

Amitabha Sutra

Sanskrit Lesson

By Bhikshuni Heng Hsien

महार्चिस्कन्धो नाम तथा-
गतौ रत्नकुसुमसंपुष्पित
गात्रो नाम तथागतः सा-
लेन्द्रराजो नाम तथागती
रत्नोत्पलश्रीर्नाम तथा-
गतः सर्वार्थदृशो नाम
तथागतः सूर्यैककल्पी
नाम तथागतः ०

MAHĀRCISKANDHO NĀMA TATHĀGATO RATNAKUSUMASAM-
PUŚPITAGĀTRO NĀMA TATHĀGATAḤ SĀLEन्द्रRĀJO NĀMA
TATHĀGATO RATNOTPALAŚRĪR NĀMA TATHĀGATAḤ SARVA-
ARTHADARŚO NĀMA TATHĀGATAḤ SUMERUKALPO NĀMA
TATHĀGATA ०

"...the Thus Come One named Great Blazing Shoulders, the Thus Come One named Body of Jeweled Flowers in Full Bloom, the Thus Come One named Sāla Tree King, the Thus Come One named Jeweled Flower Virtue, the Thus Come One named Vision of All Meaning, and the Thus Come One named Such As Mount Sumeru..."

This lesson continues to name the Buddhas in the Upper direction, the region above. The Thus Come One (*tathāgata*) in each case is named (*nāma*) and sound changes take play as has been described before. There is the Buddha whose name is "Great Blazing Shoulders" (*mahā-arcis-skandho*), as previously described for another direction. There is also the Buddha named "Body", literally limb of the body but standing for the body as a whole, (*gātra*) which is *sam-puṣpita* "in full bloom" with flowers (*kusuma*) that are like jewels (*ratna*). Then there is the Buddha named "Sala" (*sāla*), the name of a kind of tree, that is a lord (*indra*) among trees, and so a king (*rājā*). Then there is the

Buddha named "Jeweled" (*ratna*) "Flower" *utpala* --in this case the name of a particular flower, the blue lotus--"Virtue" *śrī*--which also means good luck as in the name of the Bodhisattva Mañjuśrī "Wonderfully Lucky" or "Wonderfully Auspicious."

The lesson concludes with the Buddha named Vision of (*darśa*--literally "seeing") All (*sarva*) Meaning (*artha*--this could be either singular or plural in intent in Sanskrit). Finally there is the Buddha named "Such As" (*kalpa*, which means, among other things, "equal to" or "similar to") "Mount" (not expressed in Sanskrit for it is understood) "Sumeru" (*sumeru*). That completes the names of the Buddhas of above.

--to be continued