

The Book of Dzyan: The Current State of the Evidence

by David Reigle

The Secret Doctrine, H. P. Blavatsky's 1888 *magnum opus*, is based on stanzas allegedly translated from a secret "Book of Dzyan." In 125 years, not a single one of these stanzas has been traced in any known book. While we would not expect to trace verses from a secret book in known books, this has nonetheless been taken to confirm the widely held view that the Book of Dzyan is a product of Blavatsky's imagination. Indeed, it is practically impossible to verify the authenticity of a book when we have only alleged translations from it, and not an original language text. On the expectation that a Sanskrit or Tibetan original would become available in my lifetime, I have devoted the past few decades to preparing for this. In the course of doing so, I have come across significant circumstantial evidence in favor of the authenticity of the Book of Dzyan. Until conclusive evidence in the form of an original language manuscript becomes available, it may be worthwhile to present the current state of the circumstantial evidence.

From among this circumstantial evidence, five distinctive parallels between the teachings of the Book of Dzyan and those of known books stand out. The first of these parallels is of something described as being neither non-existent nor existent, yet breathing, when there was only darkness. This parallel is to *R̥g-veda* 10.129, the so-called "Hymn of Creation." This text was already available in Blavatsky's time. The remaining four are to texts that were not available in her time. The second of these parallels is the highly unusual idea of four modes of birth for humans: the self-born or parentless, the sweat-born, and the egg-born, preceding the womb-born as at present. This parallel is to the *Abhidharma-kośa* and *Bhāṣya* by Vasubandhu, chapter 3, verses 8-9. This fundamental Buddhist text did not become available in any European language until its 1923-1931 French translation from the Chinese and Tibetan translations, while its Sanskrit original was not discovered until the mid-1930s, and not published until 1946 (*kośa-kārikā*) and 1967 (*bhāṣya*).

The other three distinctive parallels are with the three key terms of the system of teachings of the Book of Dzyan as given in the "Occult Catechism" quoted by Blavatsky in *The Secret Doctrine* (vol. 1, p. 11). These are space, which ever is, the germ, which ever was, and the great breath, which is ever coming and going. A characteristic phrase about space quoted from the "esoteric Senzar Catechism" (*ibid.*, p. 9) has a remarkable parallel to a catechism-like statement that is found repeated throughout the Buddhist scriptures. This parallel also showed that behind the rather vague term "space" is the Sanskrit term *dhātu*. The *dhātu* is the central subject of the *Ratna-gotra-vibhāga*, one of the five books attributed by Tibetan tradition to Maitreya. Blavatsky in a private letter had linked the Book of Dzyan to the "Secret Book of 'Maytreya Buddha'," which she distinguished from his five known books. Their subject matter would, of course, overlap. Alongside the *dhātu*, the known *Ratna-gotra-vibhāga* also teaches the *gotra*. As the "germ," this would be the second of the three key terms from the "Occult Catechism." The *Ratna-gotra-vibhāga* remained unknown in the West until its 1931 English translation from the Tibetan translation. Its Sanskrit original was discovered in Tibet in the mid-1930s, and was first published in 1950.

The third of the three key terms from the "Occult Catechism," the "great breath," is a very distinctive one. Blavatsky had described the Book of Dzyan as the first volume of the secret commentaries on the "Books of Kiu-te." *Dzyan* is Sanskrit *jñāna*, "knowledge, wisdom" (the Tibetan letter "dz" always transliterated the Sanskrit letter "j"),¹ so the Book of Dzyan is a generic name meaning only "Book of Knowledge/Wisdom." *Kiu-te* is Tibetan *rgyud-sde*, the Tibetan Buddhist tantras. The first among these, as found in the Tibetan Kangyur, is the *Kālacakra-tantra*. Only in recent decades have the Buddhist tantras started to become publicly available. They were regarded as esoteric texts, and access to them was restricted in Tibet. The great Kālacakra commentary *Vimalaprabhā* was first published in the original Sanskrit in three volumes, 1986-1994. Although not the secret volume that Blavatsky referred to, this nonetheless esoteric text would likely have a correspondence to it. Here we at last find the "great breath," *mahā-prāṇa*, and as an ultimate cosmic principle. In summary, the three key terms of the system that Blavatsky made known in 1888 were traced to the known texts whose secret versions she associated with the Book of Dzyan, and these known texts were not available until long after her time.

The Hymn of Creation

The teachings of the Book of Dzyan are alleged to be very old, older even than the Vedas: “For in the twentieth century of our era scholars will begin to recognize that the *Secret Doctrine* has neither been invented nor exaggerated, but, on the contrary, simply outlined; and finally, that its teachings antedate the Vedas.”² The stanzas from the Book of Dzyan that Blavatsky gave in volume 1 of *The Secret Doctrine* are on cosmogenesis, or cosmogony. Among the handful of cosmogonic hymns found in the Vedas, *R̥g-veda* 10.129, known as the “Hymn of Creation,” stands alone. It gives a comparatively straightforward account of cosmogony, as opposed to a more mythological account such as *R̥g-veda* 10.90 where the cosmic man (*puruṣa*) becomes the cosmos. Five of its seven verses (1-3, 6-7) were quoted in *The Secret Doctrine* from the anonymous translation published by Max Müller in 1859,³ and placed facing the opening of the stanzas given from the Book of Dzyan (p. 26). There are obvious parallels between the two texts.

The first verse of the *R̥g-veda* hymn says, in the early translation quoted in *The Secret Doctrine*, “Nor Aught nor Nought existed.” The first stanza of the Book of Dzyan speaks of “that which is and yet is not. Naught was.” The second verse of the *R̥g-veda* hymn says, “The only One breathed breathless by itself.” The second stanza of the Book of Dzyan says that there was “naught save ceaseless eternal breath, which knows itself not.” The third verse of the *R̥g-veda* hymn says, “Darkness there was, and all at first was veiled in gloom profound.” The first stanza of the Book of Dzyan had said that “Darkness alone filled the boundless all.”

A new translation of *R̥g-veda* 10.129 was prepared by me, and posted on an internet blog dedicated to the Book of Dzyan (dzyan.net). Extensive translation notes can there be found on the various Sanskrit words and phrases; e.g., the derivation of the verb *āvarīvaḥ* in 10.129.1c from the root *vr̥t*, “exist, turn, move,” rather than from the root *vr̥*, “cover.” Using this translation, here follows a more detailed comparison of the first three of its seven verses with the Book of Dzyan.

R̥g-veda 10.129.1: “[It] was not non-existent, nor was [it] existent then. There was no world, nor sky, [nor] what is beyond. What moved incessantly? Where? In the abode of what? Was [it] water, dense [and] deep?”

Book of Dzyan, stanza 1, śloka 6: “. . . the Universe, the son of necessity, was immersed in *pariniṣpanna*, to be outbreathed by that which is and yet is not. Naught was.”; 1.8: “Alone the one form of existence stretched boundless, infinite, causeless, in dreamless sleep; and life pulsated unconscious in universal space, . . .”; 3.2: “. . . the darkness that breathes over the slumbering waters of life.”

In particular, we may compare *R̥g-veda* 10.129.1a, “[It] was not non-existent, nor was [it] existent then,” with the phrase in Book of Dzyan 1.6, “that which is and yet is not,” which is further clarified in the following stanza 1.7, “eternal non-being—the one being.” For *R̥g-veda* 10.129.1c, “What moved incessantly?,” the “incessantly” is only an attempt to render the sense of “repeated” in the intensive verb “moved” (*āvarīvaḥ*), which sense was rendered by Karl Geldner as “back and forth” (*hin und her*), by Jan Gonda as “intermittently,” and by Hans Hock as “kept on” moving. The parallel phrase in Book of Dzyan 1.8 is “life pulsated unconscious,” where “pulsated” well shows repeated movement. The “water, dense [and] deep” asked about in *R̥g-veda* 10.129.1d may be compared with “the slumbering waters of life” that darkness breathes over in Book of Dzyan 3.2, called in 3.3 “the mother deep.”

R̥g-veda 10.129.2: “There was not death nor life (“non-death”) then. There was no distinguishing sign of night [or] of day. That one breathed without air by [its] inherent power. Other than just that, there was not anything else.”

Book of Dzyan, stanza 2, śloka 2: “. . . No, there was neither silence nor sound; naught save ceaseless eternal breath, which knows itself not.”

According to *The Secret Doctrine*, “The Great Breath” is “absolute Abstract Motion” (vol. 1, p. 14), which along with “absolute abstract Space” are the two aspects under which the one ultimate principle is symbolized. This breath or motion, the eternal cause, can also be described as force (ibid., p. 93 fn., speaking of the eternal *nidāna* or cause, the Oi-Ha-Hou): “. . . it is a term to denote the ceaseless and eternal Cosmic Motion; or rather the Force that moves it, which Force is tacitly accepted as the Deity but never named. It is the eternal *kāraṇa*, the ever-acting Cause.” This motion or force can also be described as *svabhāva*, something’s “inherent nature”: “Their [the Svābhāvikas’] plastic, invisible, eternal,

omnipresent and unconscious *svabhāva* is Force or *Motion* ever generating its electricity which is life.”⁴ The *svadhā*, “inherent power” or force by which “that one” breathed without air in *R̥g-veda* 10.129.2c, is apparently the *svabhāva* or “inherent nature” of “that one.”

R̥g-veda 10.129.3: “Darkness was hidden by darkness in the beginning. All this was water without distinguishing sign. That one germ which was covered by the void was born through the power of heat.”

Book of Dzyan, stanza 1, śloka 5: “Darkness alone filled the boundless all, for father, mother and son were once more one, . . .”; 2.3: “The hour had not yet struck; the ray had not yet flashed into the germ; . . .”; 2.5: “. . . Darkness alone was Father-Mother, *svabhāva*, and *svabhāva* was in darkness.”; 2.6: “These two are the Germ, and the Germ is one. . .”; 3.2: “The vibration sweeps along, touching with its swift wing the whole universe, and the germ that dwelleth in darkness: the darkness that breathes over the slumbering waters of life.”; 3.3: “Darkness radiates light, and light drops one solitary ray into the waters, into the mother deep. The ray shoots through the virgin egg; the ray causes the eternal egg to thrill, and drop the non-eternal germ, which condenses into the world-egg.”

To this we may add a quotation from the “Occult Catechism,” cited in *The Secret Doctrine* (vol. 1, p. 11): “What is it that ever is?” “Space, the eternal Anupadaka [*upapāduka*].” “What is it that ever was?” “The Germ in the Root.” “What is it that is ever coming and going?” “The Great Breath.” This goes along with Book of Dzyan 3.8: “Where was the germ, and where was now darkness? Where is the spirit of the flame that burns in thy lamp, oh Lanoo? The germ is that, and that is light; the white brilliant son of the dark hidden father.” The parallels with darkness and water and the germ (*ābhū*) are self-evident. In the Book of Dzyan it is light that produces the cosmos (3.3: “Darkness radiates light”) rather than the closely related heat in *R̥g-veda* 10.129.3d. But in Book of Dzyan 3.6 light is heat: “. . . radiant light, which was fire, and heat, and motion.”

The close parallels between *R̥g-veda* 10.129 and the Book of Dzyan are obvious; e.g., what is neither non-existent nor existent, its breathing, darkness, etc. Since Blavatsky had access to the anonymous translation of *R̥g-veda* 10.129 published by Max Müller in 1859, which she quoted, she could have elaborated its ideas in an imaginary Book of Dzyan. However, a reader not knowing the source of either would more likely conclude that the brief *R̥g-veda* 10.129 was derived from the extensive stanzas of the Book of Dzyan, than that the latter were elaborated from *R̥g-veda* 10.129.

The Four Modes of Birth

Indeed, the genesis account given in the Book of Dzyan is considerably more comprehensive than other genesis accounts found elsewhere. As put by the Gnostic scholar, G. R. S. Mead, in 1904, “The Stanzas set forth a cosmogenesis and anthropogenesis which in their sweep and detail leave far behind any existing record of such things from the past; . . .” He further says that, “I advisedly call these passages enshrined in her works marvellous literary creations, not from the point of view of an enthusiast who knows nothing of Oriental literature, or the great cosmogonical systems of the past, or the Theosophy of the world faiths, but as the mature judgment of one who has been for some twenty years studying just such subjects.”⁵ Today I can echo these words, and can now add to them the many Sanskrit texts that have become available in the more than one hundred years since he wrote this. While the Vedas were available in Blavatsky’s time, the Buddhist texts were not.

The *Abhidharma-kośa*, written by Vasubandhu in the fourth century C.E., systematized the teachings of early Buddhism. It did this so successfully that it remains the standard sourcebook on these teachings even today among the followers of Northern Buddhism. Its Sanskrit original was presumed lost; so the first European-language translation of it was made from its Chinese and Tibetan translations, and published in six volumes, 1923-1931.⁶ Then its Sanskrit original was discovered in Tibet in the mid-1930s by Rāhula Sāṅkṛityāyana. An edition of this was published in India in 1946,⁷ and again in 1967 along with its extensive commentary (*bhāṣya*) written by its author, Vasubandhu.⁸ Chapter three, titled *loka-nirdeśa*, concerns cosmology. Here we have the standard and authoritative Buddhist source on these matters.

One of the most unusual teachings of the Book of Dzyan is that of the four modes of birth of humans in prehistoric times. It is given in volume 2 of *The Secret Doctrine* on anthropogenesis. It speaks of humans who were “self-born” or “parentless,” who were “sweat-born,” and who were “egg-born,”

besides the “womb-born,” as is now the case. The *Abhidharma-kośa*, following the words of the Buddha, also speaks of the four modes of birth, and specifically applies these to both animals and humans. Chapter 3, verse 8cd (translated by me): “There are four origins of living beings, beginning with the egg-born.” Vasubandhu’s own commentary: “The egg-born (*aṇḍaja*) origin, the womb-born (*jarāyuja*), the sweat-born (*samsvedaja*), and the spontaneously generated (*upapāduka*) origin”; i.e., the self-born or parentless. Verse 9c: “Humans and animals are of four kinds.” Commentary: “Humans are of four kinds: the egg-born, such as the elders Śaila and Upaśaila who emerged from those of a crane, . . . ; the womb-born, as now; the sweat-born, such as Māndhātṛ, Cāru, Upacāru, . . . , etc.; and the spontaneously generated, e.g., those of the first age (*kalpa*).”

Since the Buddha had spoken this, it must be true. Now the commentators had to use all their ingenuity to explain it. So Vasubandhu in his auto-commentary and Yaśomitra in his sub-commentary drew on examples from mythology for the egg-born and sweat-born humans. For the spontaneously generated humans, they referred to the humanity of the first age or *kalpa*. This is in exact agreement with the Book of Dzyan, which teaches that the first “root-race” of humans was self-born or parentless. The Book of Dzyan is supposed to represent a once universal but now hidden Wisdom Tradition, which is said to be the source of the known religions and philosophies of the world. This tradition claims to have preserved the lost texts and commentaries that are known to have once existed but can no longer be found.⁹ These texts are said to contain the true explanations of the still extant texts. Here the four modes of birth for humans still found spoken of in some Buddhist texts, but hardly explained there, are explained as actually having occurred in remote ages.

Space

Blavatsky in a private letter of 1886, describing *The Secret Doctrine* that she was then writing, had linked the Book of Dzyan with the secret book of Maitreya Buddha: “I have finished an enormous Introductory Chapter, or *Preamble*, Prologue, call it what you will; just to show the reader that the text as it goes, every Section beginning with a page of translation from the Book of *Dzyan* and the Secret Book of ‘Maitreya Buddha’ *Champai chhos Nga* (in prose, not the five books in verse known, which are a blind) are no fiction.”¹⁰ Among the five books attributed to Maitreya by Tibetan tradition, the *Ratna-gotra-vibhāga* stands apart from the others in its vocabulary and ideas. Its central subject is the *dhātu*, the “element,” which when associated with impurity (*samala*) is the *tathāgata-garbha*, the buddha-nature that all beings are said to have. It so happens that the teaching of the one element is a fundamental teaching of the tradition of the Book of Dzyan, as may be seen in the following three quotations.

“If the student bears in mind that there is but One Universal Element, which is infinite, unborn, and undying, and that all the rest—as in the world of phenomena—are but so many various differentiated aspects and transformations (correlations, they are now called) of that One, from Cosmical down to micro-cosmical effects, from super-human down to human and sub-human beings, the totality, in short, of objective existence—then the first and chief difficulty will disappear and Occult Cosmology may be mastered.”¹¹

“Yes, as described in my letter—there is but one element and it is impossible to comprehend our system before a correct conception of it is firmly fixed in one’s mind. You must therefore pardon me if I dwell on the subject longer than really seems necessary. But unless this great primary fact is firmly grasped the rest will appear unintelligible. This element then is the—to speak metaphysically—one sub-stratum or permanent cause of all manifestations in the phenomenal universe.”¹²

“However, you will have to bear in mind (*a*) that we recognize but *one* element in Nature (whether spiritual or physical) outside which there can be no Nature since it is *Nature* itself, and which as the *Akasa* pervades our solar system, every atom being part of itself, pervades throughout *space* and *is* space in fact, . . . Perchance if you remember all this we will succeed in imparting to you at least the elementary axioms of our esoteric philosophy more correctly than heretofore.”¹³

Like the *Abhidharma-kośa*, the Sanskrit original of the *Ratna-gotra-vibhāga* was presumed lost; so the first European-language translation of it was made from its Tibetan translation, and published in 1931.¹⁴ Its Sanskrit original was also discovered in Tibet in the mid-1930s by Rāhula Sāṅkrityāyana, and an edition of this was published in India in 1950.¹⁵ Once this text became available, it was easy to identify the “one element” of the Theosophical teachings as the *dhātu* of the *Ratna-gotra-vibhāga*. Blavatsky’s letter had provided the clue linking the Book of Dzyan to the secret book of Maitreya. Even though the *Ratna-gotra-vibhāga* is one of the five “known” books of Maitreya, and not the “secret” book of Maitreya, there was the *dhātu*, the fundamental “element.”

If the “one element” is the *dhātu*, then what is the Sanskrit term behind “space”? These two terms appear to describe the same thing from different angles. For “space,” like the “one element,” is also regarded in the Theosophical teachings as being utterly fundamental. The “Occult Catechism” is quoted in *The Secret Doctrine* as saying (vol. 1, p. 11):

“What is it that ever is?” “Space, the eternal Anupadaka [*upapāduka*].” “What is it that ever was?” “The Germ in the Root.” “What is it that is ever coming and going?” “The Great Breath.” “Then, there are three Eternals?” “No, the three are one. That which ever is is one, that which ever was is one, that which is ever being and becoming is also one: and this is Space.”

Is “space” *ākāśa*? This term, now usually translated as “space,” can refer to an ultimate principle, or to a derived principle, namely, the fifth of the five elements sometimes called ether, or to a mere absence, a nothing. Would “space” in this quotation be *ākāśa* as an ultimate principle? Or would it even be *sūnyatā*? Although now usually translated as “emptiness,” *sūnyatā* was translated as “space” in an early translation of the *Heart Sūtra* quoted by Blavatsky.¹⁶ For decades I wondered.

Space is clearly not a generic term here; it is a specific technical term. The first verse of the first stanza that we have from the Book of Dzyan speaks of the “eternal parent,” which is identified as “space.” In the “Cosmological Notes” from the fall of 1881, when two Theosophical Mahatmas first began to answer questions from two Englishmen about the Theosophical teachings, the question was asked them, “What is the one eternal thing in the universe independent of every other thing?” The answer given was, “Space.”¹⁷ When *The Secret Doctrine* was published in 1888, the “esoteric Senzar Catechism” was quoted in the “Proem” as giving the same answer (vol. 1, p. 9):

“‘What is that which was, is, and will be, whether there is a Universe or not; whether there be gods or none?’ asks the esoteric Senzar Catechism. And the answer made is—SPACE.”

Blavatsky had explained this more fully in her notes to an article published in January 1882:

“Hence, the Arahat secret doctrine on cosmogony admits but of one absolute, indestructible, eternal, and uncreated UNCONSCIOUSNESS (so to translate), of an element (the word being used for want of a better term) absolutely independent of everything else in the universe; a something ever present or ubiquitous, a Presence which ever was, is, and will be, whether there is a God, gods or none; whether there is a universe or no universe; existing during the eternal cycles of Maha Yugas, during the *Pralayas* as during the periods of *Manvantara*: and this is SPACE, . . .”¹⁸

There is a statement found throughout the Buddhist scriptures, from the earliest to the latest, repeated in them like a refrain from a catechism. Here is this formulaic statement as found in the early Pali language Saṃyutta-nikāya (in 2.20), as translated by Bhikkhu Bodhi:

“Whether there is an arising of Tathāgatas or no arising of Tathāgatas, that element still persists, the stableness of the Dhamma, the fixed course of the Dhamma, specific conditionality.”¹⁹

This is obviously reminiscent of the phrase from the esoteric Senzar Catechism, “whether there is a Universe or not; whether there be gods or none.” A tathāgata is a buddha. Each buddha is said to have a buddha-field (*buddha-kṣetra*). This is a world, or world-system. So in speaking of the arising of tathāgatas, this also implies the arising of the world-systems that are the fields of activity of the individual

buddhas. To say, "whether there is an arising of Tathāgatas or no arising of Tathāgatas," is also to say, "whether there is an arising of world-systems or no arising of world-systems." Whether or not these arise, "that element still persists."

The word translated as "element" in "that element still persists" is *dhātu*, which is the same in Pali as in Sanskrit. This is directly parallel to "space" as "that which was, is, and will be" in the statement quoted by Blavatsky from the esoteric Senzar Catechism. This parallel would indicate that *dhātu* is the Sanskrit term behind "space." The fact that *dhātu* was translated into Tibetan two different ways, as *khams*, "element," and as *dbyings*, "realm, sphere, expanse, space," would confirm this.

The basic meaning of the Sanskrit term *dhātu* is "element," while in the compound *dharma-dhātu*, Tibetan *chos kyi dbyings*, it means the "sphere" or "space" of the *dharma*s. The *dharma*s are all the elements of existence that make up the Buddhist worldview, now often translated as "phenomena." The compound *dharma-dhātu* is a widely used Buddhist technical term referring to the whole of the cosmos, which consists of the *dharma*s. It is easy to see how the *dhātu*, the "element," or the "space" in which the cosmos appears, would always remain, whether or not the tathāgatas or buddhas or their world-systems arise.

This parallel is of the greatest importance, because there is no teaching more central in the system of teachings of the Book of Dzyan. It will therefore be worthwhile to provide a few more quotations from the Buddhist scriptures to show how pervasive this catechism-like statement is there. These quotations are chosen from among dozens upon dozens found throughout the Buddhist scriptures.²⁰

The quotation given above from the Pali Saṃyutta-nikāya collection is from the *Paccaya-sutta* of the Nidāna-vagga within that collection. The parallel Sanskrit text is the *Pratītya-sūtra* of the Nidāna-saṃyukta in the Saṃyukta-āgama collection. This collection is lost in the original Sanskrit, but some portions of it were discovered by expeditions to the Turfan area of central Asia in the early 1900s, including this particular text. This material is not readily accessible, like the Pali texts are, nor has it yet been translated into English. So I here quote the Sanskrit first, before translating it.

utpādād vā tathāgatānām anutpādād vā sthitā eveyaṃ dharmatā dharmasthitaye dhātuḥ |²¹

In translating this, I will mostly follow Bhikkhu Bodhi's translation for the first part, which is almost the same in Pali and Sanskrit. My translation of the latter part will reflect the small differences between the Pali and the Sanskrit.

"Whether there is an arising of tathāgatas or no arising, there verily remains this *dharma*-nature (*dharmatā*), the element (*dhātu*) for the establishment of the *dharma*s."

In trying to stay as literal as possible, and avoid interpretation, I have left the word *dharmatā* as "*dharma*-nature." It is often translated as "true nature." It is used as a synonym of *dhātu*, and like *dhātu*, is contrasted with the *dharma*s or phenomena as such. Thus, Maitreya's text titled *Dharma-dharmatā-vibhāga* contrasts the *dharma*s with their true nature (*dharmatā*). Similarly, the *dharma*s are contrasted with the *dharma-dhātu*, the "element" or basic "space" of the *dharma*s.

This formulaic statement may therefore also use *dharma-dhātu* rather than just *dhātu*. It may also use other words instead of *dhātu*. Here is an example of it using *dharma-dhātu* from the *Perfection of Wisdom Sūtra* in 25,000 lines, in the section called "The Questions of Maitreya" (*maitreya-paripṛcchā*). My translation follows.

yā utpādād vā tathāgatānām anutpādād vā sthitaiveyaṃ dharmāṇām dharmatā dharmasthitā dharmadhātur . . .²²

"Whether there is an arising of tathāgatas or no arising, there verily remains this *dharma*-nature (*dharmatā*) of the *dharma*s, the condition for the abiding of the *dharma*s (*dharma-sthitā*), the element (or basic space) of the *dharma*s (*dharma-dhātu*)."

