordering three armed guards to forbid anyone to enter the harem during the sermon. It will be noticed that — doubtless from modesty — the nun and, in a general way, the women are seated with their legs bent under them, and not crossed in the same manner as those of the monks and the men (1).

11. (The drawing does not appear in L.). The scene is obviously the same, except in two points. Firstly, a second nun, squatting behind Çailâ, represents doubtless the *quorum* necessary for an ordination. In the second place, there are now only women in the audience, and the place formerly occupied by the king is taken by a third *bhikṣuṇī* kneeling. Immediately the text invites us to recognize in this novice queen Candraprabhâ, who, conscious of her approaching death, has obtained from Rudrâyaṇa authority to enter into religion (pl. XXXVIII, 2).

12. (The drawing is not to be found in L.). That on the following bas-relief the king is again in conversation with his favourite wife would likewise not be understood, did we not learn elsewhere that Candraprabhâ was born again in the nearest heaven, and that she promised her husband to return after her death to advise him as to the ways and means of reunion with her in another life. Here she is fulfilling her promise (pl. XXXIX, 1).

13. This explains also why the very next morning Rudrâyaṇa decides to go and be ordained a monk by Buddha, and announces to his son Çikhaṇḍin that he abdicates

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(1) In the same order of ideas we may again notice that the real *padmâsana*, with the legs closely crossed, the soles of the feet turned upwards and the right foot forward, is reserved by our sculptors for Buddha alone (cf. on the upper corners of our plates XXXVII, 2 and XL, 1 the image of the Bodhisattva, already represented in the form of a Buddha).

in his favour (pl. XXXIX, 2). In this case the drawing of L., pl. XCI, 152, reproduces only the upper part of the characters, and commits the very grave fault of making the king's interlocutor a woman : it is obviously a man.

14. (L., 154). If the four preceding pictures are either totally or partially missing from Wilsen's album, the following one is, in compensation, more than complete. The designer began once more — with the aggravation of an indication of locks of hair covering an imaginary *ushnisha* — the mistake of which he had already been guilty in no. 9 : of a monk with a round, shorn head he made a Buddha! Furthermore the two scenes nos. 9 (pl. XXXVII, 2) and 14 (pl. XXXIX, 3), which are quite symmetrical, bring face to face with one another, in the customary surroundings of a royal residence, the type of the monk and the type of the king. Only the continuation of the text reveals to us that this time the monk is no longer Mahākātyāyana, but Rudrāyaṇa himself, who has just been ordained by Buddha in person at Rājagṛiha. In a long dialogue he rejects, for his first round in public as a mendicant monk, the seductive offers of Bimbisāra. You may well imagine that it was impossible to pass by so fine an opportunity for reproducing, both on the monument and in the text, the famous episode of the temptation of the future Çākya-muni by this same Bimbisāra.

15. (L., 156). The bas-relief is divided into two parts by a tree, and the different orientation of the characters emphasizes this separation. On the right, at Rājagṛiha, the monk Rudrāyaṇa (still wrongly represented by Wilsen as a Buddha) learns from merchants, natives of his country, that his son Çikhaṇḍin is conducting himself badly on the throne, and he promises to go and put things in order. On the left, at Roruka, King Çikhaṇḍin is warned by his evil



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a handful of dust on Mahâkâtyâyana, with whom his relations have never been cordial. On the left — for once, correctly represented by Wilsen — the monk, already free from the heap of dust, under which he has miraculously preserved his life, announces to the good ministers Hiru and Bhiru the approaching and inevitable destruction of the infidel city of Roruka.

19. (L., 164). Like Çikhaṇḍin in his palace, we witness the rain of jewels which, according to the prophet, must precede the fatal rain of sand. The eagerness of the inhabitants to gather up the precious objects, cast down from vessels (1) in the height of the clouds, is painted with a vivaciousness which seemed to us quite deserving of reproduction (pl. XL, 2). In the first row a boat which is being loaded with jewels proves that the good ministers have not forgotten a very practical recommendation of Mahâkâtyâyana (2).

20. (L., 166). The destinies are accomplished : Roruka has been buried with almost all its inhabitants. When the curtain rises again, we are in the village of Khara, the first halting-place of Mahâkâtyâyana on the route of his return to India. The tutelary goddess of Roruka, who has followed him in his flight through the air, is detained at Khara by an imprudent promise : but, on leaving her, the monk presents her with a souvenir in the shape of his goblet, over

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(1) These vessels, which we have already encountered above (Mândhâtâr, no. 13; L., pl. LVIII, 86), seem to be a current accessory of Indian imagination. Compare the passage from the *Jâtâkamâlâ*, XV, 15 (ed. KERN, p. 97; trans. SPEYER, p. 138), where the clouds pour down « like overturned vessels ».

(2) Let us remark in passing that the departure of the two good ministers in ships scarcely fits in with the localization (which was surely already known to the author of the text, and which M. HUBER recently treated again in the *B. É. F. E.-O.*, VI, 1906, pp. 335-340) of Roruka in Central Asia.

which a *stûpa* is raised. It is the inauguration of this monument which is represented on the bas-relief : on the right is the chief of the village; on the left, with a lamp in one hand and a fan in the other, is the goddess herself; behind them crowd the laity of both sexes and the musicians.

21. (L., 168). We are carried to the next halting-place, Lambaka. Çyâmâka, the young layman, the sole companion who remained with Mahâkâtyâyana, receives from the people of the country an offer of the throne. A miracle, which is frequent in the texts, but unsuitable for representation on stone (the shade of the tree under which he stands remains stationary, in order to shelter him), has revealed to them the excellence of his merit.

22. (L., 170). We pass on to the third halting-place, Vokâna. Here Mahâkâtyâyana leaves to her who in a former existence was his mother his beggar's staff, a fresh pretext for building a *stûpa*. As in no. 20, we are present at the inauguration of the monument. At least, the continuation of the narrative accords with the introduction of this subject on the bas-reliefs in too striking a manner for the identification not to impose itself.

Better still : just as Leemans' nos. 166, 168 and 170 set before us religious feasts interrupted, thanks to a not excessive desire for variety, by a profane subject, so nos. 172, 174 and 176 intercalate a land scene between two maritime episodes. Now this intervening scene (L., 174) represents the entrance of a monk — notwithstanding the drawing of Wilsen, who lends him hair and jewels, it is indeed a monk — into the palisaded enclosure of a town, whilst a group of inhabitants approaches to give him welcome. Here again, with the text in our hands, it seems difficult not to recognize the return of Mahâkâtyâyana to Çrâvastî. Then, the two pictures in which we see a boat just drawing near

to a bank would represent, no less scrupulously than do the texts, the two foundations of Hiruka and Bhiruka by the two ministers Hiru and Bhiru after their flight by water from Roruka. Thus, in spite of the terribly commonplace character of the two disembarcations, we venture to make the following identifications :

23. (L., 172). Landing of Hiru and foundation of Hiruka.

24. (L., 174). Return of Mahâkâtyâyana to Çrâvastî.

25. (L., 176). Landing of Bhiru on the future site of Bhiruka or Bhirukaccha (1).

The double repetition of the scene of the *stûpa* and of the ship will be noticed. We do not see any plausible explanation of it, unless we suppose that the sculptor, after having skipped more than one important incident in the history of Rudrâyana, has been obliged, in order to fill up the space for decoration, to lengthen out the epilogue. In fact, we must not forget that the bas-reliefs, which were carved *in situ* and in the very stones whose juxtaposition constituted the monument, could be neither removed nor replaced. There is no absurdity, therefore, in supposing that the artist, on approaching the last angle before the northern staircase, perceived that he still had to fill five or six panels, of which he could not decently devote more than two to the *Kinnara-jâtaka* : he will then have rid himself from his embarrassment by a double repetition, which moreover was justified by the texts, while bringing right to their destination all the few persons who had escaped from Roruka, that is the goddess, Çyâmâka, Mahâkâtyâyana, and the two good ministers.

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(1) Apparently it is Bharukaccha, the Barygaza of the Greeks and the present Bharoch, or Broach, which is meant.





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Chitor (XV<sup>th</sup> Century), « a double pair of *Kinnaras* », perfectly analogous to those of Boro-Budur (1). Perhaps, under the *Kinnara-jâtaka* rubric, they were not otherwise treated even on the old railing of Barhut : unfortunately we can only judge of this by a wretched sketch from a half-broken stone, and there is at present nothing to prove that, as Cunningham suggests, the leaves, or the feathers, which terminate the busts of the two monsters, « must have separated their human trunks from their bird legs » (2).

We consider ourselves none the less authorized by this inscription to consider the two numbers 178 and 180 as a replica of this same *jâtaka* : what other justification can be given for the edifying character of these scenes and for their introduction into the series? Certainly the subject is once again borrowed from one of the previous lives of the Master : the only question is exactly which « re-birth » is concerned. Here the two prolix pictures of Boro-Budur will be of assistance in determining retroactively the real identification of the bas-relief of Barhut, so poor in details. It is here quite clear, for example, that the scene of the adventure is a rocky solitude : we must at once put aside a certain episode in the *Takkâriya-jâtaka* (no. 481), since it takes place in a royal court, where two *Kinnaras*, put in to a cage, refuse to display their talents. Moreover, we cannot fix upon the *Candakinnara-jâtaka* (no. 485), although that

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(1) We brought back a photograph of it : the inscription is : *Kinnarayugmayugma*.

(2) CUNNINGHAM, *Stûpa of Barhut*, p. 69 and pl. XXVII, 12 (cf. above, p. 53). GRÜNWEDEL, *Buddhistische Studien*, p. 92, points out that the connection between the *Kinnara-jâtaka* of Barhut and that of Boro-Budur has already been shown by Heer J.-W. YZERMAN in the *Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde van Ned. Ind.*, Vijfde Volgreeks, d. I. afl. 4, pp. 577-579. Since the above was written representations of *Kinnaras* have also been found on the paintings of Central Asia.

too has for scenery a piece of jungle : for our king is evidently not thinking of killing the male *Kinnara*, in order to get possession of the female. It therefore remains for us to adopt the *Bhallāṭiya-jātaka* (no. 504), in which also we have nothing but conversations in a mountainous district ('). It is a most touching love story. The king of Benares, while out hunting, surprises in the depth of the wood the extraordinary behaviour of two of these marvellous beings, and enquires why they cover each other alternately with tears and caresses. He learns that 697 years ago they were separated for one single night by the sudden swelling of a river; and in their life of a thousand years the loving couple have never yet been able to forget this cruel separation, or to console each other entirely for those few hours irremediably lost to their happiness. It will be observed on pl. XLI, 1, that the sculptor has considered it his duty to maintain the hierarchical order, and has placed the male in front of the female, as if he were the interlocutor of the king: but in the text of the *jātaka*, just as in the famous Dantesque episode of Francesca di Rimini, it is the woman, always the more ready to speak, who relates their common adventure, whilst her lover stands silent by her side.

IV. NORTH-EASTERN CORNER. — Altogether we have offered certain, or at least extremely probable, interpretations of 27 out of the 30 panels bordering upon the preceding corner. The 30 still to be considered are much more refractory to all attempts at explanation. After Messrs. S. d'Oldenburg,

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(1) In other words, relying on the replica of Boro-Budur, we believe we may for the bas-relief of Barhut leave aside the identifications proposed by CUNNINGHAM (*loc. cit.*) and Prof. HULTZSCH (*Ind. Ant.*, XXI, 1892, p. 226) and advocate that of Mr. S. J. WARREN and of Dr. S. D'OLDENBURG, who, besides, is right in believing it as not more demonstrable merely by the aid of the sole Indian document than the two others (*loc. cit.*, p. 191).

Speyer and Groneman we can quote as certain only the identification of the *Maitrakanyakâvadâna* <sup>(1)</sup>. For the rest, it would be useless to launch out into hypotheses, where we still lack the elements of proof; and even more so to renew the purely descriptive commentary which Leemans has given in full : for there is no task more idle than to describe bas-reliefs without understanding them. Let us say in defence of the Dutch archæologist that access to the sources was for him almost impossible, and that he had at least the perspicacity to recognize « that the pictures of the lower series do not form a continuation of those of the upper ».

On the north-eastern corner these latter extend from Buddha's attainment of the Bodhi to his first preaching. Below, the legend of Maitrakanyaka is related to us between two others, of whose titles we are still ignorant. Our first care, therefore, must be to determine as exactly as possible where it commences and where it ends. The texts which have preserved it for us <sup>(2)</sup>, and to which we are indebted for the explanation of the meaning of the bas-reliefs, agree in rendering the story in two symmetrical parts, separated by a turning-point. Maitrakanyaka, the orphan son of a ship-owner, follows at first various trades, in order to provide for the needs of his mother, to whom he successively offers gains increasing according to a geometrical progression

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(1) Cf. the already-quoted paper of Dr. S. D'OLDENBURG, the Guide of Dr. J. GRONEMAN, pp. 66-67, SPEYER, *Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde van Ned.-Indië*, 1906, v<sup>de</sup> Deel., and for the comparison with Burmese and Siamese images, GRÜNWEDEL, *Buddh. Stud.*, p. 97.

