

No. VI. Tibetan Symbolical Names, used as Numerals.

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In astronomy and astrology, there are many works to be found in Tibet that have not been introduced into the *Kah-gyur* or *Stan-gyur* collections. Of these the most celebrated is the *Bei'dúrya Karpo*, written by s, *De-srid Sangs-r, gyas r, Gya-m, ts'ho* (མེ་སྲིད་སངས་རྒྱས་རྒྱ་མཚོ་), a regent or viceroy at *Lhassa*, in the last half of the seventeenth century of our era. In all these works, symbolical names (གྲངས་བརྟན *grangs br, da*, numerical signs) are used instead of numerals, in all arithmetical and astronomical calculations. As for instance :

+ལག།, for +2 ; —མེ།, for —3 ; ×རྒྱ།, for ×4 ; ÷སློ།, for ÷32.

This mode of expressing numbers has been borrowed from India by the Tibetans. For some of the numerals specified below, there are yet other synonymous terms applied in Tibetan, as in Sanskrit, but in their works these only are of general use. Although the nine units, together with the zero (0), would be sufficient to express any greater number, yet there are used the following numerals also : 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 24, 25, 27, and 32.

When dictating to an assistant in symbolical names what to write in characters, the pandit commences the operation from right to left : thus if he says ཉི་མ (12), མཁའ (0), མཚོ (4),

the other writes 4012, &c. This method is the same as that followed in the Shastras of India, therefore it is unnecessary to add anything further on the subject.

The following numbers are expressed by such names as are stated here below, and explained in English, to which the Sanskrit terms also have been added (with a few exceptions) not from Tibetan books, but from other sources :

༡ or 1. གཟུགས།, * *gzugs*, body ; S. *sharíram*.

ལྷ།, *zla*, the moon ; S. *chandra*.

འོད་དཀར།, *hot-tkar*, white brightness, the moon :

S. *shwétá-rochis*.

བསེ་རུ, *bse-ru*, rhinoceros ; S. *gandaka*.

੨ or 2. ལག, *lag*, the hand : S. *bhujā, hasta*, or *pani*.

མིག, *mig*, the eye : S. *nétra, chakshus*.

* *Note*.—The articles, བ, བོ, བ, བོ, མ, མོ, (*Pa, po, Va, vo, Ma, mo, &c.*) have been omitted after the roots, since the words occur mostly in this form.

རྩུང་ཕྱོགས, *zung-phyogs*, or simply རྩུང་, *zung*, the two sides, wings, halves, a pair, couple ; S. *chhada, pakshó, &c.*

འཁྲིག, *hkhriḡ*, or བགྲོད, *bgrod*, the twins ; copulation.

੩ or 3. འཇིག་རྟེན, *hjiḡ-rtan*, the world ; S. *loka*.

ཡོན་ཏན, *yon-tan*, quality ; S. *guna*.

མེ, *Mé*, fire S. *agni* or *anala*.

རྩེ, *rtsé*, top, summit : S. *agram*.

≡ or 4. མཚོ, *mtsho*, a sea or lake : S. *samudra*.

ཆུ, *chhu*, water ; S. *jala* or *vāri*.

རྐང, *rkang*, a foot : S. *pāda*.

རིག་བྱེད, *Rig-byéd*, a Vēda ; S. *Vēda*.

♥ or 5. འབྱུང, *hbyung*, an element ; S. *bhūtām*.

དབང, *dvang*, an organ of sense ; S. *indrayam*.

མདའ, *mdah*, an arrow : S. *bāna* or *vāna*.

ཕུང, *phung*, a heap of the aggregates constituting the body and soul ; S. *skandha*.

