

## Sanskrit Lesson

### From the Vajra Prajna Paramita Sutra

continued from last issue

अथ खलु सम्बहुला भिक्षवो  
येन भगवांस्तेनोपसंक्रम्य  
भगवतः पादौ शिरोभिर्  
अभिवन्द्य भगवन्तं त्रिषु-  
प्रदक्षिणीकृत्यैकान्तै व्यषीदन् ।

ATHA KHALU SAMBAHULĀ BHIKṢAVO YENA  
BHAGAVĀMS TENOPASAṂKRAMANUPASAṂKRAMYA  
BHAGAVATAḤ PĀDAU ŚIROBHIRABHIVANDYA  
BHAGAVANTAṂ TRIṢPRADAKṢIṆĪKṚTYA EKANTE  
NYAṢĪDAN / (text before sandhi takes  
place and without linking letters:  
atha khalu sambahulās bhikṣavas yena  
bhagavān tena upasaṁkraman upasaṁkramya  
bhagavatas pādau śirobhis abhivandya  
bhagavantaṁ triṣpradakṣiṇīkṛtya ekante  
nyaṣīdan /)

THEN MANY BHIKSHUS DREW NEAR TO WHERE  
THE HONORED ONE WAS; HAVING DRAWN NEAR,  
THEY SALUTED THE HONORED ONE'S FEET WITH  
THEIR HEADS, AND HAVING CIRCUMAMBULATED  
THE HONORED ONE THREE TIMES, THEY SAT  
DOWN AT ONE SIDE.

This same text has been appeared  
in the Sanskrit lessons for several  
issues while the external sandhi rules  
are being explained. This lesson con-  
tinues the rules for vowels in external  
sandhi.

**RULE SIX** After a short diphthong,  
initial *a-* is replaced by zero.

**explanation:** The short diphthongs  
are *e* and *o*. Zero means nothing, that  
is, no letter at all.

**examples:** anāgate + adhvani pascime  
kāle → anāgate' dhvani pascime kāle  
"in the future, in the final period."

jetavane + anāthapindadasyārāme —  
jetavane'nāthapindadāsārāme "in the  
Jeta Grove, in the Garden of Anatha-  
pindada."

**RULE SEVEN** *-e* before any vowel other  
than *a-*, and *ai* before any vowel, are  
replaced by *-a*, *-ā* respectively.

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

**examples:** vane + iha → vana iha  
"in the forest here." tasmāi atra →  
tasmā atra "to him here."

**RULE EIGHT** *-o* before any vowel other  
than *a-*, and *-āu* before any vowel, are  
replaced by *-av*, *-āv* respectively.

**explanation:** In the case of final *-o*  
before initial *a-*, Rule Six operates.  
Before all other vowels, final *-o* is  
changed to *-av*, and the following vowel  
remains unchanged. In the case of final  
*-āu*, before any vowel that directly  
follows it, *-āu* is changed to *-āv*, and  
the vowel that starts the next word does  
not change.

**example:** tāu + atra → tāv atra  
"the two of them here."

**RULE NINE** After a short vowel, the pre-  
position *ā*, and the adverb *mā*, *ch* is  
replaced by *cch*; after long vowels,  
optionally.

**explanation:** This is similar to what  
takes place within a word as well when  
*ch* occurs between two vowels. In that  
case it also becomes *cch*. Here the *ch*  
begins a word that directly follows a  
word ending in a vowel that is short,  
or else the preposition *ā*, or the adverb  
(negative imperative) *mā* "do not." In  
those cases, *ch* becomes *cch*. It may  
also happen when there is a long vowel  
ending any other word that comes before  
the *ch*.

**example:** tava + chāyā → tava cchāyā  
"your shadow."

So far now, all the rules of exter-  
nal 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 des-  
guised by the sound changes and combina-  
tions.

— to be continued