

TRANSLATION
&
TRANSMISSION

OCTOBER 2-5, 2014

KEYSTONE, COLORADO, USA

Workshop 5 | