

# Sanskrit Lesson

by Bhikshuni Heng Hsien

सौऽविपर्यस्तचित्तः कालं  
करिष्यति च ।

SO'VIPARYASTACITTAḤ KĀLAṀ KARIṢYATI CA /

"...and he (or she) will end (his or her)  
life with mind not upside-down."

Issue #134 began a long sentence describing how if a good man or good woman recites the name of Amitābha Buddha singlemindedly, when that person's life ends Amitābha Buddha will appear before that person, surrounded as well by attending Sound Hearers and Bodhisattvas. This issue ends the sentence by stating what else will happen, *ca* "and" occurring at the very end, literally to be translated just before the verb *kariṣyati* "will end" *kālaṃ* "(his or her) life" (see issue #136 for full discussion), but in English needing to be translated before the introductory demonstrative pronoun *so* "he (or she)". *so* stands for *sa*, and is another example of the standard sound change as final *-as* to *-o* before initial *a-* which is then lost ("elided," as indicated by the apostrophe: '). It is the same form to begin with as what was seen as *sa* (originally *sa*) in issue #136, but here is a pronoun instead of the demonstrative adjective; and it is nominative singular masculine, although it can denote the feminine as well.

*'viparyastacittah* then would be written in full *aviparyastacittah*, were it not for the sound change at the beginning, and would appear as *aviparyastacittas* if final *-s* had not become *-ḥ* in another example of external sandhi--change of sound between words--before initial *k-*. It is a possessive adjective compound on the model of *avikṣiptacitto* (*avikṣiptacittas*) "with one heart unconfused" discussed in issue #135. Here the meaning is "with mind not upside-down," or "with uninverted mind." The prefix *a-* means "un-." *citta* means "heart" or "mind." *viparyasta* "inverted" is the perfect passive participle from root *√as-* "throw" (not the same as root *√as-* "be"), + prefixes *vi-* and *pari-*, *-ta* being the participial suffix which then takes the nominative singular masculine case ending to agree with *sa/so*.

The person who is mindful of Amita Buddha will meet death without confusion, and would never have the upside-down reaction he or she would be too bored in the Land of Happiness to want to be reborn there.

to be continued

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T'ang Hsuan Tsang and his helpers, they  
Endured the hardships of the great highway  
Doin' what others could not do  
Through heat and cold and monsters, they  
Just continued on their way  
To bring the Sutras home  
For me and you.