Some translators have used “basic space” rather than just “space” (or “sphere” or “expanse” or “realm”) for *dhātu* in *dharma-dhātu*. I have done the same here, adding “basic space” in parentheses after “element.” Edward Conze translates this statement as follows:

“. . . that dharmic nature of dharmas which is established whether Tathagatas are produced or not, the established order of dharmas, the realm of Dharma (*dharma-dhātu*) . . .”²³

We notice that Conze here translates *dharma-dhātu* as the “realm of Dharma,” taking *dhātu* as “realm.” In other places in the *Perfection of Wisdom* texts, in other versions of this formula, Conze translates *dhātu* as “element”:

utpādād vā anutpādād vā tathāgatānām sthita evāyam alakṣaṇa-dhātur.²⁴

“Whether the Tathagatas are produced or not produced, just so is this unmarked Element established.”²⁵

The difference is because Conze followed the different Tibetan translations in the different places. In the first instance, where we had *dharma-dhātu*, the Tibetan translation of *dhātu* is *dbyings*, “realm” or “space.” In the second instance, the Tibetan translation of *dhātu* is *khams*, “element.” This shows clearly how the same word, *dhātu*, is appropriately translated as “element” in one place, and “realm” or “space” in another place. The *dhātu*, the special topic of Maitreya’s *Ratna-gotra-vibhāga*, is both the “one element” and “space” of the system of teachings of the Book of Dzyan.

The Germ

Once the key term “space” could be identified as the *dhātu*, thanks to the parallels with a catechism-like statement found throughout the Buddhist scriptures, Maitreya’s *Ratna-gotra-vibhāga* allowed us to identify the second of the key terms from the “Occult Catechism.” This term, as we recall, is the “germ”: “What is it that ever is?” “Space, the eternal Anupadaka [*upapāduka*].” “What is it that ever was?” “The Germ in the Root.” “What is it that is ever coming and going?” “The Great Breath.” Alongside *dhātu*, another basic term used in Maitreya’s *Ratna-gotra-vibhāga* is *gotra*. The term *gotra* has more than one meaning. In Buddhist texts, three main meanings for it have been identified by D. Seyfort Rugg: 1. mine, matrix; 2. family, clan, lineage; 3. germ, seed; to which he adds, “all of which are in some way a ‘source’.”²⁶ These meanings are not mutually exclusive, and even when one translation term must be chosen, the other meanings are also applicable. The *gotra* refers to a “matrix,” in the sense of a mine as the source of minerals, or to a “lineage,” as in a family lineage, or to a “germ,” in the sense of a seed.

The term *gotra* is used as a partial synonym of *dhātu* in Maitreya’s *Ratna-gotra-vibhāga*. Two kinds of *gotra* are distinguished. As explained in *Ratna-gotra-vibhāga* 1.149, and also in Maitreya’s *Mahāyāna-sūtrālamkāra* 3.4, these are the “naturally present” (*prakṛti-stha*) or “natural” (*prakṛtyā*) germ or matrix or lineage (*gotra*), and the “acquired” (*samudānīta*) or “developed” (*paripuṣṭa*) germ or matrix or lineage (*gotra*). Here is *Ratna-gotra-vibhāga* 1.149 as translated by Jikido Takasaki:

“The Germ [of the Buddha] is known to be twofold,
Being like a treasure and like a tree [grown] from a seed;
The Innate [Germ] existing since the beginningless time
And that which has acquired the highest development.”²⁷

The innate or naturally present *gotra* is something that everyone has. Everyone has the germ or potential to become enlightened, to develop into a buddha. It is something that has always been there, something “existing since the beginningless time,” or in the words of the “Occult Catechism,” something “that ever was.” By contrast, the acquired *gotra* that is developed is something that is unfolded by cultivating it through effort. But these two kinds of *gotra* are not actually different.

The naturally present germ or matrix or lineage is fully equated with the *dhātu*, the element or space. The acquired *gotra* that is developed is differentiated from this only verbally, by way of the various dharmas. This is explained in Maitreya's *Abhisamayālaṅkāra* 1.39 (my translation follows):

dharma-dhātor asambhedād gotra-bhedo na yujyate |
ādheya-dharma-bhedāt tu tad-bhedaḥ parigīyate ||

"Because the *dharmadhātu* is without division, division of the *gotra* is not tenable. But due to the division of the *dharmas* that are based [on the *dhātu*], the division of it [the *gotra*] is spoken of."

Likewise, the germ and space are said to be one in the "Occult Catechism": "Then, there are three Eternals?" "No, the three are one. That which ever is is one, that which ever was is one, that which is ever being and becoming is also one: and this is Space." The same is said about the germ in the Book of Dzyan, stanza 2.5-6, but using "darkness" rather than "space": "Darkness alone was father-mother, *svabhāva*, and *svabhāva* was in darkness. These two are the Germ, and the Germ is one." Darkness, like the one element, is another synonym of space in the Theosophical teachings. As seen above, darkness (*tamas*) is the term used in *Rg-veda* 10.129. There for the germ the very rare term *ābhū* is used, a term almost unknown elsewhere. By contrast, the term *gotra* is not rare in the Buddhist texts, and is basic in Maitreya's *Ratna-gotra-vibhāga*, because the *dhātu* is basic there.

These parallels indicate that, as was the case with the Sanskrit term *dhātu* rather than *ākāśa* for "space," so *gotra* rather than other possible terms such as *garbha* or *bīja* is the specific Sanskrit term behind the "germ" of the "Occult Catechism." The centrality of space and the germ in the system of the Book of Dzyan well matches the centrality of the *dhātu* and the *gotra* in Maitreya's *Ratna-gotra-vibhāga*. The already clear link between them based on the *dhātu* parallel was made even clearer with the *gotra* parallel.

The Great Breath

The Secret Doctrine postulates three fundamental propositions, the first of which is "An Omnipresent, Eternal, Boundless, and Immutable Principle" (vol. 1, p. 14). This principle is symbolized under two aspects: "absolute abstract Space," and "absolute Abstract Motion." Blavatsky goes on: "This latter aspect of the one Reality, is also symbolised by the term 'The Great Breath,' a symbol sufficiently graphic to need no further elucidation." Here we have the third of the three key terms from the "Occult Catechism." While "space" and the "germ" are general terms that might be found in any cosmogony, the "great breath" is a very specific and distinctive term.