(2) The *Avadâna-Çataka* (ed. SPEYER in *Bibl. Buddhica*, p. 193, and trans. FEER in the *Ann. du Musée Guimet*) gives us, it seems, a canonical version of it No. XXXVIII of the *Divyâvadâna* (ed. COWELL and NEIL, p. 586) is already a literary rifacimento. Further, let us quote *Bodhisattvâvadânakalpalatâ*, no. 92, *Bhadrakalpâvadâna*, no. 28, and, for comparison, *Jâtaka*, nos. 41, 82, 104, 369, 439. A Chinese version has been re-translated by BEAL, *Romantic Legend*, p. 342.





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though the joint were twisted : let us not hasten to cry out that this is a mistake on the part of the sculptor, or even a deformity, at least according to the native taste : the skilfully dislocated arms of the Javanese dancing-girls bend no otherwise in this position.

2. (L., 214). An edifice cuts the panel into two distinct parts. On the right Maitrakanyaka is practising his last sedentary occupation, that of a goldsmith, as is proved by the small balance held by a woman, who may be either his mother or a simple customer. In the foreground a purse, bigger than that of the preceding picture, is doubtless supposed to contain the 32 *kārshāpanas*. The four legendary gifts would thus have been reduced by the sculptor to two. — On the left, in fact, despite the poor state of the bas-relief, we see the mother of Maitrakanyaka vainly prostrated at his feet (pl. XLII, 1). Wilsen had given her a moustache, which cut short all identification; and this explains why that of Dr. S. d'Oldenburg, based upon the lithographs, began only at the following picture, that of the wreck.

3. (L., 216). The supplications of his mother failed to restrain Maitrakanyaka; on the right we see the sad end of his sea-voyage, on the left his encounter with the four first nymphs. Here the sculptor seems to have been afraid neither of repeating himself nor of wearying the spectator by the sight of so many pretty women; for we perceive successively :

4. (L., 218). The encounter with the 8 nymphs;

5. (L., 220). The encounter with the 16 nymphs (in point of fact they are 11);

6. (L., 222). The encounter with the 32 nymphs (14 in reality).

7. (L., 224). At last the mania for roaming has led Maitrakanyaka as far as a town of hell (pl. XLII, 2) : apparently



he is gathering information from the terrible guardian of the place, whilst in the background we perceive, with a burning wheel upon its head, the condemned soul whose place, unwittingly, he has come to take. For the rest both wear the same costume, with the exception of a few details in the form of their jewels. But these differences, slight though they be, exclude, it appears, the possibility of recognizing Maitrakanyaka a second time in the sufferer. There is every reason for believing, on the contrary, that, owing to a scruple of the artist, just as we did not see him strike his mother, so also we are not witnesses of his punishment : like his crime, his chastizement is only suggested. We must not forget, in fact, that he is the Bodhisattva in person. According to the texts, the wheel of fire has scarcely mounted upon his head, than he forms a vow to endure this terrible suffering for ever with a view to the salvation of humanity : whereupon he is immediately freed from all suffering. Does the left part of the panel forthwith represent this apotheosis? Or does the palisading which intersects the building, while at the same time determining the boundaries of the interior of the infernal town, serve as a framework for a new action? This it is almost impossible for us to decide, so long as we have not identified in their turn the eight panels of the following and final story.

Let us sum up : the principal wall of the first gallery of Boro-Budur is decorated with 240 bas-reliefs, arranged in two rows; all those of the upper row have already been identified by the help of the *Lalita-vistara*; thanks especially to the *Divyavadāna*, the same may now be said of two thirds of those of the lower row. This recapitulation of the results obtained not only encourages us to hope for the

fortunate completion of this enterprise in a relatively near future : it also allows us to discern the ways and means to the ultimate success, as well as the difficulties which we shall continue to encounter. Among the first of these we must naturally place the absence of satisfactory reproductions. The long series which we have just examined would doubtless have been recognized long ago, as were immediately the scenes, in two or three pictures, of the *jâta-has* figured on the opposite wall, if the published drawings had been perfectly exact. But a slight inattention — such as, in the story of Maitrakanyaka, the change of sex of a person, or, in that of Rudrâyaṇa, the transformation of a monk into a Buddha — is, as may be conceived, sufficient to put us off the scent, and forces archæologists who have not direct access to the originals to abandon the most judiciously chosen clue. We must, therefore, rejoice that the Government-General of the Dutch Indies has recently sanctioned the project of photographing all the sculptures still existing at Boro-Budur. Doubtless it will, with its accustomed generosity, not fail to distribute copies among the various societies for oriental studies. On this condition alone will the enigmas which still resist, although invaded on all four sides at once, finally yield to the collective researches of students of Buddhism; in the meantime we cannot legitimately reproach the latter for having left so long unexplained a monument of this importance.

Does this mean that it is sufficient to cast one's eyes upon exact reproductions, or even upon the originals, of these bas-reliefs, whose narrative aim is not doubtful, in order to understand their meaning? The preceding identifications prove clearly enough that it is also necessary to know beforehand the story which they would tell. And, doubtless, the blame for this belongs to some extent to the



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Not only are the characteristic episodes thus drowned in a dull, monotonous flood of pictures without movement, but even in each picture the principal motif is often submerged under a veritable debauch of accessories and details. The only excuse here for the artists is to be found in the form of the frame, which is at least three times as wide as it is high. Consequently there is no great personage whose cortège is not spread out to form a wall-covering, sometimes over several rows. True, the presence of these numerous dumb actors is quite conformable to Javanese, as well as to Indian, custom; but it is understood that most often they take no part in the action: they confine themselves to crowding it with their stereotyped repetition, which is more or less compensated by the variety of the attitudes, always deftly treated. This is not all: the sculptors have made it, as it were, a point of honour not to leave vacant any part of the surface at their disposal. In order to complete the furnishing of their panels, they go so far as to fill the space beneath the seats with coffers or vases (cf. pll. XXXV, 1; XXXVIII, 2; XXXIX, 1; XL, 1); at the top they heap together, according to circumstances, buildings or trees, naturally figured on a reduced scale; or again rocks, treated according to the old Indian convention (cf. pll. XXXVII, 2, upper scene; XLI, 1); or, finally, ani-

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of view of the identification of these bas-reliefs. All the less must we forget that we are treating of images of piety, the more mindful the sculptors themselves were of this. Their evident decision to put aside all scenes of violence (bloody sacrifices, executions, murders, parricide, etc.) offered by their subjects, is justified, like their irreproachable chastity, by the desire to arouse in the mind of the faithful none but calm and collected, in one word, truly Buddhist impressions. This they have perfectly succeeded in doing, and we are rather in the wrong to reproach them for it. It is not entirely their fault if our western taste, corrupted by an excessive striving for expression and movement, is especially affected by the monotony of these series, whose edifying character remains to us a dead letter.

mals of all kinds, cleverly sketched, indeed, from life, with the single exception of the horses, which are mediocre (cf. pl. XXXVI, 2, upper scene). It may be imagined that the clearness of the story is not much enhanced by this crowding, the more so as there is nothing to tell us, for example, whether the animals play a part in it or not : for the worst is that they sometimes do so. Thus the birds represented in the *Çibi-jâtaka* (pl. XXXVI, 2), or on such and such a scene from the *Mândhâtavadâna* (no. 10), form an integral part of the story, whilst those which fly away with Manoharâ (pl. XXXIV, 2) are pure decoration. Finally, we must not forget that the artists of Boro-Budur did not in any way forbid themselves the use of the ancient expedients of the Indian school, juxtaposition of two or three distinct episodes and repetition of a person in the same picture. Thus it may happen — and on this point the reading of Leemans' descriptions is particularly edifying — that in the midst of such confused masses we fail to fix upon the sole actors, or objects, whose presence is of real importance for the concatenation of the facts.

But the chief and most evident fault of these bas-reliefs is the persistent incapacity of their authors, in spite of their manual skill, to create figures having a characteristic individuality. Assuredly, it would be unfair to regard it as a crime on the part of the artists of those distant isles not to have reached a pinnacle of art which remained unknown to the Indian school and to which Greek art itself attained only at its best period. But the fact is patent. They are capable of representing types, but not individuals. They possess a model of a king, which serves without distinction for gods, as does that of the queen for goddesses; a model of a monk, which, with the exception of the coiffure, is equally suitable for Buddhas; a model of a courtier, an

anchorite, a Brahman, a warrior, etc. This stock figure is used by them on all occasions. According to the circumstances it is capable, by the play of gesture and even by facial features, of expressing different states of mind : it is incapable of assuming a physiognomy distinguishing it from its congeners. Thus it is that, for example, in the same legend we have seen the same princely personage called here Dhana, Sudhana, or Druma, there Rudrâyaṇa, Bimbisâra, or Çikhaṇḍin. At a distance of five panels (cf. pll. XXXVII, 2 and XXXIX, 3) a king and a monk are similarly engaged in conversation with each other : nothing warns us that in the interval they have both changed their personalities. It would not appear that in ancient times the pilgrim who made the *pradakṣhiṇâ* of these galleries was able without the oral commentary of some monkish cicerone to ascribe different names to figures so similar : still less can we, now that the local tradition is completely extinct, dispense with a written commentary. We may affirm that we shall succeed in identifying on the walls of Boro-Budur only those bas-reliefs of which we have somewhere read the legend : and, again, the example of the *Sudhanakumârâvadâna* proves that we must have read it in the same work as had the sculptor.

This bookish character of the sculptures of Boro-Budur is from the philological point of view the most curious conclusion to which we are led by our rapid inquiry directed to the particular point of view of their identification. If these bas-reliefs cannot be understood except by a constant comparison with the texts, it is because they were composed after the texts and to serve as illustrations thereto. Through the lithographic reproductions the manner in which the Javanese artists treated the last life of Buddha had already given us an inkling of this : the direct study





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to say, scarcely a century before the foundation of Boro-Budur, — « in the Islands of the Southern Sea the *Mûla-Sarvâstivâdanikâya* has been almost universally adopted (1) ». This agreement in the evidences deserves to be noticed. All taken into account, it does not impair the interest of our bas-reliefs. Assuredly, in spite of the talent of their authors, they were condemned beforehand to lack that indefinable spontaneity and animation which can be communicated to the work of the artist only by labour in communion with a still living oral tradition. The sculptors of Boro-Budur, in the effort to revive an inspiration at times languishing, have had to be content with dipping into foreign and already ancient texts : but, on the other hand, they have the merit of having supplied us with several series of illustrations for authentic fragments of the sacred scriptures of Buddhism, treated with a technical skill which would deserve to be studied in detail by those whose métier it is. If our conclusions run the risk of somewhat lessening the æsthetic value of their works, the documentary interest emerges, by way of compensation, considerably increased.

### III

#### BUDDHIST ICONOGRAPHY IN JAVA.

*Boro-Budur.* — We shall not undertake a detailed review of the bas-reliefs deployed along the upper galleries of the *stûpa*. We restrict ourselves to noticing that, as we mount, they assume a character more and more iconographic, less and less « narrative », and that the edifying story finally

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(1) I-TSING, *A record of the Buddhist Religion*, trans. TAKAKUSU, p. 10. Lit. « there is almost only one ... ».

gives way to the image of piety (1). Buddha, monks, nuns, Bodhisattvas of both sexes file past in twenties, at times seated under trees more or less stereotyped, most often installed under the open porches of temples, just as they are seen on the miniatures, or the clay seals, of India (2). The sculptors weary so much the less of all these repetitions as each one of them represents so much progress in covering the considerable surface which it was their task to decorate. There would be no advantage in noting here and there in passing a few specially characteristic figures, such as, in the second gallery, some Avalokiteçvaras with four or six arms, and a Mañjuçrî carrying the Indian book (*pustaka*) on the blue lotus (*utpala*); or again, in the third gallery, a group composed of a Buddha between these same two Bodhisattvas, etc. The problem is much more vast, and demands a solution of very different amplitude. It would be necessary to make a census of all these images and each of their varieties, to draw up an exact and complete table of them, and to study attentively their graphic distribution; then only, after having allowed for the necessities of decoration and having among this crowd of idols discerned the really essential types, we might attempt the identification of what for the artists of Java constituted the Buddhist pantheon. We must hope that some Dutch archæologist will find time to undertake this delicate and extensive task; it is unnecessary to say that it is forbidden to a simple visitor.

