Sanskrit Lesson

From the Vajra Prajna Paramita Sutra

continued from last issue

अथ बलु सम्मृडङ्गला भिनवी येन भगवानसौनोपस्क्रम्य भगवतः पार्श्वेशिरि अभिवन्द्य भगवतं त्रिष्णाधिकोऽक्तिवेलकाने नर्त्तद।

**Rule Seven** - े before any vowel other than ा-, and ऐ before any vowel, are replaced by -ा, -ा respectively.

Explanation: In the case of final -े before initial -ा-, Rule Six operates. Before all other vowels, final -े is reduced to -ा, and the following vowel remains unchanged. In the case of final -ाऐ, before any vowel that directly follows it, -ाऐ is reduced to -ाए, and the vowel that starts the next word does not change.

Examples: वान् + इहा → वान्या इहा "in the forest here." तामाद्वा एत्रा → तामाद्वा एत्रा "to him here."

**Rule Eight** - े before any vowel other than ा- and -ाऐ before any vowel, are replaced by -अ, अ्य respectively.

Explanation: In the case of final -े before initial ा-, Rule Six operates. Before all other vowels, final -े is changed to -अव, and the following vowel remains unchanged. In the case of final -ाऐ, before any vowel that directly follows it, -ाऐ is changed to -अव, and the vowel that starts the next word does not change.

Examples: ताव + एत्रा → ताव एत्रा "the two of them here."

**Rule Nine** After a short vowel, the preposition ा, and the adverb मात्र च is replaced by चम। After long vowels, optionally.

Explanation: This is similar to what takes place within a word in other cases when च occurs between two vowels. In that case it becomes चम। However, the च begins a word that directly follows a word ending in a vowel that is short, or else the preposition ा, or the adverb (negative imperative) मा "do not." In those cases, चम। may also happen when there is a long vowel ending any other word that comes before the चम।

Example: ताव + चाया → ताव चचाया "your shadow."

So far now, all the rules of external sandhi have been covered. They are important to know in order to be able to read Sanskrit texts, because otherwise one will have difficulty recognizing the grammatical forms which become disguised by the sound changes and combinations.

— to be continued