Sanskrit Lesson
From the Vajra Prajna Paramita Sutra

continued from issue # 218

अथ खल्वायुष्मान्सुभूतिरुत्थायासनाद्
एकांसमुत्तरासङ्गं कृत्वा दक्षिणं जानु-
मण्डलं पृथिव्यां प्रतिष्ठाप्य येन
भगवांस्तेनाञ्जलिं प्रणम्य भगवन्तम्
एतद्‌वोचत्

ATHA KHALU ĀYUSMĀN SUBHŪTIR UTTHĀYĀSANĀD
EKĀMSAM UTTARĀSANGAM KRTVĀ DAKSINAM
JĀNU-MANDALAM PRTHIVYĀM PRATISTHĀPYA
YENA BHAGAVĀMS TENĀNJALIM PRANAMYA

BHAGAVANTAM ETAD AVOCAT... Then the
Elder Subhuti, having arisen from his
seat, having bared one shoulder of his
upper garment, and having placed his
palms together before the World Honored
One, said to the World Honored One...

ANSWERS TO LAST LESSON'S EXERCISES

1. "one."   2. "right."   3. *krtya*.
4. accusative singular masculine.
5. "then" or "further," used for intro-
   ductions and transitions.
6. "Elder;" *āyus* "life" + -*mān* (-*mant*).
   "possessing," = "possessing long
   life."
7. a) "empty-born;" b) "quite aus-
   picious;" c) "well-manifested."
8. nominative singular masculine nouns.
9. a) *utthāya*; b) *krtvā*;
   c) *pratisthāpya*; d) *pranamya*.
10. *avocat*.

As has been discussed in previous
lessons, the gerunds in Sanskrit have
the function of replacing a finite verb
in subordinate clauses, and by their
very nature indicate subordination.
Usually the clauses so subordinated in-
dicate actions that take place prior
to that of the main, finite verb of the
sentence. In Sanskrit, sentences may
be very long. Modern English does not
tolerate very many subordinate clauses,
and tends instead to have rather short
sentences. However, in the past English
sentences too were frequently made up of
many subordinate clauses of various
types along with the main clauses.
   Sanskrit also tends to leave gramma-
tical constructions unresolved until
the end of a long sentence. This
creates a certain amount of ambiguity
until the end of the sentence appears

(which is particularly true in spoken
Sanskrit, including literary works
which were recited from memory and not
written down). The ambiguity, far from
being avoided, is used as a literary
device, especially in poetry. The anti-
cipation of the end of the sentence or
phrase is therefore very strong, and
the clauses tend to end in gerunds re-
placing finite verbs, and sentences
tend to end with the main, finite verb.
   In the present sentence in the text,
the structure, for the most part, fol-
lows that model. The sentence begins
with the transitional, introductory
words *atha khalu* "then," or "further."
Next the subject is introduced: *āyusmān
subhūtir* "(the) Elder Subhuti." Next,
however, is the gerund, near but not
exactly at the end of the phrase:
utthāya "having arisen." The final
word of the subordinate clause is then
what in English would be a preposition-
al phrase, but which in Sanskrit is ex-
pressed by one word: *āsanād* "from (his)
seat." Note that the definite article
"the" and the possessive personal pro-
noun "his" are simply understood in the
Sanskrit, and did not have to be ex-
pressed.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT ON CLAUSES
   Using what you have learned so far,
consider the structure of each of the
phrases in the sentence and try to
identify the Sanskrit words with the
words in the English translation.
Write out your idea of the pattern of
each subordinate clause and the final
main clause. The answers will be given
in the next Sanskrit lesson.
                    --- *to be continued*