We would expect to find the term "great breath" in the Vedic writings, because the idea is there. In the Upaniṣads, *prāṇa* is equated with the absolute *brahman* several times, and we find the trinity of cosmic principles: *manas* (mind), *prāṇa* (breath, life), *vāk* (speech, matter). The "great breath," however, is a very specific term, which would be *mahā-prāṇa* rather than just *prāṇa*. The monumental 16-volume *Vedic Word-Concordance* (1935-1965) indexes every word in the entire Vedic literature. Thanks to the lifelong efforts of its compilers, Vishva Bandhu and his co-workers, we can now quickly check and definitively know whether any particular word is or is not found in the Vedic texts. We can now say for certain that the specific term "great breath," *mahā-prāṇa* (or *mahā-śvāsa*), is not found in the *śruti*, the Vedic texts proper. It is found only in two *vedāṅgas*, auxiliary Vedic texts, and there only as a phonetic term for an aspirate letter.²⁸ It is not used for the cosmic principle *prāṇa* in any of the extant Vedic writings.

Blavatsky had described the Book of Dzyan as "the first volume of the Commentaries upon the seven secret folios of *Kiu-te*, and a Glossary of the public works of the same name."²⁹ She goes on to say that there are fourteen volumes of these secret commentaries, distinguishing them from the publicly known Books of *Kiu-te* that can be found in the library of any Tibetan monastery. The term *Kiu-te* was identified as an early phonetic rendering used by Horace della Penna of the Tibetan term *rgyud-sde*, meaning the tantra (*rgyud*) division (*sde*) of the Tibetan Buddhist canon.³⁰ The tantras are the esoteric texts among the Buddhist scriptures, requiring initiation for their study and practice. They remained

largely inaccessible until recent decades. The first volume of the tantra division in the Tibetan Kangyur is on Kālacakra. Not until 1986-1994 was the original Sanskrit text of the great Kālacakra commentary *Vimalaprabhā* published.³¹ It is here that we find the “great breath,” *mahā-prāṇa*, and as an ultimate cosmic principle.

The “great breath,” *mahā-prāṇa*, is found in the *Vimalaprabhā* commentary on the *Kālacakra-tantra*, chapter 2, verse 86. In that verse we read of the eight *prakṛtis* or kinds of substance (see *Bhagavad-gītā* 7.4), namely, the five standard elements, earth, water, fire, air, and space as ether, followed by mind (*manas*), the principle of intelligence (*buddhi*), and the principle of self-consciousness (*ahamkāra*). We also read of dense (*sthūlā*), subtle (*sūkṣmā*), and higher (*parā*) *prakṛti*, with the three standard qualities or *guṇas* of *prakṛti*. In the last line of that verse we read of a *prakṛti* that is the *jñāna-mūrti*, i.e., the *jñāna-kāya*, or “primordial wisdom body,” that is not a product (*avikṛti*), that is or has life (*jīva*, saying *jīva-bhūtā*, like in *Bhagavad-gītā* 7.5), and that is not the elements (*bhūta*), earth, etc. The *Vimalaprabhā* commentary thereon further explains that this is a fourth *prakṛti*, corresponding to the *turyā avasthā* (the fourth state taught in the *Māṇḍūkya-upanīṣad*, beyond waking, dreaming, and deep sleep). It is described as being the cause of the origination and cessation of living beings, and as having the inherent nature of the *dharma-dhātu* (*dharma-dhātu-svabhāva*). The “life” (*jīva*) that it is or has is here glossed as the “great breath” (*mahā-prāṇa*).

The idea of such a principle is so little known, even today when the Kālacakra teachings are being made public, that it will be helpful to view it in its context in the Kālacakra tradition. The Jonang order of Tibetan Buddhism is known for specializing in the Kālacakra teachings. A book written in 1965 by the modern Jonangpa abbot Ngawang Lodro Drakpa (1920-1975), the *Gzhan stong Chen mo*, speaks of *srog chen*, the Tibetan translation of the Sanskrit *mahā-prāṇa*. This book has been partially translated in a 2007 Ph.D. thesis by Michael R. Sheehy. Near the beginning of the section translated, we read of the “magnificent vital force (*srog chen*).” This, of course, is our “great breath.” Michael Sheehy translates:

“Because the basic disposition (*gshis*) of abiding reality’s (*gnas lugs*) original actual nature is ultimately self-manifesting and spontaneous, it is the very identity of every aspect within the three realms. This is the essence of the lucid and magnificent vital force (*srog chen*) that is enduring (*ther zug*), everlasting (*g.yung drung*), all-pervasive (*kun khyab*), fearless (*jig med*), and constant (*rtag*); what is forever without interruptions, free from partialities and devoid of proliferations—like space.”³²

The Kālacakra system considers itself to be, in one sense, an extensive elaboration of the *Mañjuśrī-nāma-saṃgīti*. The first volume of the tantra section of the Tibetan Kangyur, containing Kālacakra texts, begins not with the *Kālacakra-tantra* but rather with the *Mañjuśrī-nāma-saṃgīti*. As the name implies, this text consists of names and epithets of *Mañjuśrī*, and one of its descriptive phrases includes the term *mahā-prāṇa*. Verse 29, or verse 2 of chapter 5, begins: *mahā-prāṇo hy anuṭpādo . . .* “The great breath is without origination . . .” The *Mañjuśrī-nāma-saṃgīti* is the most commented on tantric text in existence, being a central text for Yoga-tantra, for Anuttara-yoga-tantra in general, and for Kālacakra in particular. One of the oldest tantric commentaries we have is the *Mañjuśrī-nāma-saṃgīti* commentary written in the eighth century C.E. by Vilāsa-vajra, before the introduction of the Kālacakra system into India. Vilāsa-vajra’s Sanskrit commentary, still unpublished but partially edited in a 1994 Ph.D. thesis by A. H. F. Tribe, provides us with perhaps the earliest gloss of *mahā-prāṇa* now extant (my translation follows):

*mahā-prāṇo hy akāraḥ sa cānuṭpāda-svabhāvas tasya dharma-dhātu-svabhāvatvād ādarśa-jñāna-hetutvāc ca*³³

“The great breath is the syllable ‘a’, and that has the inherent nature of being without origination, because it is the inherent nature of the *dharma-dhātu* and because it is the cause of the mirror-like wisdom.”

So according to Vilāsa-vajra’s commentary, the great breath (*mahā-prāṇa*) by way of the syllable “a” is the inherent nature (*svabhāva*) of the *dharma-dhātu*. As can be seen in the various material quoted throughout this article, various terms are used for the same few basic ideas. The inherent nature (*svabhāva*) of the element (*dhātu*) is its life, its breath, its motion. The great breath is without origination

(*anutpāda*) because the *dhātu* is without origination. These are two aspects of the same thing, just as *The Secret Doctrine* describes the two aspects of the one principle as absolute abstract space and absolute abstract motion. Indeed, *The Secret Doctrine* explains that this motion is the breath of the one element or space (vol. 1, p. 55).