Neither shall we dwell upon the hundreds of statues which decorate this *stîpa* of the « Many Buddhas » (for such would be the meaning of the word Boro-Budur) : but

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(1) But see, *supra*, the identification of one of the bas-reliefs of the upper gallery, pp. 165-6 and pl. XXII (Great Miracle of Çrâvasti).

(2) Cf. *Étude sur l'iconogr. bouddhique de l'Inde*, I, 1900, pp. 45-6.

here the reason for our abstention is quite different. They were, in fact, classified long ago, and W. de Humboldt proposed to recognize among them, in accordance with Hodgson's Nepalese drawings, the images of the five Dhyâni-Buddhas. The identification has since been generally admitted, and in principle we see no reason for contesting it : at the most it would need to be pressed further and completed. The arrangement of the groups must in any case be remade. Among these manifold replicas with heads generally well treated and expressive, but effeminate and bloated bodies, all seated in *padmāsana* and only differentiated by the gestures of the hands, we must, in fact, distinguish :

1. in the four first rows of niches (in the proportion of 92 to each façade), to the east, those in *bhūmisparça-mudrâ* (1) ;
2. at the south, those in *vara-mudrâ* ;
3. at the west, those in *dhyâni-mudrâ* ;
4. at the north, those in *abhaya-mudrâ* ;
5. in the fifth row of niches, on the four façades (viz. 64 altogether), those in *vitarka-mudrâ* ;
6. in the 72 little open cupolas of the three circular terraces, those in *dharmacakra-mudrâ* ;
7. the single image found under the great central cupola.

Whatever identification may be proposed, will, it is understood, have to take into account each of these varieties, without omission and without confusion. Therefore we cannot admit that of Humboldt (2), which confuses and mixes up nos. 4 and 5. If we must identify

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(1) For the *mudrâs*, or gestures of the hands, cf. *ibid.*, p. 68.

(2) Cf. LEEMANS, *loc. cit.*, p. 480.





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ed figure an embryo Buddha : this would be an allusion to the Bodhisattva in the womb of his mother... » If these diverse interpretations fail to satisfy us any more than they did Dr. Pleyte, the short résumé which he gives of them is at least sufficient for our purpose. We do not indeed pretend to discuss here the greater or less degree of probability in these theories. Still less shall we stop to criticize that of Wilsen, who saw in this same statue a rough model of a future Buddha, prepared for subsequent completion by the cunning priests (1). In truth, speculations of this kind are scarcely more susceptible of refutation than of proof; and it is this which makes us suspicious of them. If we in our turn venture a new hypothesis, it is because we should prefer to seek the solution of this problem of archæology elsewhere than in the messianic, symbolical or theistic conceptions more or less familiar in such and such forms of Indian Buddhism.

Let us, then, make a *tabula rasa* of all this metaphysics and consider again, as briefly as possible, the essential elements of the question. Under the central dome of the *stûpa* of Boro-Budur, at the spot where we should expect to find the usual deposit of relics, or at least the upper deposit — for it happens sometimes that there are along the perpendicular which joins the summit to the base several of them, one above the other — was discovered an image of Buddha, whose emplacement sufficed to prove its specially sacred character. Now this statue was intentionally left unfinished : « The hair, the ears, the hands and the feet are not completed », says Leemans; and further on he adds : « One is forced to admit that the artist who made the plan of the whole really had a premeditated intention

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(1) Cf. LEEMANS, *op. cit.*, pp. 486-7.



of leaving the statue of the central sanctuary in the state in which we possess it <sup>(1)</sup>. » On the other hand, this image shows us Buddha seated, his legs crossed in the Indian manner, the left hand resting in his lap, his right hand hanging down, the palm turned inwards and the fingers stretched toward the ground. Before committing ourselves to any apocalyptical explanation of this figure it is well, in point of method, to ask ourselves, first of all, whether the iconography of India, the recognized model for that of Java, does not comprise any type of Buddha composed in the same attitude and presenting the same peculiarity of incompleteness.

If it were permissible to judge by the facility of the solution, the question would in this case be well put : at least, in order to answer, it is not necessary to push far our interrogation of the Indian tradition. The two most celebrated prototypes of the pretended portrait images of Buddha are that of Kauçâmbî (or Çrâvastî) and that of Mahâbodhi, near to Gayâ. The former is in this case out of the question. Concerning the second we possess two versions of an identical legend, the one reported by Hiuan-tsang, the other by Târanâtha <sup>(2)</sup>. Anxious before all to guarantee the authentic resemblance of the image, they naturally attribute its execution to a supernatural artist : on two points they seem none the less in harmony with historic truth. First of all, we learn from the texts, in the most formal manner, that the original work was regarded — rightly or wrongly, matters not — as not being finished, an accident which people were unanimous in explaining as due to an unfor-

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(1) See the discussion, *loc. cit.*, pp. 484-6.

(2) See, for the first, the translation of Stan. JULIEN, II, pp. 465 sqq., or of S. BEAL, II, pp. 120 sqq.; and, for the second, the translation of SCHIEFNER, p. 20.

tunate interruption in the mysterious work of the divine sculptor. Among the unfinished parts Târanâtha cites especially the toe of the right foot and the locks of hair. Whilst these material details would be less easy of verification than might be thought in the obscurity in which, as Hiuan-tsang tells, the majesty of the idol was hidden, there is some appearance that this general belief in its state of incompleteness was in one way or another well-founded. In the second place, and in any case, it is a fact attested by the monuments, as also by the descriptions of the texts, that it represented Buddha « seated, the left hand at rest, and the right hanging », at the moment when, disturbed from his meditations by the assaults of Mâra, he touched the earth with his fingers, in order to invoke it as witness (1). In short, the image of « Vajrâsana of Mahâbodhi », to use the term under which it was known, made the gesture of *bhûmisparça*, and was, or — which for us comes to the same thing — passed for being, incomplete.

We leave to experts the task of concluding. To us this double rapprochement appears sufficiently precise to allow of our putting forward the idea that the central Buddha of Boro-Budur, incomplete and in *bhûmisparça-mudrâ*, is, or at least intends to be, nothing but a replica of the statue of Bodh-Gayâ. In addition to its simplicity, the hypothesis has also this great advantage, that it frees us from the necessity of attributing exceptionally to the artists of Java, always so respectful towards Indian tradition, the creation of a new model which India would not have known. Finally, if it does away with one difficulty, in our opinion a considerable one, we do not think that it raises another in its

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(1) The references are to be found in our *Étude sur l'Iconographie bouddhique de l'Inde*, I, pp. 90-94.



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us to produce at last a photograph of this famous idol (pl. XLIII, 1). Perhaps this latter will be for the reader a disillusionment : in fact it merely sketches in a rather rough fashion the ordinary type of Buddhas of Boro-Budur, and it is quite clear that, if a replica of the image of Vajrâsana is really intended, it was executed freely and not from a moulding. But upon a moment's reflection it will be seen that this was exactly what was to be expected; and, in any case, it is well once for all to place before the eyes of the public the decisive piece of evidence in a dispute which otherwise would run the risk of being endless.

*The Chandi Mendut.* — It would be a task more within our reach to identify, by way of a specimen, the images which decorate the Chandi Mendut. This edifice, placed in the axis of the oriental gate of, and at three kilometres from, Boro-Budur, consists, in fact, of a *cella* only, with a vestibule in front. The whole is, according to the Javanese custom, perched on a terrace in the same manner as are the Brahmanic temples of Parambanam. In Buddhist terminology it is what is properly called a *vihâra* (1). Naturally it shelters statues, and the walls of its entrance vestibule, like the exterior faces of the building, are decorated with figures whose purely Buddhist character may be recognized at once by anyone who is a little familiar with the Indian iconography of this religion. The building, fairly well preserved, except in the upper parts, has been the object of a restoration the archi-

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(1) We know that the meaning of this term (temple of divinity or monk's cell) has been unduly extended by European archæologists to the whole of the monastery (Cf. *Art g.-b. du Gandhâra*, p. 99). — We deliberately leave aside the other Buddhist edifices which we likewise visited in the neighbourhood of Jogjakarta under the guidance of Dr. J. Groneman, and on which we may consult his guide, entitled *Boeddhistische Tempel-en Klooster-Bouwvallen in de Parambanan-Vlakte*, Soerabaia, 1907.

tectural details of which we shall not undertake to discuss.

The three enormous statues of the *cella* have been replaced on their pedestals (1). They are characterized by a curious detail. Whereas at Boro-Budur, and even on the walls of the Chandi Mendut, the nimbuses of the divine personages retain, as in Southern India, the simply oval form, those of the three figures rise to a point, like the leaf of the Bodhi-tree, in the Sino-Japanese fashion. It would be interesting to date as exactly as possible the appearance of this form in Java. It would, in fact, mark with sufficient certainty the moment when the two great currents of artistic influence, which, diverging from their common Indian source, had followed respectively the land routes through Central Asia and the sea route south-eastwards, met again in the island and there, so to speak, closed their circuit (1).

The central statue, about m. 2,50 high, cut out of an enormous block of andesite, represents a Buddha seated in the European manner, the hands joined in the gesture of teaching. Not only the *âsana* and the *mudrâ*, but even the details of the hair, the lotus-stool, the throne with a back, etc., recall in a striking manner the images found at Sârônâth, in the northern suburb of Benares, on the traditional site of the master's first preaching (cf. *Icon. bouddh.*, I, fig. 10). Besides, to cut short all discussion, the lower band of the pedestal is still stamped with a « wheel of the law », accompanied by the two characteristic antelopes of the Mrigadâva.

On each side of the teaching Çâkyamuni, on a throne having a back likewise adorned with superposed animals, a Bodhisattva is seated in *lalitâkshepa*, the left leg bent back, the right foot hanging down and resting on a lotus. At the

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(1) Cf. *B. É. F. E.-O.*, IX, 1909, p. 831.

right of Buddha Avalokiteçvara may at once be recognized, thanks to the effigy of Amitâbha which he bears in his headdress. As usual, his right hand makes the gesture of charity; his left is folded back in the position of discussion, but without at the same time holding a lotus (cf. *ibid.*, pl. V, 2). His counterpart, with the palm of his left hand leaning on the ground and the right hand turned back in front of his chest, does not present any particular mark allowing us to determine his identity. It is solely the traditional force of custom which compels us to attribute to him the name of Mañjuçrî : the more so as, after having despoiled these two acolytes of every characteristic attribute, the sculptor must for a means of recognition have relied upon their simple presence by the side of Buddha.

The walls of the vestibule bear on the right and left, in panels of about m. 1,90 × m. 1, figures of the genius of wealth and his wife Hâritî, which have already been published by Dr. J. Ph. Vogel (1). We shall not insist further upon them. Of the principal façade of the temple — exceptionally oriented towards the north-west instead of to the east — only the wall to the left of the entrance is preserved; it bears a standing Bodhisattva, holding a lotus surmounted by a *stûpa* : it seems that we must by this sign recognize Maitreya (cf. *ibid.*, pp. 112-3).

If we now commence on the terrace the *pradakshinâ* of the monument, we come first to the north-eastern façade. In the middle of the central panel, framed by pilasters bearing atlantes in their capitals, we see, seated on a throne covered with a lotus and under a stereotyped tree, a feminine divinity with eight arms. Unfortunately the head is broken; but it seems, in fact, that it had only one face; and this

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(1) *B. É. F. E.-O.*, IV (1904), pp. 727-730 : cf. above, p. 141 and below, pl. XLVIII, 2.





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tudes combine, therefore, to indicate a second representation of the goddess Cundâ, the form with four arms (*ibid.*, pl. VIII, 3 and figure 24). The two Bodhisattvas, her attendants, reproduce exactly those of her counterpart on the opposite façade. As regards those of the lateral panels, they carry on blue lotuses a sword and a book respectively : we must, therefore, see in them two replicas of the same Mañjuçrî, of whom these are the two traditional emblems (*ibid.*, p. 119).

To sum up : in the personages who decorate the exterior of the three unpierced faces of the temple of Mendut we propose at first sight to recognize, in the middle, two images of Cundâ with four and eight arms, and one of Avalokiteçvara with four arms ; on the sides, two replicas each of Maitreya, Vajrapâni and Mañjuçrî : all being important figures of the Buddhist pantheon. But, naturally, this preliminary review would have to be severely tested. It would be necessary, in particular, to examine these bas-reliefs more closely with the help of ladders or a hanging stage, so that no detail could escape ; and, this minute labour accomplished, it would still be necessary to verify by comparison with other Buddhist statues of Javanese origin whether there is not occasion to modify in some measure, for local reasons, the Indian attribution of these images. At that cost only could these too rapid identifications become reasonably certain.