- 5 or 6. མཚམས, *mshams*, the six cardinal points : the north,
east, south, west, zenith and nadir.
རོ་བོ་བ, *ro, bro-va*, taste, savour ; S. *rasa*.
དུས, *dus*, time, season : S. *samaya*.
- ཉ or 7. ཐུབ་པ, *Thub-pa*, a sage ; S. *Muni*.
བླ་སྟོང, *Drang-srong*, an hermit : S. *Rishi*.
རི, *ri*, a hill or mountain ; S. *parvata*.
རེས་གཟུ, *Res-gzah*, a special or chief planet ; S.
Graha.
- ལ or 8. ལྷ, *klu*, an hydra or snake ; S. *nāga*.
སྦྲུལ, *sbrul*, serpent ; S. *sarpa*.
གདེང་སྟོན་ཅན, *gdengs-chan*, a hooded-snake ; S. ?
ལྷོ་འགྲོ, *lto-hgro*, creeping on its belly : S. *uraga*.
ཚོང་མཚན་ལྷ་བུ་ལྔ, *nor* or *ཚོང་ལྷ་བུ་ལྔ*, *nor-lha*, wealth, or the eight gods
of wealth : S. *Vasu* or *vasudéva*.
སྦྲིད་པ, *sred-pa*, affection, passion : S. ?
- ཅ or 9. རྩ, *rtsa*, root (or vein) : S. *mūla*.
གཏེར, *gter*, treasure ; S. *kosham*.
གཟུ, *gzah*, a planet ; S. *graha*.
བུག, *bu-ga*, a hole, S. *chiddra*.
སྦྲིན་པོ, *Srin-po*, an imp or goblin ; S. *Rākshasa*.
- ༡༠ or 10. ཕྱོགས, *phyogs*, corner, quarter, point : S. *Dik* or

Dish. The ten points, 4 cardinal, 4 intermediate, the zenith and the nadir.

੨੨ or 11. འཕྲོག་བྱེད, *h.phrog-byed*, that takes by force; S.

Hari, for *Siva*.

རྟག་པོ, *Drag-po*, the brave or fierce, S. *Rudra*, for *Siva*.

བདེ་འབྲུང, *Bde-hbyung*, the source of happiness; S.

Shambhu, another name of *Siva*.

དབང་ཕྱུག, *Dvang-phyug*, the powerful: S. *Ishwara*,
for *Siva*.

੨੩ or 12. ཉི་མ, *Nyi-ma*, the sun; S. *Surya*, *Arka*, *Bhanu*.

གྲིམ, *khyim*, the sun's place in the zodiac; S. *Griha*
or pl. *Grihas*, the 12 zodiacal signs.

੨੪ or 13. འདོད་པ, *hdod-pa*, lust, desire, wish, Cupid; S. *Kāma*.

མྱོས་བྱེད or མྱོས་བྱེད, *myos-byed*, that inebriates or
makes mad, lust, desire, wish, Cupido;
S. *Madana*, *Kama Deva*.

੨੫ or 14. ཡིད, *gid*, the mind; S. *manas*.

མ་ལུ, *Ma-nu*, ditto; S. *manu*.

སྲིད་པ, *Srid-pa*, existence, birth, the world; S.
bhuvanam.

੨੬ or 15. ཚེས་, ཉིན་ཞག, *tshes, nyin-zhag*, the 15th day of a lunar
month; any day of the semilunation. S.
Aha or *Ahan*.

੨੭ or 16. མི་བདག, *Mi-bdag*, lord of men, a sovereign; S.
Narapati.

རྒྱལ་པོ, *Rgyal-po*, a king, prince; S. *Rāja*.

༡༨ or 18. ཉེས་པ, ལྷོན, *nyes-pa*, or *skyon*, vice, fault, blemish ;
S. *Dosha*.

༢༤ or 24. རྒྱལ་བ, *Rgyal-va*, he that has been victorious, a Jina
or Buddha ; S. *Jina*.

༢༥ or 25. དེ་ཉིད, *de-nyid*, the same self ; S. *tatwam*.

or 27. *Skar-ma*, a star, one of the 27 constellations
in the path of the moon ; S. *Nakshatra*.

༣༢ or 32. སོ, *So*, a tooth ; S. *danta*.

For 0 zero or 0 the following three terms are used :

མཁའ, *mkhah*, void, space, S. *kha*, *ākāsha*, *gaganam*.

ཐིག, *thig*, a spot, stain ; S. ? *nabhas*.

སྟོང་པ, *Stong-pa*, the vacuum ; empty space, zero ;
S. *shūnyam*.