The *Mañjuśrī-nāma-saṃgīti* phrase is far too brief for us to know just what is being referred to by *mahā-prāṇa*, the “great breath.” Thus, in the careful 1981 translation of this text by Ronald M. Davidson, *mahā-prāṇa* is translated as “aspirated,”³⁴ referring to its meaning in phonetics. As elaborated in the Kālacakra system, however, *mahā-prāṇa* is not a phonetic term but rather is a cosmic principle. This is further illustrated in a beautiful passage from the lost *mūla* or root *Kālacakra-tantra*, quoted in the *Sekoddeśa-tīkā* on verse 7.³⁵ The Buddha is addressing King Sucandra of Śambhala, to whom he gave the Kālacakra teachings. I here cite it and translate it:

janma-sthānaṃ jinendrāṇām ekasmin samaye 'kṣare |
mahā-prāṇe sthite citte prāṇa-vāte kṣayaṃ gate |
divyendriye samudbhūte naṣṭe māmsendriye gaṇe |
prākṛtāyatane naṣṭe divyāyatana-darśane |
sarvaṃ paśyāmi rājendra adṛṣṭaṃ nāsti me sadā |

"The birthplace of the buddhas is [the complete enlightenment] in a single, unchanging moment. When the mind (*citta*) is established (*sthita*) in the great breath (*mahā-prāṇa*) and the [outer] breath-winds (*prāṇa-vāta*) have stopped, when the divine senses have arisen and the group of fleshly senses has ceased, when the common sense objects have disappeared and the divine sense objects are seen, I see all, O king. There is nothing ever unseen by me."

Conclusion

All five of the parallels with the teachings of the Book of Dzyan given above are close parallels, and they are too specific to be attributed to chance. While the first of these, to *Rg-veda* 10.129, can be explained away because that text was available in Blavatsky's time, the remaining four cannot be. These parallels provide significant circumstantial evidence for the authenticity of the Book of Dzyan. Moreover, they indicate specific sources for further study of its subject matter. My hope is that this evidence will stimulate research on the Book of Dzyan, leading to the eventual discovery of a Sanskrit or Tibetan manuscript of it.

Notes

1. See *The Books of Kiu-te, or the Tibetan Buddhist Tantras: A Preliminary Analysis*, by David Reigle, San Diego, 1983, pp. 46-47.
2. *The Secret Doctrine*, 1888, vol. 1, p. xxxvii.
3. *A History of Ancient Sanskrit Literature*, London, 1859, p. 564.
4. *The Mahatma Letters to A. P. Sinnett*, letter #22, 3rd ed., Adyar, Madras, 1962, p. 136.
5. "Concerning H.P.B.," *The Theosophical Review*, vol. 34, 1904, p. 140.
6. *L'Abhidharmakośa de Vasubandhu*, translated (into French) by Louis de la Vallée Poussin, 6 volumes, Paris, 1923-1931.
7. "The Text of the Abhidharmakośakārikā of Vasubandhu," edited by V. V. Gokhale, *Journal of the Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society*, new series, vol. 22, 1946, pp. 73-102; emendation in vol. 23, 1947, p. 12.
8. *Abhidharm-koshabhāṣya of Vasubandhu*, edited by P. Pradhan, Patna, 1967; 2nd ed. with changed spelling of title: *Abhidharmakośabhāṣyam of Vasubandhu*, with Introduction and Indices by Aruna Haldar, 1975.
9. *The Secret Doctrine*, vol. 1, p. xxv.