*The Museum of Batavia.* — We have just spoken of a kind of general confrontation of the Buddhist statues of Java. The material would not be lacking, in spite of the relatively restricted number of Buddhist monuments in the island. Many of them have already been brought together, both in a building near to the residency of Jogya-

karta and in the museum of the Asiatic Society of Batavia. Of the first collection a catalogue has been published by Dr. Groneman. The most interesting objects to be mentioned in the second are some inscribed images of the Dhyâni-Buddhas Akshobhya (no. 224) and Ratnasambhava (no. 225), of the *çakti* Locanâ (no. 248<sup>a</sup>), of Târâ in the form of Bhṛikuṭî (no. 112<sup>a</sup>), of Hayagrîva (no. 76<sup>a</sup>), etc. Every one will appreciate the interest of these names (<sup>1</sup>), taken at hasard from our notes on the lapidary museum.

We must likewise mention as belonging to the museum of the capital a considerable collection of small figures of more or less precious metals (gold, silver, or bronze), which are for the most part already classed (<sup>2</sup>). Let us cite among others some very artistic statuettes of Avalokiteçvara, Vajrasattva, Kuvera, Târâ, Mârîcî, etc. All have this in common, that they are remarkably faithful to their Indian models.

There is one at which it is perhaps worth while to stop for a moment, because of the rarity of the type in India and the success which it has had in the Far East. We have already had to occupy ourselves with the sole example preserved by chance at Bodh-Gayâ. Now Dr. Pleyte — and we apologize for not having known this reference at the time — had for his part published three Javanese replicas (<sup>3</sup>), one of which is now in London, another at Lei-

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(1) Several of these statues have already been published by the late J. L. A. BRANDES, *Beschrifving van de ruine... Tjandi Djago*, The Hague and Batavia, 1904.

(2) For access to this collection we are indebted to the kindness of Dr. C. M. PLEYTE, who was so good as to take the trouble of opening the glass-cases for us.

(3) Cf. *Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde van Ned.-Ind.*, Zesde Volgreeks, Tiende Deel, afl. 1 and 2, pp. 195-202, and our *Ét. sur l'Icon. bouddh. de l'Inde*, II, 1905, fig. 4.

den, and the third at Batavia (pl. XLIII, 2). He had likewise the merit of discovering in Schiefner <sup>(1)</sup> a legend which explained the bellicose pose of this divinity, whose left foot treads upon the face of a man, and his right upon the bosom of a woman. This would be a mode of deciding, with no possible equivocation, the question of the supremacy of a simple Buddhist « guardian of the law » over the great god of the Brahmans. Çiva had the imprudence to refuse obedience to Vajrapâṇi under the pretence that the latter was only a *yaksha* : contemplate for your own edification the punishment of his crime. We in our turn may note that on this point the descriptions of the *sâdhanas*, or magic charms, confirm the Tibetan tradition by likewise giving to the persons overthrown the names of Maheçvara and his wife Gaurî : while for the genius, instead of making of him simply a furious transformation of Vajrapâṇi, they use the more precise appellation of Trailokyavijaya. Let us add that this last reappears among the divinities of the Japanese pantheon under the vulgar designation of Gosanze. His pose has not changed, nor his double, living pedestal ; and, if he has no longer more than one pair of arms, his hands, at least, continue to execute the *vajrabhūṃkāra-mudrâ* characteristic of his anger and common to all his representations <sup>(2)</sup>. On the Javanese statuette we find again the four visages which the Sanskrit manuscripts and the stele of Magadha ascribe to him, and even the eight attributes (sword, disc, arrow and bell,

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(1) A. SCHIEFNER, *Eine tibetische Lebensbeschreibung Çākṣamuni's*, p. 244.

(2) Cf. J. HOFFMAN, *Pantheon von Nippon* (vol. V, of the *Beschreibung von Japan* of Von SIEBOLD), p. 75 and pl. XIX, fig. 164 ; and *Sî-do-in-dzou* (*Ann. du Musée Guimet*, Bibl. d'études, vol. VIII, Paris, 1899), pp. 100-101 and pl. XII





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## PLATE XXXI

Cf. pp. 206-7, 213-5.

I. — View of Boro-Budur as it still appeared in 1907; by the care of Major Van ERP the stone seat contrived on the summit with a view to the more comfortable contemplation of the magnificent scenery has since been removed, and the original lines of the top cupola have been partly restored. (Cf. pp. 206-7.)

II. — Our photograph represents the central part of the first gallery on the western face, at the point where it is crossed by the western staircase.

On the right, at the top, we distinguish in the upper row of the bas-reliefs the two last of the Bodhisattva's four promenades, namely, the rencontre with the dead man and with the monk. The corresponding bas-reliefs of the lower row have not yet been explained. On the other hand, from the place where the view is taken, we cannot see the two rows of sculptures which correspondingly decorate the moulded parapet to the left. (Cf. pp. 213-5.)



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PLATE XXXII

Cf. pp. 209-11.

The three following drawings (section, plan and outline of Boro-Budur) have been obligingly communicated by Major Van ERP, and they present in consequence every guarantee of accuracy.

I. — The present elevation replaces that published in the *B. É. F. E. O.*, 1909, fig. 3 (cf. *ibid.*, p. 831), which, not being a normal section, had led us into error. The curve *a b* follows the original line of the *stûpa*; the whole portion situated to the right of the point *b* and marked by divergent hatchings represents the terrace subsequently added, under which is at present buried the ancient base with its decoration already half accomplished. (Cf. pp. 208 n. 1 and 210.)

II. — The plan corresponds exactly in dimensions with the elevation placed above. Just as the elevation shows the arrangement of the decorative architectural elements, niches and cupolas, so the plan enables us to get a clear idea of the distribution of the galleries, both polygonal and circular, of the staircases, and of the gargoyles for carrying off the rain water. (Cf. p. 211.)





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PLATE XXXIII

Cf. pp. 209, 211.

I. — This outline, for convenience completed by restoring the pinnacles, has the effect of ocularly exhibiting the shape, as a segment of a sphere, but with indented edges, which the original plan had from the beginning assigned to the *stūpa* of Boro-Budur and of which the addition of the lower terrace has not succeeded in divesting it. (Cf. p. 209.)

II. — View of the northern staircase, where it leaves the first gallery : as far as the fourth it can still be perceived : then it is hidden from the view of the spectator standing at the foot of the building. On issuing from the fourth and last polygonal gallery, its slope, already much reduced, passes under the only ornamental gateway which to this day has remained intact. (Cf. p. 211.)





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PLATE XXXIV

Cf. pp. 218, 220

Plates XXXIV-XLII are reproductions of photographs taken by the author from the bas-reliefs, in the state in which they were in May 1907, with the lichens which in places were eating them away (cf. pll. XXXV, 2; XXXVI; XXXIX, 1), and their stones sometimes disjointed (cf. pll. XXXVIII and XLII, 2).

I. — This plate and the following belong to the story of prince Sudhana. For the description cf. p. 218. On the left will be observed the characteristic type of the Brahman, with his beard and large chignon.

II. — *Upper scene.* Çvetaketu, half recumbent on his throne in his celestial palace amid the paradise of the Tushitas, pays (not, it seems, without a certain melancholy) his adieux to his heavenly companions. The latter, ranged on each side of him, manifest, on their part, discreet signs of affectionate regret for the imminent departure of the future Çākya-muni.

*Lower scene.* Cf. p. 220. It will be noticed that the flight of Manoharâ is the only movement in the slightest degree violent that we shall have to encounter in the whole series of these bas-reliefs (cf., however, further pl. XXXVI, 1, lower scene). Scarcely do guards and courtiers allow themselves to betray at the sight of her a gesture of surprise. The birds figured on her left have no other object — if it is absolutely necessary to ascribe one to them (cf. p. 251) — than to emphasize the aerial character of her flight.



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PLATE XXXV

Cf. pp. 220-2.

I. — *Upper scene.* That on pl. XXXIV, 2 (upper scene) the Bodhi-sattva is, in fact, on the eve of his last re-descent upon our earth, may be seen in this picture, the next in the upper row of bas-reliefs. Seated in the pose of meditation under a much decorated pavilion, which forms a kind of tabernacle, he still floats above the clouds in the midst of his flying cortège of divinities, of whom some are conveying him, whilst others wave banners, fans, fly-flappers and parasols as pledges of his future princely dignity.

*Lower scene.* Cf. p. 221. Grouped on the right, the royal insignia (parasol, fly-flapper, conical fan, and leaf of *senté* [*alocasia macrorrhiza* SCHOTT.], the last « still used by the Javanese, says Dr. GRONEMAN, as a provisional umbrella »), will naturally reappear in all the court pictures (cf. pl. XXXVI, 1, lower scene, etc.).

II. — Cf. p. 222. The group on the right duly represents prince Sudhana letting his ring fall into the vessel of one of the attendants, who, stooping down, has just placed it at his feet. On the left the spring towards which walk, or rather glide, the other women — have you ever seen the gliding motion of the Javanese female dancers? — is depicted as a kind of rocky basin, shaded by a tree and overgrown with lotuses.





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## PLATE XXXVI

Cf. pp. 228, 230-1.

I. — *Upper scene.* Prince Siddhârtha, languidly ensconced upon his throne, offers his own ring, as a token of betrothal, to Gopâ or Yaçodâ, who is kneeling with clasped hands at his feet. On the left presses the crowd of maidens disdained for her sake; on the right the emissaries of the king with visible satisfaction discover, and discuss among themselves, the significant attitude of the prince, whose heart, to the great despair of his father, had until then remained proof against love.

*Lower scene.* Cf. p. 228. On the right, King Mâdhâtâr, flanked by his court, witnesses the scene from his palace : pieces of woven stuff fall from the clouds, naturally in the same long, rectangular shape which they would have when issuing from the loom. Among the people some catch them in their flight, others commence to drape themselves with them, whilst others providently make veritable bundles of them.

II. — *Upper scene.* Prince Siddhârtha, preceded by his guard and followed by his court, is seated under a parasol on a four-wheeled chariot drawn by horses, very poorly designed (cf. p. 251) : he has just met (as may be seen on the left) an old mendicant, leaning on a stick and led by a child; and *à propos* of this unexpected rencontre he learns through the mouth of his squire the existence of old age. This is the first of the four promenades (cf. pl. XXXI, 2).

*Lower scene.* Cf. p. 230. It will be observed that we do not see here, as in Gandhâra and even at Amarâvatî, an executioner lay his obedient, but cruel, hand upon the Bodhisattva; still less does this latter appear, as in Central Asia, with his skeleton almost entirely stripped of flesh. Such a horrible sight would jar too strangely at Boro-Budur





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## PLATE XXXVII

Cf. pp. 233-4.

Plates XXXVII-XL are consecrated to the story of Rudrâyaṇa.

I. — Cf. pp. 233-4. Judging by their head-dresses, these are Brahmans who have been charged by Rudrâyaṇa to bring the precious cuirass, which is about to pass from their hands into those of Bimbisâra's courtiers. And it is clearly a cuirass, without sleeves and closing, it seems, in front.

II. — *Upper scene.* On the left the Bodhisattva (already under the aspect of a Buddha) is seated on a throne covered with a lotus, and in conversation with his master Ârâḍa. The latter exhibits all the characteristic marks of the Brahmanic ascetic, as do also his other disciples, who, in the midst of a conventional landscape of trees and rocks, which represents their hermitage, occupy the rest of the picture, meditating or praying, their rosaries round their necks or in their hands.

*Lower scene.* It is the ever-recurring court picture that here again appears. We have remarked (p. 234) that the throne of the teaching monk is higher than that of the king, his disciple. It might be interesting to refer the reader to a rule to this effect, explicitly stated in the *Prâtīmokṣa* of the Sarvâstivâdins, v, 92 (*Journal Asiatique*, nov.-dec. 1913, p. 535; ed. FINOT and trans. HUBER). But, in fact, this is the general custom in India : it is by an exception, only explained by the prestige of Buddha among later generations, that in the scene above the sculptor has assigned to him a seat higher than that of his master.



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PLATE XXXVIII

Cf. pp. 234-5.

I. — Cf. pp. 234-5. Note in the case of the Buddhist nun the complete tonsure of the head and the total absence of jewels, conformably to the rule of the monastic order to which she belongs. The first feminine person seen full-length on the right of the king is, doubtless, queen Candrabhâ.

II. — Cf. p. 235. It is the latter whom we find again in the following scene, kneeling on the ground in the costume of a nun. Between her and the bench on which are seated the two *bhikṣuṇīs* (whose heads have been displaced with the block which carried them) curious utensils of worship will be noticed





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PLATE XXXIX

Cf. pp. 235·6.

I. — Here Candraprabhâ, descending again from heaven, in order to keep the promise which she had made to her husband to come back as a ghost, reappears, quite naturally to our eyes, in the costume of a goddess, and consequently of a queen — that is to say, the same which she wore on plate XXXVIII, 1. Note the cracks in the block on which the king is carved.

