

From the Vajra Prajna Paramita Sutra



continued from issue #181

अथ खलु भगवाञ्श्रावस्तीं महा-  
नगरीं पिण्डाय चरित्वा

ATHA KHALU BHAGAVĀN-ŚRĀVASTĪM MAHĀ-  
NAGARĪM PIṆḌĀYA CARITVĀ... THEN THE  
HONORED ONE, HAVING GONE TO THE GREAT  
CITY OF SRĀVASTI FOR ALMS,...

This lesson begins a new sentence that starts with a subordinate clause introduced by a gerund: *caritvā* "having gone." Last lesson's text contained two gerunds: *nivāśya* "having clothed (himself)," and *ādāya* "having taken up." In the case of the previous gerunds, the suffix (ending) marking them as gerunds was *-ya*, added directly to the root. In this case, the suffix is *-tvā*, and the vowel *-i-* is inserted between the root  $\sqrt{car}$  "go" and the suffix: *car-i-tvā*. The reason for the difference is that the previous gerunds were words that had a prefix before the root: *nī-vās-ya*, *ā-dā-ya*. The general rule is that when there is a prefix, the suffix is *-ya*, but when there is no prefix, the suffix is *-tvā* with the helping vowel *-i-* added when needed.

The first words of the sentence, *atha khalu* "then," occurred in the previous lesson's text as well. *bhagavān* "Honored One, is the subject throughout the sentence and, as in the lessons in issues #171 and #174, is nominative case, masculine singular, and refers to the Buddha. *piṇḍāya* "for alms" was discussed in last issue's lesson (#181). The word *śrāvastīm* "Shravasti," the name of the city, occurred before as *śrāvastyām* "at Shravasti." Then (see issue #175) it was in the locative case, but now it is in the accusative case, in the special use of the accusative to show the object of motion expressed in the verb "go (to)." Each time it is feminine singular, for the gender does not change and there is just one city under discussion. In apposition to *śrāvastīm* is the compound *mahānagarīm* "(the) great (*mahā*) city *nagari* (of)." It is in the accusative singular as well, to agree, and the

noun *nagari* is feminine. *mahā*, the adjective meaning "great," occurred in issue #179 in the phrase *mahatā bhikṣu-saṅghena sārđham* "together with a great gathering of Bhikshus." There it was in the instrumental case, and the declension of the masculine singular was given. Now *mahā* is the form as it appears in compound words.

*nagari* and *śrāvastī* follow a declension common to nouns "derivative" nouns that end in *-ā*, *-ī*, or *-ū*. Most of them are feminine in gender as are these two nouns. The declension is as follows.

Derivative Nouns in -ī			
<u>sing.</u>			
Nom.	<i>nagari</i>	<i>śrāvastī</i>	<i>bhagavati</i>
Acc.	<i>nagarīm</i>	<i>śrāvastīm</i>	<i>bhagavatīm</i>
Inst.	<i>nagaryā</i>	<i>śrāvastyā</i>	<i>bhagavatyā</i>
Dat.	<i>nagaryāi</i>	<i>śrāvastyāi</i>	<i>bhagavatyāi</i>
Abl.	<i>nagaryās</i>	<i>śrāvastyās</i>	<i>bhagavatyās</i>
Gen.	<i>nagaryās</i>	<i>śrāvastyās</i>	<i>bhagavatyās</i>
Loc.	<i>nagaryām</i>	<i>śrāvastyām</i>	<i>bhagavatyām</i>
Voc.	<i>nagari</i>	<i>śrāvasti</i>	<i>bhagavati</i>
<u>dual</u>			
Nom.	<i>nagaryāu</i>	<i>śrāvastyāu</i>	<i>bhagavatyāu</i>
Acc.	<i>nagaryāu</i>	<i>śrāvastyāu</i>	<i>bhagavatyāu</i>
Inst.	<i>nagarībhyām</i>	<i>śrāvastībhyām</i>	<i>bhagavatībhyām</i>
Dat.	<i>nagarībhyām</i>	<i>śrāvastībhyām</i>	<i>bhagavatībhyām</i>
Abl.	<i>nagarībhyām</i>	<i>śrāvastībhyām</i>	<i>bhagavatībhyām</i>
Gen.	<i>nagaryos</i>	<i>śrāvastyos</i>	<i>bhagavatyos</i>
Loc.	<i>nagaryos</i>	<i>śrāvastyos</i>	<i>bhagavatyos</i>
Voc.	<i>nagaryāu</i>	<i>śrāvastyāu</i>	<i>bhagavatyāu</i>
<u>plural</u>			
Nom.	<i>nagaryas</i>	<i>śrāvastyas</i>	<i>bhagavatyas</i>
Acc.	<i>nagarīs</i>	<i>śrāvastīs</i>	<i>bhagavatīs</i>
Inst.	<i>nagarībhis</i>	<i>śrāvastībhis</i>	<i>bhagavatībhis</i>
Dat.	<i>nagarībhyas</i>	<i>śrāvastībhyas</i>	<i>bhagavatībhyas</i>
Abl.	<i>nagarībhyas</i>	<i>śrāvastībhyas</i>	<i>bhagavatībhyas</i>
Gen.	<i>nagarīnām</i>	<i>śrāvastīnām</i>	<i>bhagavatīnām</i>
Loc.	<i>nagarīṣu</i>	<i>śrāvastīṣu</i>	<i>bhagavatīṣu</i>
Voc.	<i>nagaryas</i>	<i>śrāvastyas</i>	<i>bhagavatyas</i>

Please note that there was a mistake in the declension for *bhagavati* in issue #171 where the ablative and genitive singular should have been written with long marks on the final syllable as here.

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