10. *The Letters of H. P. Blavatsky to A. P. Sinnett*, London, 1925, p. 195.
11. *The Secret Doctrine*, vol. 1, p. 75.
12. *The Mahatma Letters*, letter #15, 3rd ed., p. 89.
13. *The Mahatma Letters*, letter #11, 3rd ed., p. 63.
14. "The Sublime Science of the Great Vehicle to Salvation," translated by E. Obermiller, *Acta Orientalia*, vol. 9, 1931, pp. 81-306.
15. *The Ratnagotravibhāga Mahāyānottaratantraśāstra*, edited by E. H. Johnston, Patna, 1950.
16. *H. P. Blavatsky Collected Writings*, vol. 3, 1968, pp. 405-406 fn., 423.
17. "Cosmological Notes," Appendix II in *The Letters of H. P. Blavatsky to A. P. Sinnett*, p. 376.
18. *H. P. Blavatsky Collected Writings*, vol. 3, p. 423.
19. *The Connected Discourses of the Buddha*, translated by Bhikkhu Bodhi, vol. 1, Boston, 2000, p. 551. The Pali may be found in the Saṃyutta-nikāya, Pali Text Society edition, vol. 2, p. 25. A similar phrase is found in the Aṅguttara-nikāya, 3.14, Pali Text Society edition, vol. 1, p. 286.
20. Several scholars have published lists of references to these passages in the Buddhist scriptures, starting with Louis de la Vallée Poussin in *Mélanges chinois et bouddhiques*, vol. 5, 1937, p. 207 fn. Some of these references are: *Daśa-bhūmika-sūtra* (J. Rahder edition, 1926, p. 65, Ryūkō Kondō edition, 1936, p. 136, P. L. Vaidya edition, 1967, p. 43); *Laṅkāvatāra-sūtra* (Bunyu Nanjio edition, 1923, pp. 143-144, 218, P. L. Vaidya edition, 1963, pp. 58-59, 88); *Śālistamba-sūtra* (N. Aiyaswami Sastri edition, 1950, p. 4, N. Ross Reat edition, 1993, p. 33); *Aṣṭasāhasrikā-prajñāpāramitā-sūtra* (Rājendralāla Mitra edition, 1888, pp. 273-274, Unrai Wogihara edition, 1932-1935, p. 562, P. L. Vaidya edition, 1960, p. 135); *Pañcaviṃśati-sāhasrikā-prajñāpāramitā-sūtra* (Nalinaksha Dutt edition, 1934, p. 198, Vijay Raj Vajracharya edition, vol. 1, 2006, p. 330).
21. *Fünfundzwanzig Sūtras des Nidānasamyukta*, edited by Chandrabhal Tripathi, Berlin, 1962, p. 148.
22. "'Maitreya's Questions' in the *Prajñāpāramitā*," edited by Edward Conze and Iida Shotaro, in *Mélanges d'Indianisme a la Mémoire de Louis Renou*, Paris, 1968, p. 238, no. 41; also *Āryapañcaviṃśatisāhasrikāprajñāpāramitā*, edited by Vijay Raj Vajracharya, vol. 3, Sarnath, Varanasi, 2008, p. 1329, lines 4-5.
23. *The Large Sutra on Perfect Wisdom*, translated by Edward Conze, Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1975, p. 648.
24. *The Gilgit Manuscript of the Aṣṭadaśasāhasrikāprajñāpāramitā, Chapters 55 to 70 Corresponding to the 5th Abhisamaya*, edited and translated by Edward Conze, Roma, 1962, chap. 69, p. 191, lines 3-4.
25. *The Large Sutra on Perfect Wisdom*, translated by Edward Conze, 1975, p. 544; also translated in the 1962 edition cited in note 24, p. 382.
26. "The Meanings of the Term *gotra* and the Textual History of the *Ratnagotravibhāga*," *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*, vol. 39, 1976, p. 354. The various Buddhist teachings on the *gotra* were summarized by Obermiller in his 1931 publication cited in note 14 above, pp. 96-108. His summary is largely based on the summary in Tsong kha pa's *Legs bshad gser phreng*, now available in English as *Golden Garland of Eloquence*, translated by Gareth Sparham, vol. 1, Fremont, California, 2008, pp. 367-376.
27. *A Study on the Ratnagotravibhāga (Uttaratantra)*, by Jikido Takasaki, Roma, 1966, p. 288.
28. The term *mahā-prāṇa* does not occur in the Saṃhitās, Brāhmaṇas, Āraṇyakas, or Upaniṣads. It occurs five times in the *Āpīśali-sīkṣā* (4.3, 4.5, 8.16, 8.19, 8.26), a phonetic treatise. There it describes the fully aspirated letters of the Sanskrit alphabet, in contrast to the unaspirated, or *alpa-prāṇa* letters. The *Vedic Word-Concordance* used the 1933 edition of the *Āpīśali-sīkṣā* prepared by Raghu Vira and published in the *Journal of Vedic Studies*, Lahore (then India, now Pakistan), for its references. Using these references, I checked this term in the 1973 edition of the *Āpīśali-sīkṣā* prepared by B. A. van Nooten and published in *Tõid Orientalistika Alalt*, Tartu (then USSR, now Estonia). The other *vedāṅga* text in which *mahā-prāṇa* is found is the *Pāṇinīya Gaṇapāṭha*. It is there found listed in the group of words, or *gaṇa*, beginning with the word *utsa* (*Gaṇapāṭha* 26.7), referred to in the rule given in Pāṇini's *sūtra* 4.1.86. It is not defined or used there; it is merely listed among the words falling under that rule. But according to the 1971 book, *Dictionary of Pāṇini: Gaṇapāṭha*, by Pāṇini expert S. M. Katre, it means "the aspirate" (p. 422). This is what it means in the *Āpīśali-sīkṣā*, and is what we would expect here in this grammatical treatise as well. It is not found as a cosmic principle anywhere in the known Vedic texts.
29. *H. P. Blavatsky Collected Writings*, vol. 14, 1985, p. 422.

30. See *The Books of Kiu-te, or the Tibetan Buddhist Tantras*, 1983, pp. 1-2, and *Blavatsky's Secret Books: Twenty Years' Research*, 1999, pp. 20-23.
31. *Vimalaprabhāṭikā*, edited by Jagannatha Upadhyaya (vol. 1), Vrajavallabh Dwivedi and S. S. Bahulkar (vols. 2 and 3), 3 volumes, Sarnath, Varanasi, 1986, 1994, 1994.
32. *The Gzhan stong Chen mo: A Study of Emptiness according to the Modern Tibetan Buddhist Jo nang Scholar 'Dzam thang Mkhan po Ngag dbang Blo gros Grags pa (1920-75)*, by Michael R. Sheehy, California Institute of Integral Studies Ph.D. thesis, 2007, p. 124. The Tibetan may be found in *Contributions to the Study of Jo-nang-pa History, Iconography and Doctrine: Selected Writings of 'Dzam-thang Mkhan-po Blo-gros-grags-pa*, Vol. II: *The Philosophy of 'Extrinsic Emptiness' (Dbu ma gzhan stong chen mo)*, Dharamsala, 1993, folio numbered 98: gshis kyi gnas lugs gdod ma chos nyid kyi rang byung lhun gyis grub pa'i don dam pa'i rnam pa kun gyi bdag nyid srid gsum dwangs pa'i srog chen ther zug g.yung drung kun khyab 'jig med rtag pa'i ngo bo nam yang ris su ma chad cing phyogs lhung dang bral ba'i spros med nam mkha' lta bu.
33. *The Names of Wisdom. A Critical Edition and Annotated Translation of Chapters 1-5 of Vilāsavajra's Commentary on the Nāmasaṃgīti, with Introduction and Textual Notes*, by A. H. F. Tribe, University of Oxford Ph.D. thesis, 1994, p. 259. He translates, p. 119: "Here the great breath is the sound 'A'; and that [sound 'A'] has non-production as its nature. [This is] because it has the Dharma-Sphere as its nature and is the cause of the Mirror-like Awareness." The *Amṛtakaṇikā* commentary on the *Mañjuśrī-nāma-saṃgīti* (edited by Banarsi Lal, 1994) glosses *mahā-prāṇa* (p. 20) in reference to the Kālacakra yoga practice.
34. "The *Litany of Names of Mañjuśrī*. Text and Translation of the *Mañjuśrīnāmasaṃgīti*," by Ronald M. Davidson, in *Tantric and Taoist Studies in Honour of R. A. Stein*, vol. 1, Bruxelles, 1981, p. 23.
35. *Sekoddeśaṭīkā of Naḍapāda (Nāropā)*, edited by Mario E. Carelli, Baroda, 1941, p. 7; also *The Sekoddeśaṭīkā by Nāropā (Paramārthasaṃgraha)*, edited by Francesco Sferra, Roma, 2006, p. 71.

David Reigle is the author of *The Books of Kiu-te, or the Tibetan Buddhist Tantras: A Preliminary Analysis* (1983), and co-author with Nancy Reigle of *Blavatsky's Secret Books: Twenty Years' Research* (1999). Some of his research can be found online at the Eastern Tradition Research Institute website: easterntertradition.org, and at the Book of Dzyan blog: prajnaquest.fr/blog (or dzyan.net).