II. — Cf. pp. 235-6. The distinction between the king and the crown-prince is in this scene especially emphasized by the fact that the father alone wears the *mukuṭa* or tiara, which the son, contrary to custom (see, for instance, prince Sudhana in the lower scene of pl. XXXV, 2), here does not wear.

III. — Cf. p. 236 and, for the sake of comparison, the right part of the lower scene in pl. XXXVII, 2.





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## PLATE XL

Cf. pp. 237-8.

I. — *Upper scene.* On the left the Bodhisattva (in the form of a Buddha), seated in meditation among the rocks and in the shades of Uruvilvâ, raises his right hand in order to make to the fifteen gods (one of whom is broken) ranged on his left a polite gesture of refusal. What he declines is the proposal, which they have just made to him, to breathe in through his pores a secret vigour, which may sustain him in the midst of his super-human austerities : for he will owe his salvation to himself alone. His well-bred interlocutors receive his decision with a demeanour as discreet as it is varied. It will be observed that the macerations of the Bodhisattva are not in any way shown, as in Gandhâra, by the loss of flesh on his body : so much realism would here be regarded as the height of impropriety.

*Lower scene.* Cf. p. 237. It will be noticed also in this connection that the sculptor does not make us witness the murder of Rudrâyaṇa (cf. p. 249, n. 1). It may be curious to observe the existence in the Musée Guimet of Tibetan paintings whose authors have not troubled themselves with so much delicacy : for there is more than one way of being a Buddhist, in life as well as in art.

II. — Cf. p. 238. It will be observed — and this trait curiously recalls the pleasantries of our Middle Age concerning the monks — that the Brahmans distinguish themselves by a special degree of cupidity.



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## PLATE XLI

Cf. pp. 241-3, 245-6.

i. — Cf. pp. 240-3. The conventional rocks already met with in plates XXXVIII, 2 and XLI (upper scene) are here still more distinctly seen : they are the same as at Ajanṭā and in Indian miniatures (cf. *Ét. sur l'Iconogr. bouddh. de l'Inde*, I, pp. 35, 183).

The three following reproductions belong to the story of Maitrakanyaka.

II. — Cf. pp. 245-6. The respect due to the mother, as well as to the teacher, is here also marked by the higher seat attributed to her (cf. p. 220, no. 8, and pl. XXXVII, 2).





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## PLATE XLII

Cf. pp. 246-7.

I. — Here, again, it would never be suspected that Maitrakanyaka is supposed to kick his mother on the head : such is, however, the subject (cf. pp. 245-6). This portion of the wall shows very serious cracks.

II — Cf. pp. 246-7. The *dudrapāla* is to be compared with those who likewise guard the gates of the Brahmanic temples of Java. A palisade of the same kind as that of which we get a side view on the left is seen again from the front on pll. XL, 1 (lower scene) and XLIV.





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## PLATE XLIII

Cf. pp. 257-62, 267-9.

I. — Photograph by Major Van ERP. For the interpretation cf. pp. 257-262. We must confess that, at first sight, it is difficult to take this figure seriously. It would be so simple to suppose, for example, that we have merely a statue spoiled in the execution, so that the sculptor, regarding it as an irremediable failure, had decently rid himself of it by burying it beneath the masonry of the *stúpa*. We have, however, to consider, on the one hand, that this imperfect work is unique in its kind and, on the other, that, having been found in position beneath the great central cupola, as were its companions under the 72 encircling small cupolas, it forms part of a finished whole. Only so do we comprehend the importance which the Dutch savants have attached to its discovery.

II. — Photograph by the author (height m. 0.10) : description and identification pp. 267-9.



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## PLATE XLIV

Cf. pp. 265-6

Photograph by Major Van ERP ; for the identification cf. pp. 265-6. On the plinth stretches the top of a palisade of large wooden stakes joined by a thin crossbar. Behind are seen the waves of a lotus pond, in which are supposed to grow the lotuses which support the three principal persons. Two Nâgas, recognizable by their serpent head-dresses, hold up the stem of the central lotus, and thus recall those of the « Great Miracle at Çrâvastî » (cf. pll. XX; XXIII; XXVIII, 1). The stereotyped trees attest a remarkable feeling for ornament. At the foot of the two lateral ones are placed treasure-vases. The central tree, surmounted by a parasol, is further embellished with birds and hanging bells, and, conformably to tradition, is flanked by adoring divinities, here enframed in finely chiselled folds of cloud. The iconographic motif, carved in position, thus extends over the whole wall of the temple.





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## The Buddhist Madonna <sup>(1)</sup>.

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The painting reproduced in colours on the frontispiece to this volume comes from the ruins of Yâr-Khoto, at about ten kilometres to the west of Turfan. Discovered on the 13<sup>th</sup> of July 1905 in the course of the operations of the second German archæological mission in this region of Chinese Turkestan, it is at present deposited in the Royal Ethnographical Museum (Kgl. Museum für Völkerkunde) in Berlin, under no. T(urfan) II, Y, 69. In shape rectangular, it measures m. 0,35 by m. 0,50, and, according to all probability, was formerly framed in bands of woven material, like a Japanese kakemono. The sanctuary, which it had once adorned, was apparently one dedicated to Buddha : at least, the fairly numerous manuscripts found in its company retain, under the diversity of their Sogdian, Turkish or Chinese languages and scripts, the common characteristic of having a Buddhist purport : we should have to except only some Uigur fragments, which would be Manichean. On the other hand, the final disintegration of the building, constructed of undressed bricks, could not be much later than the ninth century of our era. Only the extraordinary dryness of the climate explains how a thing so perishable should have succeeded in reaching us, beneath the thick accumulated débris of bricks and dust, in a state

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(1) Extract from *Monuments et mémoires publiés par l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres (Fondation Eugène Piot)*, vol. XVII, fasc. II, 1910.

of preservation relatively so satisfactory. We are indebted to the kindness of Dr. A. von Le Coq and Dr. Bode, the Director-General of the Royal Museums in Berlin, for the opportunity of offering to the public a first acquaintance with this work, one of the most significant, in our opinion, which have issued from the recent excavations in Central Asia

## I

The reproduction which we publish is sufficiently adequate to enable us to dispense with anything beyond a succinct description, insisting less upon what is still to be seen at the first glance than upon what only a close examination reveals. The principal subject is a seated woman, holding in the hollow of her right arm a child in swaddling clothes, to whom with her left hand she presents her bosom. Her head, surrounded by a triple circular nimbus, is covered as far as the shoulders by a veil, embroidered round the hems and tied back with a ribbon. She is clothed down to the feet in a tunic with long sleeves, open at the breast and quite analogous to those which we have seen worn by the women of Kashmir. This robe is strewn with lozenges — themselves subdivided into four like figures, each marked by a red spot — which were probably woven in the stuff; the collar, cuffs, opening and hem being bordered with the same embroidery as the veil. The feet are shod in slippers without heels, depicted in black, and the neck is adorned with a necklace of the same hue. The child is tightly swathed up to the neck, like a mummy. The chair on which the woman sits, in a very awkward position, is without arms or back, but very massive and much ornamented. From the front we perceive only two rectangular uprights,





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reach and manipulate the red, bent stick which is to be seen between the two partners. Below, a fifth child, seated on the ground, practises playing a sort of guitar with four strings. Still lower, a sixth is carrying as well as he can, in a basket too big for his arms, some melons, whole or in slices — those famous melons of Upper Asia, whose excellence all travellers unite in celebrating and of which the scent alone was sufficient to awaken in the heart of the Great Mogul Baber, even mid the enchantment of his Indian gardens, a homesickness for his native Ferghâna. To return to the left portion of the plate, above the two hockey-players we see another little boy, who seems to be amusing himself by trying to balance on his head a two-handled vase. As for the eighth little figure in the top corner, it is so much injured that we dare not venture any conjectures concerning its manner of amusement : the author of the tracing which accompanies and supplies what is missing in the plate, has completed the figure, with infinite probability, as a little genius perfectly analogous to the one in the symmetrically opposite corner.

To this summary description we are justified in adding a few observations of a technical kind. The painting is executed on a piece of coarse canvas, which had previously been covered with a coating, now partly vanished. The features (perhaps first sketched by the help of a pounce, dusted over a perforated pattern, as we know was often the custom of these image-makers) were drawn in ink, with great sureness of hand. If the sitting posture of the woman is unskilfully rendered, we shall remark, on the other hand, an interesting attempt to make the lozenges on the dress blend with the movement of the figure. Then colours, doubtless water-colours, have been applied in broad uniform tints. Here, it seems, golden yellow was



confined to the seat and embroideries, while for the textures there is recourse to a series of reds, passing from the minium of the dress to the carmine of the veil : all are to be seen again on the various bands of the halo. Then a light wash in ink, encircling each feature, emphasizes the contours and hollows out the folds, whilst a few delicate touches here and there give the finishing stroke to the summary indication of the modelling. These are exactly the procedures which are found to recur in Sino-Japanese paintings, as also on Persian miniatures. We know that Oriental art has continued of set purpose to ignore the chiaroscuro. As to the date to be assigned to this picture, it is, provisionally, rather uncertain : for the archæology of Central Asia has to be drawn from the chaos of its materials, which for the most part are still unedited. However, thanks to the previous excavations of Sir Aurel Stein, we know that the *rabâb* with four keys, with which the child musician is playing, the flowers which the mouldings of the seat encircle, the « wave » or « cloud » motif of the embroidery were in use at Niya and at Rawak in southern Turkestan from the third century of our era (1). But, on the other hand, according to the opinion of Dr. A. von Le Coq, the woman's costume, of a fashion already Uïgur — not to mention the extreme obliquity of the eyes — would force us to descend at least as far as the beginning of the seventh.

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(1) See M. A. STEIN, *Ancient Khotan*, pl. LXXIII (guitar handle), LXVIII (seat), LXXXVIII (waves), LXVII (halo), etc. ; and cf. our *Art gréco-bouddhique du Gandhâra*, figg. 162, 213, 243, 246 (encircled flowers), 273 (waves), etc.

## II

So far we have restricted ourselves to a simple statement of the facts furnished by an examination of the document. Now it is time to broach the more delicate question of its interpretation. Inevitably, as soon as we are confronted by this pious design, we are carried back in memory to some familiar picture of the Virgin nursing the Child Jesus. For this unavoidable rapprochement we see at least two reasons. Firstly, there are not so many ways for a woman to offer her bosom to her nursling. The second, more topical, reason might chance through long habituation not immediately to occur to us. We remember having heard the ingenuous expression of it from the lips of a young Panjabi Brahman, who, in front of an Italian chromo-lithograph of the Holy Family, could not conceal his astonishment that « the mother of the God of the Europeans should not be dressed after the manner of the Mém-Sahebs ». He expected, as he explained to us, to see on the head of Mary a hat similar to those worn by English ladies, whereas, in fact, her veil gave her quite an Indian appearance. This he could not get over... After having smiled at his amazement, we shall do well not to forget the exact bearings of his remark. It is incontestable that the artistic tradition of the veil does in fact give an Asiatic appearance to the most Gothic of our Virgins. But, if our European images go more than half way to meet this « Notre Dame de Tourfan » — as it had from the first (1) been christened — it is intelligible that con-

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(1) This hypothesis was, indeed, put aside by Dr. von Le Coq because of the Buddhist character of the manuscripts found at the same time as the painting (cf. *Journ. of the Roy. As. Soc.*, 1909, p. 309).



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XV<sup>th</sup> century, and would be imitations of an Italian model, itself of recent date (¹). Finally, in France the first examples would not go back further than the XIV<sup>th</sup> century, and would translate in our religious art new feelings of familiarity and tenderness (²). But even the best established laws must always have some exception, and in the present case M. Gabriel Millet has pointed out to us at least two. The first is furnished by the ivory cover of a Gospel of Metz, attributed to the IX<sup>th</sup> century of our era (pl. XLVI, 1) : the « Mother of God », thus designated by name in Byzantine sigla, is seated on a raised throne in the form of a coffer, and offers her left bosom, over which she has modestly drawn a fold of her veil, to a child entirely swathed in bands. The other specimen, recently obtained from the excavations of the Service of Egyptian Antiquities at Saqqara, is by the gracious permission of M. G. Maspéro reproduced here (pl. XLVI, 2). Seated on a chair with a back, of rather rude construction, the Virgin Mary no less chastely offers the nipple of her right bosom to a little Jesus, already growing, who, installed on his mother's knee, holds her forearm with both hands. According to the published information this painting had once adorned the walls of a convent founded in 470 and probably destroyed soon after the Arab conquest of Egypt (640-641). Whilst the Carolingian ivory would be later than the image of Turfan, the Coptic fresco would, therefore, be earlier. But, since — notwithstanding the analogy of the wholes and even of certain details — we discern at once that none of

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(1) KONDAKOV, *Monuments of Christian Art at Athos*, 1902, fig. 68 and p. 173 (in Russian); BENIGNI, *La Madonna allatante e un motivo bizantino?* ap. *Il Bessarione*, VII, 1900, pp. 499-501. We are indebted for this information to the kindness of our colleague M. Gab. MILLET.

