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Osaka University

Cacā song, Namo huṃ

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In this link, I upload the recording of the Cacā song, Namo huṃ, in my own voice on 23th & 24th Aug 2012. For further information of the Cacā songs, i.e. Buddhist esoteric ritual hymns, and for the reason why I had to record it in my own voice, see my earlier article [Kitada 2012]. In my recording, I did not try to beautify my singing in an artistic manner. Instead, I made efforts to imitate my teacher's way of singing as faithfully as possible, and to reproduce the structure of the composition as precisely as I could. Certainly, I might be able to create a notation in the Western style, but perhaps a notation written on paper would be not much better than the recording in my voice which I recorded on the spot immediately after I learned the song.¹

Dās'gupta's version [1989: 45]

rāga Bhairavī, tāla Trihurā
namo huṃ akāra² rūpa dharu
svacchayi sattva uttāra dharu³ //dhru//
dvandva āliṅgana yoga dharu
vajra ghaṇṭa mudrā⁴ dharu //
dhavala suśaṃkhuṇa⁵ deha dharu
sarada suśohia candra maru //
māyā deha⁶ līna jagu
sohie karuṇa⁷ sattva mahūṃ //

Ratnakāji Vajrācārya's version [Vol. I, 1996: 6]

rāga Bhairavī, tāla Trihurā
namo huṃkāra rūpa dharū 2
svaccha vīsatva utāra dharū //
tenā huṃ huṃ 2 tenā tete huṃhuṃhuṃ 2 //dhu//

¹ A Western notation would be useful to analyze the structure of a composition minutely. However, I do not deal with the musicological aspect in this article.

² Var. *namo huṃ ākārūṇa*

³ Var. *svaccha visatva ujñā dharu, soccha visatva uttāraṇa dūpa, soccha visatva uttorūṇa ruṇā*

⁴ Var. *mudrā yoga*

⁵ Var. *susaṅkhuveya*

⁶ Var. *videha*

⁷ Var. *vajra sattva paramēśvara*

dvamdā āliṅgaṇa yoga dharū //
vajra dhaṅṭha⁸ mūdrā dharū //2//
dhavala suśaṅkhuna deha dharū 2
śarada suśohiya candra marū //3//
māyā-deha rīnaṃ jaṅgu 2
sohiya karuṇā satva maham //4//

My teacher's version

// rāga bhairavī // tāla trihurā //
namo hūṃkāra rūpa dharu 2
svaccha visatva uttā dharu //dhu//
tenā huṃ hūṃ 2 tenā tete huṃhūṃhūṃ //
dvamdā āliṅgaṇa yoga dharu //
vajra ghaṅṭha mudrā dharu //
dhavara susaṅkhuna deha dharu 2
sarada susvahiya candra maru //
māyā-deha rīna jaṅgu
sohiye karuṇa satva mahūṃ //dhu//

Translation

Salutation to [the one] who holds/possesses the shape of the syllable of *hūṃ* (*hūṃkāra*).⁹

[To the one] who does (lit. holds) the rescuing (*uttāra*), [and whose] nature is pure.¹⁰

[To the one] who practices (lit. holds) the *yoga* of embrace of the couple, and who makes (lit. holds) the gesture of the diamond bell.

To the one who has the body and who holds a white, fair conch¹¹.

Maru [like] the beautiful moon of the autumn.¹²

The world (*jagu* < *jagat*) is resting on (*rīṇa* = *līna*) the body of illusion.

[The one] whose mind/nature is compassion (*karuṇa sattva*) is beautiful.¹³

⁸ Seems to be a misprint of *ghaṅṭha*.

⁹ Variant *namo huṃ akāra rūpa dharu* would mean: “Salutation, huṃ, to the one who holds the shape of a-letter (*a-kāra*).”

¹⁰ I interpreted this, supposing the original text was *svaccha-vi sattva uttāra dharu*.

¹¹ I interpret this as *dhavala su-saṅkhana*.

Another possibility would be: [To the one] who has a body of white *suśaṅkhuna*. In this case, I do not know how to understand *suśaṅkhuna*.

¹² *Maru* is obscure. Perhaps, a face? In that case, “[His] face [is like] the beautiful moon of autumn”.

¹³ The terms such as *maham*, *mahūṃ*. In the case where it is analyzed as *śobhita karuṇa-sattvam*

Remarks

Another Cacā, Hūṃ hūṃ dehadharu¹⁴, shows parallelisms to Namō hūṃ.

hūṃ hūṃ dehadharu saṃsāra taru¹⁵

dvandva āliṅgana yogadharu //

sura-nara-vandita caraṇadharu

kusuma-vilepana dehadharu //

bhāva vimakuta¹⁶ viśeṣa-guṇa kuṭāi¹⁷ //

namo hūṃ hevajra tuhma guṇa pekhaī¹⁸ //

(dhuā)

hevajra tuhma tenā hūṃ hūṃ

tenā hūṃ hūṃ te te hūṃ hūṃ //

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ahaṃ, it would mean: "I (*ahaṃ*) [am] the beautiful/splendid one whose nature is compassion."

¹⁴ Dāś'gupta 67. In the same page, a variant text of the same song is given, which I do not quote here.

¹⁵ Var. *tanu*

¹⁶ Var. *vimukta, vimokuṭa*

¹⁷ Var. *kuṭoyi*

¹⁸ Var. *preṣayi, preṣasi, prekhami*.

The proper reading seems to be *pekhaī*. The verb *pekh-/pekkh-* (< Skt. *prā√īkṣ*) means 'to look, to observe'.