



梵文第四十四課

SANSKRIT LESSON #44

比丘尼恆賢文 BY BHIKSHUNI HENG HSIEN

比丘尼恆懿中譯 CHINESE TRANSLATION BY BHIKSHUNI HENG YI

ब्रह्मणा च सहांपतिना
Brahmaṇā ca sahāmpatinā¹

娑婆世界主 梵摩天主

梵天主是《佛說阿彌陀經》法會上最後提到的一個名字。Sahāmpati「娑婆世界主」，是他的頭銜。這位天主是位在色界 (rūpadhātu) 的禪天裡，其語幹是 brahman，而 brahmā 是主格單數，陽性名詞；在經文上 brahmaṇā 是助格單數，配合前面所提的介系詞 sārđham 「與……」。

Brahman 字的來源不清楚，中文翻 brahma- (複合式的語幹) 為「清淨」。如在複合字 brahmacaryā 意思為「梵(淨)行」。

連接詞 ca「和」，如前，是指這個字之前。Sahāmpati (語幹：在經文上 sahāmpatinā 是助格單數，和 brahmaṇā 同位) 意思是娑婆 (Sahā) 之主 (pati)，如娑婆世界 (sahālokadhātu) 中之 Sahā，由字根 sah- 而來，意思是「堪忍」。如上人的淺釋上說，娑婆世界的眾生能夠忍受持續的痛苦，而不覺得在受苦，他們是染苦為樂。

ब्रह्मणा च सहांपतिना
Brahmaṇā ca sahāmpatinā¹

and Brahmā, Lord of the Sahā World.

The name of the god Brahmā is the final one in the list of those in the Dharma Assembly when Śākyamuni Buddha spoke the *Sūtra of the Arrangement of the Happy Land (Sukhāvativyūhasūtra)*. *Sahāmpati*, Lord of the Sahā World, is his title. Note that the stem form of the name of this divine king, whose dwelling is in the dhyāna heavens² of the Form Realm (rūpadhātu), is *brahman*. The form *brahmā* is nominative singular, masculine, while *brahmaṇā*, as in our text, is instrumental singular, called for by the previous preposition *sārđham* together with.

The derivation of *brahman* is obscure. The Chinese interpreted³ *brahma*- (the stem form in compounds) as meaning pure, as suggested by such compounds as *brahmacaryā* Brahma (i.e. pure) conduct.

The conjunction *ca*, and, as usual, is translated in English as if it came before the word it follows in Sanskrit.

Sahāmpati (stem form; *sahāmpatinā* in our text is instrumental singular, agreeing with *brahmaṇā*) means Lord (*pati*) of the Sahā, i.e. the Sahā World (*sahālokadhātu*). *Sahā* is based upon the root *sah-* able to endure⁴, for, as the Chinese commentaries explain⁵, the living beings of our Sahā World are able to put up with constant bitter suffering, without even being aware that they are suffering, mistaking suffering for bliss.

Notes:

1. The Chinese text as translated by Dharma Master Kumārajīva has no equivalent of this phrase, and no mention of the god Brahmā.
2. For full discussion, cf. Tripitaka Master Hsuan Hua, *Sūtra of the Past Vows of Earth Store Bodhisattva*, Buddhist Text Translation Society, published by The Institute for Advanced Studies of World Religions, New York, 1976, pp. 55-58.
3. The Chinese generally transliterate Brahmā as 梵摩 *fan mo*, often abbreviated to 梵 *fan*, and explain it as meaning 淨 *jing* pure.
4. 堪忍 *kan ren*.
5. e.g. Tripitaka Master Hua, op. cit. p. 53, and *A General Explanation of the Buddha Speaks of Amitābha Sūtra*, Buddhist Text Translation Society, San Francisco, 1974, p. 7, 42, 149.