(2) E. MALE, *L'Art religieux de la fin du Moyen-âge en France* (1908), p. 148.

these three figures proceeds directly from either of the other two, their simultaneous existence serves in the end only to induce us to bring a prudent reserve to bear upon our statements. If our short enquiry does not at all result, as we had begun to think, in guaranteeing the entire absence of the type of Nursing Virgin from ancient Christian art, it at least proves the extreme rarity thereof. Consequently, it suffices — and it makes no further claim — to divert us from the first trail along which our European prejudices would have started us.

Whoever, in fact, has by his studies acquired a certain familiarity with Central Asian matters, whether he be Indianist or Sinologue, cannot have remained ignorant of the preponderant role played by Indian civilization in « Serindia », at least down to the coming of the Musalmans; and it is a fact no less surely established that the principal vehicle of this influence was the religion of Buddha. It is in this direction that it would be proper, *a priori*, to point our researches : towards the same quarter we are in the case of this particular picture directed by the character of the edifice beneath whose ruins it was discovered. Now, if we look at it no longer with eyes hereditarily Christian, but through Buddhist spectacles, we shall no less infallibly recognize in it, instead of the Virgin Mary nursing the Child Jesus, the fairy Hâritî suckling her last born, Pingala, whilst some of her numerous sons are playing around her. This is a consecrated iconographic theme, of which it will be easy for us to quote numerous examples, spread over nearly twenty centuries and over the whole of the Far East. In face of the scarcity of western counterparts, this abundance of documents would at once weigh down the balance in favour of the Buddhist identification : comparison of the various replicas will bring full confirmation

## III

But, first of all, it is relevant to present briefly to the non-Orientalist reader the goddess whose acquaintance we invite him to make. In truth, she was originally only a fairy, and even a wicked fairy. By birth she, as well as her troupe of imps, belonged to the race, often maleficent, of spirits of the air (*yaksha*), in whom popular Indian belief had, and still has, a habit of incarnating contagious maladies. She herself personified the most pitiless of infantile epidemics. It is well known that in the India of the present day, in spite of the progress of vaccination, small-pox is dreaded to such an extent that it is still the custom not to reckon children among the members of the family until they have victoriously passed through the trial of this terrible disease. This is why the « green » Hârîtî still receives from the Buddhists of Nepal the worship which the Hindus of the plains address to the « cold » Çîtalâ. That she should have ended by transforming herself from a formidable scourge into a beneficent divinity will not surprise any student of religions. Of course, there was a legend to explain this transmutation of worthless lead into pure gold. Buddha in person had once converted the *yakshinî* who decimated, or (as is metaphorically written) pitilessly « devoured », the children of the town of Râjagriha (now Râjgir, in Behar). In order to convert her to more human feelings, he decided to deprive her for a time of Piṅgala, the last and most loved of her five hundred sons. Some even relate that the Master hid Piṅgala under his inverted alms-vase : and on Chinese paintings we do, in fact, see hordes of demons vainly endeavouring by the help of cranes and levers to turn over the huge bowl,





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he tells us in plain terms, adored no longer as a devourer, but as a « giver » of children. Usually the « genius with the golden bag » was opposite to her — at least, when he was not, as in a number of surviving representations, seated beside her : for the common people had been quick to associate the dispenser of riches with the goddess of fecundity (1). We may even be permitted to think that their altars must have been those not least frequented by devout laymen, the more so as both sexes were there plainly provided for. A passage from Hiuan-tsang interests us still more directly by attesting that the worship of Hârîtî had been transported early into the north-west of India. While following the same itinerary, we were surprised to encounter, under a name which is nothing but an Afghan translation of hers, the mound, still miraculous, even in the eyes of present-day Musalmans, which marks the location of her principal sanctuary in this country of Gandhâra, where at about the beginning of our era the Græco-Buddhist art flourished (2).

This is sufficient to explain to us the antiquity, number and character, at once classical and benignant, of her Indian images. All answer more or less to the general description given by Yi-tsing : she is depicted « as holding a babe in her arms and round her knees three or five children ». The little genii who are usually playing and worrying each other evidently represent her « five hundred sons ». There is nothing astonishing in seeing them all of nearly the same size : the texts admit that their mother, a true Gigogne, may very well have been able to bring them

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(1) See above Essay V, *The Tutelary Pair*.

(2) Cf. Yi-Tsing, *Records*, trans. TAKAKUSU, p. 37 ; Hiuan-Tsang, *Mémoires*, trans. JULIEN, I, p. 120 ; *Bull. de l'Éc. fr. d'Extrême-Orient*, I, 1901, pp. 341 sqq.

all into the world in the same year ('). In the midst of all this swarm, which often climbs over her person, one would sometimes say that she is posing in advance as an Italian allegory of Charity. At one time she is seated : her « Benjamin » rests in her lap and childishly plays with her necklace (pl. XLVII, 1), or at times simultaneously suckles her breast. Then again she is standing; but her favourite still clings to her bosom. Usually he is placed astride her hip, in the manner in which Indian women carry their children; and two at least of his brothers have succeeded in climbing as far as the maternal shoulders (pl. XLVII, 2). With these two types — at times partly combined, as in pl. XLVIII, 1, which in addition shows the husband of the goddess — may be connected the relatively numerous images furnished no less by the ruins of the districts of Peshawar and Mathurâ than by the famous grottoes of Ajañtâ. The ogress, once the terror of fruitful mothers, has clearly there become a kind of matron, hope of barren women. It is this auspicious group that, as we are about to see, has conquered the whole of the Far East.

#### IV

For this pacific conquest two ways had been opened by those pioneers of Indian civilization, leaders of caravans or master mariners, the one by land and the other by sea. It was this latter route which must perforce have been followed in order to reach Java, on the actual confines of the Indian Archipelago. In preference to the little bronzes of the museum in Batavia — evidence too portable to be unexceptionable, — we reproduce here the Hâritî actually sculptured on

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(1) *Mahāvastu*, ed. SENART, I, p. 253, l. 2.

the left wall of the entrance corridor of the temple called Chandi Mendut, near to the famous *stūpa* of Boro-Budur (IX<sup>th</sup> century), and doubtless almost contemporaneous with it. Represented on the right wall opposite, an image of the genius of riches completes the proof of the transplantation of their double worship into the most beautiful of the « Islands of the Southern Seas » (1). Crouching upon a cushion, her legs covered with a *sarong* and her body clothed only with jewels, the goddess, who wears a sumptuous coiffure, is surrounded by no less than thirteen « little demons ». One is being presented to her on the right by an attendant, whilst the others play in the sand, caper about, or climb trees in order to steal their fruits; and during this time Piṅgala, resting in her arms, prepares to suckle with all the conviction of a nursling charged by the sculptor to emphasize the identification of his mother (pl. XLVIII, 2).

If, this first mark noted, we return to our starting-point, we may follow the same family group on the march over the sandy roads of Central Asia. It was hardly doubtful that, in order to reach China, they must have pursued the same routes which the Chinese pilgrims had taken in order to reach India. Of this probability recent discoveries have made a certainty. The original of the frontispiece marks at Turfan precisely the route followed on the outward journey by Fa-hian and Hiuan-tsang, the northern route which, footing the chain of the Celestial Mountains, rounds the great desert basin of the Tarim. As to the southern route, which deployed along the northern slope of the Kuen-lun mountains the chaplet of the oases visited by Sung Yun on the outward journey and by Hiuan-tsang on his return,

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(1) See above, p. 264.





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the oval of the « moon face », too broad according to our taste, the folds (classic in India) of the neck, the net of pearls in the hair, finally and above all, the triple circular orb of the nimbus. The goddess, since such she is, is dressed to the waist in a short cassock, of a rich greenish hue, spotted with yellow and trimmed with fawn braid, the short sleeves terminating above the elbow in a frill of linen folded in fluted plaits. Underneath are long, reddish sleeves, evidently belonging to the bodice of the dress. A turquoise-coloured scarf, exactly similar to that worn by the Gandharian images (pl. XLVII, 1), hangs in folds in the hollows of her arms. Her left hand, with straightened index, rests on the front of her knee, which is bent in the Indian manner. Meanwhile a naked child clings to her left bosom, as if asking to be suckled, whilst another little boy is seated astride on her right forearm, and two more, one of whom is dressed, ride familiarly on her shoulders. This more than suffices to determine, from analogy with pll. XLVII-XLVIII, 1, the identification with Hâritî and her mischievous progeny. The opposite wall of the embrasure is, unfortunately, destroyed : we should have expected to see there the genius of riches, the usual counterpart of the goddess of children. Let us add that, according to the chronological indications elicited by Sir Aurel Stein, the decoration of the temple to which this image belonged could not be later than the VIII<sup>th</sup> century A. D., and may be a little earlier.

If, continuing our journey eastward, we at last arrive in China, we are so much the more certain to discover Hâritî there, as, according to the evidence of Yi-tsing, « the portrait of the goddess-mother of demon sons (Kwei-tseu-mu-chen) » was already in his time (end of the VII<sup>th</sup> century) to be met with in the country. In fact, under this same surname, pronounced Ki-si-mo-jin, she has



pushed her way much further still, as far as Japan. A simple inspection of her modern images, whether representing her under her usual mask or, by a curious survival, in her proper guise as an ogress (pl. XLIX), will prove that the type has not, any more than the name, been so travestied by the local interpretation that one can hesitate as to its identity; even in the absence of any traditional designation, it could be divined simply from the child nestling in his mother's lap or walking by her side. In China itself matters are not quite so simple, and a new element seems to have intervened to complicate the problem. Has the personality of Hâritî been engrafted upon that same native goddess who, according to a certain interpretation, had been identified with the Indian Bodhisattva, Avalokiteçvara? Has she simply been absorbed into the vogue of the feminine forms of the latter and considered as one of the numerous avatars of his inexhaustible grace? It is not for us to decide, any more than to unravel the origins of the curious legend which tends to make of « Kuan-yin with a child » a virgin who is a mother only by adoption. But what we believe we can affirm, by reason both of the fundamental identity of the worship offered and of the exterior analogy of the iconographic types, is that the innumerable statuettes, either seated or standing, in which « the Great Mistress with the white robe... just because she is the patron of childless people, is represented with a child in her arms, which makes her strongly resemble the Virgin Mary (1) », are only succedanea of the Indian and Serindian images of Hâritî (pl. L). Finally, and consequentially, we must likewise recognize the latter under the exactly

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(1) De GROOT, *Les fêtes annuellement célébrées à Limoui* (Ann. du Musée Guimet, vol. XI), p. 182.

similar features of the Annamese Quan-Am, who, « seated on a rock and draped in a robe with wide plaits, bears in her arms a child, which has caused her to be surnamed by our soldiers the Holy Virgin (1) ».

## V

This time the circle of our pilgrimage of research is closed, but only after having embraced the whole of the Far East. We see that the observation of the Christian analogy of these images recurs like a refrain in the mouths of those Europeans whose eyes have once lighted upon them. In case the unanimity of the testimonies should run some risk of impressing the reader, he will quickly reassure himself by reflecting that, if some Egyptian mummy were wakened from its secular sleep, it would not hesitate in the least to recognize in them replicas of Isis suckling Horus, whilst every modern Hindu would with the same certainty see in them Kṛishṇa in the arms of his mother Dēvakî or of his nurse Yaçodâ. The type of the woman with a child, the happy incarnation of the wishes of mothers and the natural object of their worship, belongs, in fact, to all times, if not to all countries. Still there are distinctions to be made. Not everywhere do the same images personify the same ideas, far from it : did they so, different civilizations would nevertheless know them under different names. The whole intention of this short study is to assign to the heroine of the frontispiece and pl. XLV her authentic position by restoring to her, if possible, her moral physiognomy and replacing her in her milieu. Deified, as witness her halo ; a feminine divinity, as witness her forms ; goddess-mother,

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(1) G. DUMOUTIER, *Les cultes annamites* (Extract from the *Revue Indo-Chinoise*, 1906), p. 30 of the separate print.



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The productions of the ancient Buddhist art of China are in their turn connected in the most evident manner with those lately exhumed by the Russian, English, German, French, and even Japanese excavations in Turkestan. But these latter had been independently and from the first connected, by a transition no less evident, with the works of the Indo-Greek school of Gandhâra. Thus, thanks to the combined efforts of the latest scientific missions in Asia, we have seen joined again the scattered links, or, better, the broken glimpses, which we already possessed of the long chain of transmission. The most important result of the last explorations will have been definitely to arrange before our eyes in an uninterrupted series the numerous images which, escorting that of Buddha, followed it in procession as far as the islands of the Rising Sun or of the Southern Seas. In this varied train of gracious or furious figures, if there is none more charming, neither is there any more « representative », than that of Hâritî, were it only because we meet her at each step on the road; and this is why, among all those which have already been brought to the museums of Europe, this one, from the first, forced itself upon our notice.

But let us not be misunderstood. We do not in the least claim to base on the frail support of this single image the theory which hundreds of documents continue more and more to reinforce, the theory of the conquest of eastern Asia by Indo-Greek art : we merely say that it remains a signally typical example of a historical phenomenon whereof it formed only a part. Were we pressed a little further, we might even be willing to see in it an excellent illustration of a fact still more general. The recent unification of the art of higher and lower Asia has, in fact, a correlative in the fundamental and long recognized unity of European art :

and now it appears more and more clearly that the two have a common source. If for a moment we disregard the intrusion of the Musalman Arabs, the history of *religious* art in the ancient world, from the beginning of our era, may — when reduced to its essential features and excluding numerous local variations — be summed up somewhat in this manner : on the decadent trunk of Hellenistic art were grafted in nearer Asia two vigorous young shoots, of which one has been called Græco-Buddhist, and the other might just as well be called Græco-Christian. It is not for us to ignore the fact that the latter has through Italy and Byzantium conquered the whole of Europe; but we must realize also that the former, growing and multiplying like the Indian fig-tree, has likewise gradually won over the whole of Eastern Asia. And thus, from the islands of the Atlantic to those of the Pacific, humanity has by degrees come to pray only at the feet of more or less distant, more or less unsuspected offshoots of Greek art. But on the most distant branches of this great evergreen tree never have there burst forth flowers more beautiful nor more full of resemblance, if not in regard to the moral perfume which they exhale, at least in regard to the material form in which they array themselves before our eyes, than the images, Christian and Buddhist, of the Madonna. Even if, as we venture to foresee, the field of artistic comparisons must habitually be widened from one ocean to the other, the most universally attractive role will always revert to those figures which incarnate the maternal — and in some cases at the same time virginal — grace of the eternal feminine.

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We are indebted to the kindness of Sir Aurel STEIN for the communication of these two photographs. The first (no. 1) was taken by him *in situ* and in a slanting position, for want of sufficient space for the camera. The second (no. 2) was made at the British Museum and slightly retouched on the cheeks. Cf. pp. 285-6, and *Ruins of Desert Cathay* (London, 1912), II, p. 414 and pl. XI *b*.

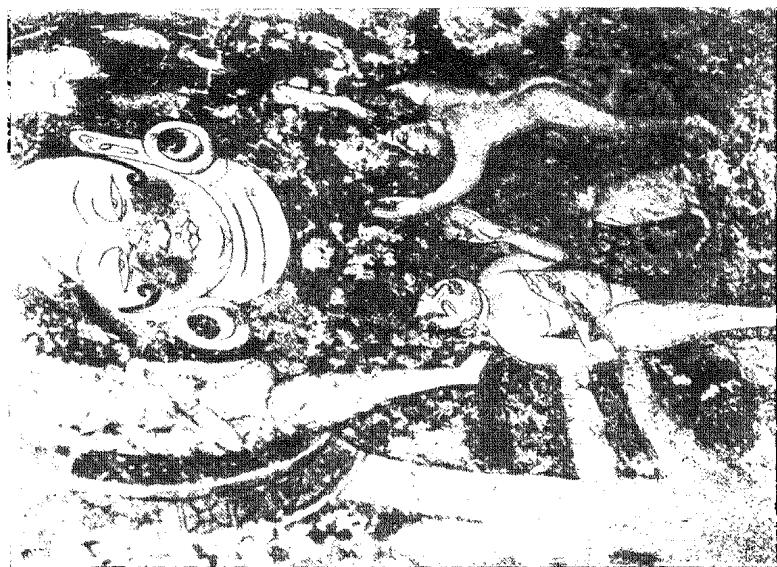
For another specimen from Chinese Turkestan we refer the reader to the frontispiece and pp. 271-5, — now also to the monumental publication of Dr. von LE COQ, *Chotscho* (Berlin, 1913), pl. 40.



2

AFTER A WALL-PAINTING FROM DOMOKO (CHINESE TURKESTAN)

(AS SET UP IN BRITISH MUSEUM)



1

AFTER A WALL-PAINTING FROM DOMOKO (CHINESE TURKESTAN)

(SIDE VIEW BEFORE REMOVAL)







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I. — Lower half of an ivory plaque affixed to a Book of the Gospels, which was transferred in 1802 from Metz to the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris (Ms. latins 10.438; exhibited [cf. *Notice des objets exposés*, Paris, 1881] in glass case XXX under no. 272). On the last page of the ms., in a handwriting of the end of the XVIII<sup>th</sup> or the beginning of the XIX<sup>th</sup> century, there is a note in these terms: « Presented to the Chapter of the Holy Saviour at Metz by Bishop Aldaberon II (died Dec. 14, 1004), son of Duke Frederic and Beatrix, sister of Hugh Capet ». On either side of the Virgin's head are the uncial letters **MP** and **OY** representing **MHTHP** ΘΕΟΥ, « Mother of God ». For a description of the central figure cf. p. 278 or WESTWOOD, *A Descriptive Catalogue of the Fictile Ivories...* (London, 1876), p. 384. Joseph, of smaller size, sits to the left, deep in thought; to the right stands a female attendant, whose hands are hidden under what looks like a swaddling-cloth. The fact of the nursing Virgin, so unusual in the west till the XIV<sup>th</sup> century, the crouching Joseph, the presence of the maid-servant, in short, every part in the exceptional design of this « homely *tableau de genre* » are so many reasons, adduced by Ad. GOLDSCHMIDT (*Die Elfenbeinskulpturen aus der Zeit der Karolingischen und Sächsischen Kaiser*, Berlin, 1914, pl. XXXII, no. 79 and p. 44), for calling in question the

genuineness of the plaque, which he takes to be a forgery dating about 1800. But a curious passage in the Protevangelium of James, xix. 2, to which M. Gab. MILLET has kindly drawn our attention, would perhaps explain the startling peculiarities, if not completely vindicate the authenticity, of this piece: « And they stood in the place where the cave was, and beheld a bright light overshadowed the cave. And the midwife said... And gradually that light withdrew until the babe was seen, and it came and took the breast from its mother Mary. And the midwife cried out... » (*The Apocryphal Gospels*, by B. HARRIS COWPER, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed., London, 1874: *The Gospel of James*, c. xix, pp. 20-1). The fact that the feminine attendant on the right plays so well the part of the midwife waiting to receive the child renders it highly probable that the ivory-carver had this strange tale in his mind.

II. — The Coptic Virgin of Saqqara is reproduced from the water-colour copy by Mrs. Quibbell, published in J. E. QUIBBELL, *Excavations at Saqqara*, II, 1908, pl. XL. In the attitude of the child Jesus, holding his mother's fore-arm with his two hands, we must recognize a curious artistic survival; for it is exactly the same as that of Horus nursed by Isis. (Cf. p. 278.)





1. — ROMANESQUE VIRGIN



2. — COPTIC VIRGIN





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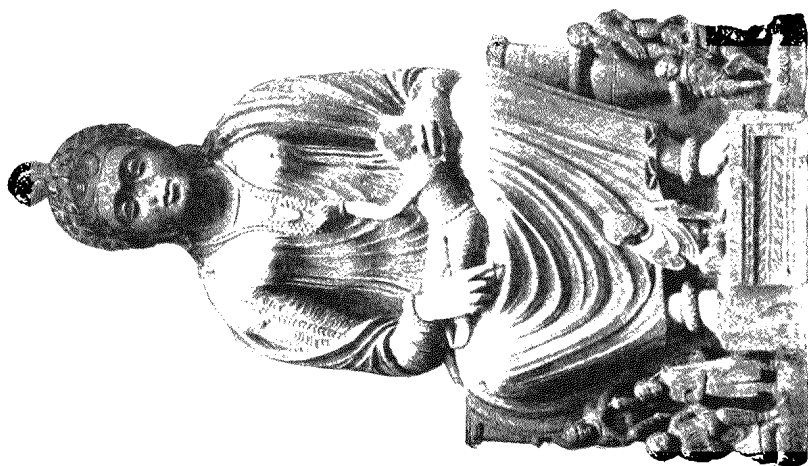


I. — From a photograph taken by the author at the British Museum (height of the original m. 0.71). The image has already been published by Dr. BURGESS (*J. of Ind. Art and Ind.*, 1898, pl. 4, 2).

It reminds us distantly of the type of Demeter. The bosoms are placed very high, as is usual in the school of Gandhāra. The head of Piṅgala is partly broken. At the bottom, on the goddess' right, ought we to recognize two donors? The other persons — one of whom, on the right, is feeding a parrot, whilst two others, on the left, are wrestling, a fourth raises a fruit to his mouth and a fifth is crouched on the front of the stand — evidently form part of the troop of little demons, progeny of Hārītā. (Cf. p. 283).

II. — From a photograph taken by the author at the Lahore Museum (height of the original 1 metre) : it is the statue found by Col. Deane at Sikri, published already by M. E. SENART in the *Journal Asiatique*, febr.-march 1890, pl. III), and since reproduced by Dr BURGESS (*J. I. A. I.*, 1898, pl. 3, 2). Notice the very ungraceful protuberance formed by the jewelled belt under the drapery. The difference of costume between the two figures of the plate arises from the fact that no. I, in addition to the long *dhotī* and shawl, wears also a tunic with sleeves, and even sleeves folded into little plaits

# THE BUDDHIST MADONNA









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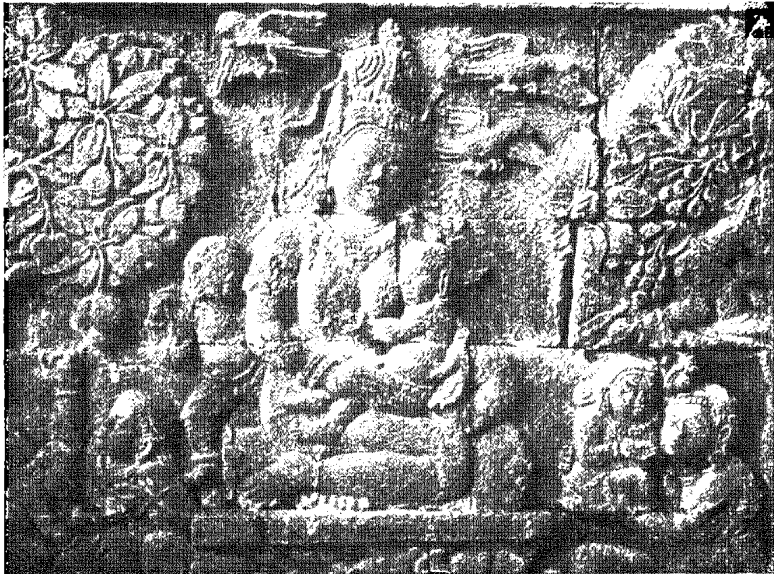
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I. — Group, consisting of Pāñcika and Hâritî, now in the Peshawar Museum, and reproduced from a photograph kindly lent by Dr. J. Ph. VOGEL. It comes from the excavations made by Dr. D. B. SPOONER at Sahri-Bahlol, and has already been published by him in *Arch. Surv. India, Annual Report, 1906-7*, pl. XXXII, c. In his hands, both broken, the genius of riches must have held (right) his lance and (left) the purse which Hâritî, apparently, was helping him to exhibit to the gladdened eyes of the faithful (cf. pp. 141-3 and 283). In addition to the nursling of the goddess we see also around them five other *putti*, whilst sixteen more play about on the pedestal.

II. — This photograph, taken by the author, represents only the central part of the panel, with the image of the goddess (cf. pp. 264 and 284). For a complete picture we may have recourse to the photograph published by Dr. J. Ph. VOGEL in the *B. É. F. E. O.*, IV, 1904, p. 727.



1. — HARITĪ AND HER PARTNER IN GANDHĀRA



2. — HARITĪ IN JAVA







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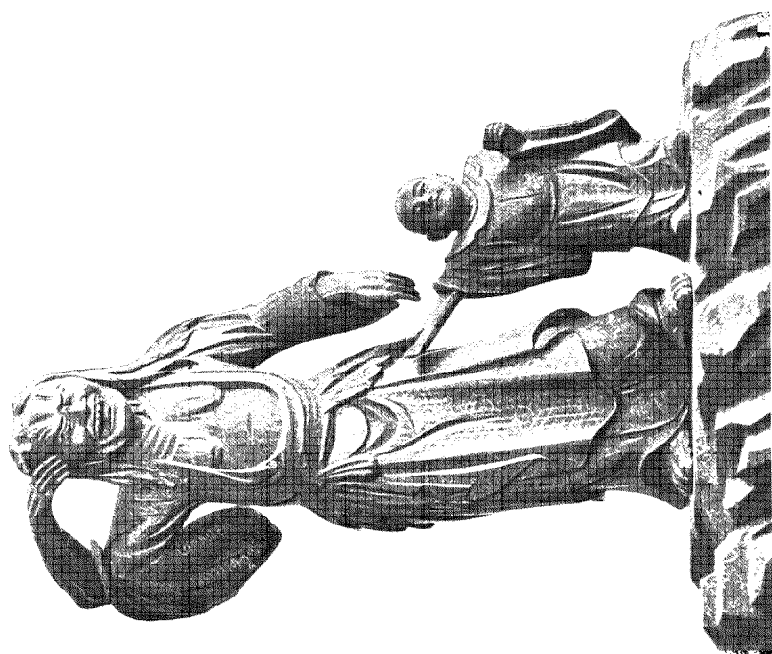
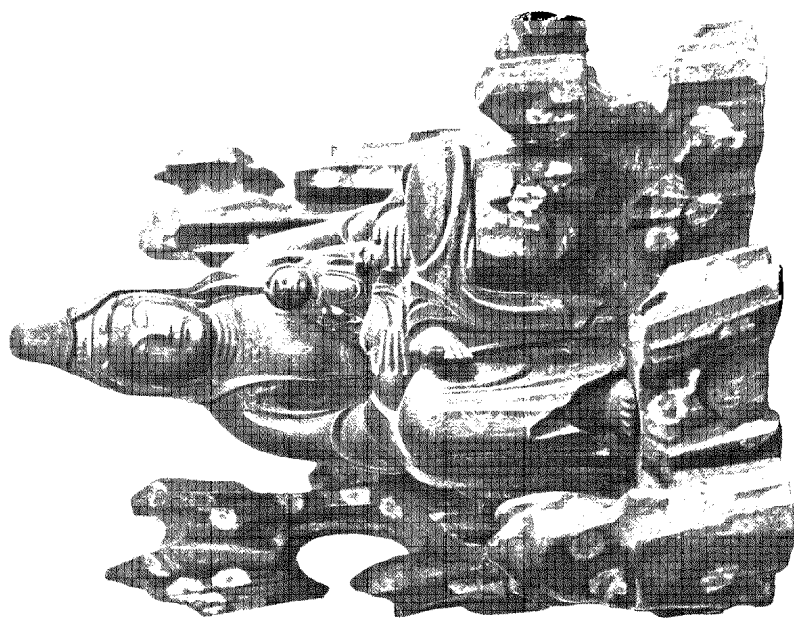


These two modern Japanese woodcuts belong (as also does no. 2 of pl. L) to the collection of Mr. Henry H. GERRY, to whom we are indebted for the photographs and for permission to reproduce them. We have pointed out above (p. 287) the interest of their rapprochement.

I. — The Hārītā on the left is erect and walking with little Pingala at her side. When we observe her frowning eyebrows, her angry features, her wide mouth garnished with its terrible row of teeth, her emaciated and withered bosom, her gesture of seizing prey, everything seems to express the primitive character of the ogress, reappearing under the customary mask of Buddhist serenity.

II. — The one to the right, on the contrary, has retained not only a pose quite Indian (the same, in fact, which she affects at Ajañtā; cf. BURGESS, *Notes on the Rock Temples of Ajañtā*, pl. VI), but also her placid aspect as a stout maçon holding her favourite child in her lap.









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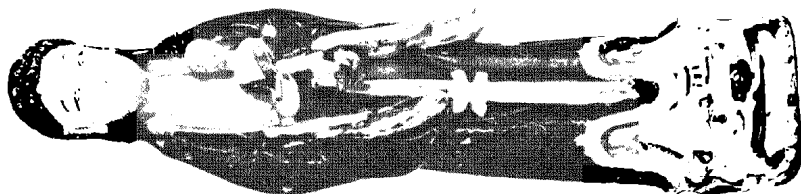
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I. — Statuette in white porcelain, belonging to the Musée Guimet, Paris. As Prof. Ed. CHAVANNES kindly informs us, it represents the *Song-tseu Kuan-yin*; the goddess holds in her lap the child (*tseu*) which she is supposed to bring (*song*) to the faithful. Her necklace is cross-shaped. She sits on a rock, encircled by two dragons and lotuses, and on her left is seen a book. The child is provided with a writing-pencil and a roll of paper. Before the pedestal stand to the right the golden boy (*kin-i'ong*) and to the left the jade girl (*yu-nim*). Height m. 0.38. It is well known that this type has been industrially reproduced in thousands of specimens.

II. — Statuette of painted porcelain, belonging to the collection of Mr. Henry H. GERTY: it appeared in the Exhibition of Buddhist Art at the Musée Cernuschi in 1913. In the Catalogue we read: "No. 132. China. Ceramics. Kuan-yin with the child, standing on the *tao-tié*. China ware decorated with coral red. ». Her polychromy, the sveltness of her proportions, the adorable awkwardness with which she holds the child standing on her left hand, everything, even the grinning monster which she treads under her feet, combines to give her, in spite of her Chinese costume, the bearing of a « primitive » Virgin, and to win for her the keen appreciation of amateurs.



2



1

CHINESE IMAGES OF KUAN YIN







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## ADDENDA AND CORRIGENDA

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- P. 5, l. 22 : For « earthy » read « earthly ».
- P. 8, n. l. 2 : For « *kritya* » read « *krityā* ».
- P. 10, n. : For « *suta* » read « *sutta* ».
- P. 20, l. 15 : Insert comma after « there ».
- P. 21, n. 1, l. 2 : For « groupe » read « group ».
- P. 26, l. 5 : For « has » read « had ».
- » l. 22 : For « at » read « in ».
- P. 30, l. 14 : For « owe however » read « owe, however ».
- » n. 1, l. 1 : For « éd. » read « ed. ».
- P. 31, l. 11-17 : Need it be stated that this too summary view of *karma* is not an altogether correct one? If we judge from the numerous *karma*-tales, things were supposed to be much more complicated and less mathematical.
- P. 33, l. 21 : For « was preeminently » read « par excellence was ».
- » l. 29 : For « *harmika* » read « *harmikā* ».
- P. 36, l. 1 : For « in Indian literature not » read « not in Indian literature ».
- P. 37, l. 15 : For « or if » read « or, if ».
- » l. 16 : Insert comma before « in ».
- » l. 20 : Insert comma before « under ».
- » l. 21 : For « whom » read « which ».
- » l. 25 : For « who » read « which ».
- P. 40, l. 6 : For « ne-birth » read « rebirth ».
- » n. l. 2 : For « *Ṣaḍdanta* » read « *Ṣaḍḍanta* ».
- P. 43, ll. 8-9 : For « only falls to them » read « falls to them only »
- P. 46, l. 16 : For « these » read « the above ».
- » l. 18 : For « with » read « in ».
- » l. 21 : For « at » read « from ».
- P. 47, l. 8 : Dele comma.
- » l. 22 : Omit « back ».
- » l. 23 : For comma read full stop.
- P. 48, l. 26 : Omit « back ».
- P. 49, l. 12 : Read « marriageable ».
- P. 52, l. 28 : Omit « one ».
- P. 56, l. 31 : For « *Sēmiya* » read « *Temiya* ».
- P. 58, n. : For « *Ṣaḍdanta* » read « *Ṣaḍḍanta* ».
- P. 66, l. 16 : For « coins » read « coigns ».
- P. 68, l. 2 : For « confreres » read « confrères ».
- P. 69, l. 25 : For « according to » read « from ».
- » l. 29 : For « only serve » read « serve only ».
- P. 70, n. : A more explicit statement of the point here mooted will be found in *Les Images indiennes de la Fortune* (Mémoires concernant l'Asie Orientale, I, Paris, 1913, p. 131-4).
- P. 74, l. 5 : After « school » insert « in order ».
- » n. 2, l. 3 : For « *Ṣaḍdanta* » read « *Ṣaḍḍanta* ».

- P. 76, l. 26 : *Read* « explain each other by their propinquity ».
- P. 77, l. 2 : *Read* « in order to pay ».
- » l. 18 : *For* « this » *read* « the ».
- P. 87, l. 23 : *For* « observe » *read* « obverse ».
- P. 97, l. 30 : *For* « buffalos » *read* « buffaloes ».
- P. 98, l. 23 : *For* « fagot » *read* « faggot ».
- P. 107, l. 23 : *For* « buffalos » *read* « buffaloes ».
- P. 116, l. 24 : *For* « south-west » *read* « south-east ».
- P. 119, n. : These *Notes on the ancient Geography of Gandhāra* have since been translated into English by Mr. H. HARGREAVES and published in Calcutta (1915) under the care of the Archaeological Survey of India.
- P. 129, l. 30 : The casket is not made of gold but « of an alloy in which copper predominates » : it had been simply gilded.
- P. 140, l. 5-6 : *Read* « occurrence ».
- P. 143, l. 32 : *Instead of* « or four » *read* « for our ».
- P. 144, l. 15 : *Read* « paraphrase ».
- Pl. XVIII (text opposite), l. 11 : *Read* « Völkerkunde ».
- P. 151, n. 1, l. 1 : *Read* « *ibid.* ».
- P. 153, l. 21 : *For* « besides » *read* « indeed ».
- P. 154, l. 23 : *For* « they » *read* « these ».
- P. 158, l. 1 : *For* « eye witness » *read* « eye-witness ».
- P. 160, n. 1, l. 3 : *Read* « which (unfortunately broken) ».
- P. 162, n. 1, l. 6 : *For* « motifs » *read* « motif ».
- » l. 11 : *For* « do » *read* « to ».
- » n. 2, l. 5 : *Read* « We ».
- P. 164, n. 1, l. 9 : *For* « rarity » *read* « rarity ».
- P. 165, n. 2, l. 12 : *Read* « carved ».
- P. 167, n. 2, l. 1 : *Read* « provenance ».
- P. 169, l. 6 : *For* « no » *read* « not ».
- P. 173, n. 1, l. 5 : *Before* « which » *insert comma*.
- P. 176, l. 12 : *For* « ands » *read* « and ».
- P. 177, l. 22 : *For* « beliewe » *read* « believe ».
- P. 185, l. 8 : *For* « on » *read* « concerning ».
- P. 189, n. 1, l. 3 : *For* « Buddha » *read* « Bauddha ».
- » n. 2, l. 3 : *Before* « question » *insert* « a ».
- P. 190, l. 13 : *Dele comma*.
- P. 196, l. 5 : *Insert* « elephant's » *before* « teeth ».
- P. 201, l. 11 : *For* « Fausböll » *read* « Fausbøll ».
- Pl. XXX (text opposite), l. 12 : *Read* « panel ».
- » l. 16-17 : *Read* « represented ».
- » l. 19 : *Read* « just ».
- P. 205, l. 11 : *Before* « Progo » *insert* « the ».
- P. 215, n. 2, l. 2 : *For* « Gronemann » *read* « Groneman ».
- P. 216, l. 4 : *For* « Then » *read* « Then again ».
- P. 221, ll. 1-2 : *For* « begins by presenting » *read* « first presents ».
- P. 241, ll. 4 and 5 : *For* « on » *read* « in ».
- P. 244, l. 2 : *Read* « identification ».
- P. 251, l. 8 : *For* « on » *read* « in ».
- P. 253, l. 13 : *For* « this » *read* « the ».

P. 267, l. 19 : *For « rarity » read « rarity ».*

P. 271, ll. 11-2 : *Omit commas.*

P. 274, l. 2 : *For « partners » read « playmates ».*

P. 275, l. 10 : *For « on » read « in ».*

P. 279, l. 7 : *For « rarity » read « rarity ».*

P. 283, l. 7 : *For « suckles » read « sucks ».*

P. 284, l. 15 : *For « suckle » read « suck ».*

P. 285, l. 16 : *Omit comma.*

P. 286, l. 11 : *For « hangs in folds in » read « descends sinuously to ».*

P. 287, l. 30 : *For « consequentially » read « consequently ».*

Pl. XLIX (text opposite), l. 1 : *For « wood-cuts » read « wood-carvings ».* — These two statuettes and the one on pl. L, 2, have since been published, with three others belonging to her father's collection, by Miss Alice GETTY in her very interesting and finely illustrated book on *The Gods of Northern Buddhism* (Oxford, at the Clarendon Press, 1914), pll. XXVI ; XXVII *a* ; XXIX *b* and *c* ; XXXII *a* and *b*.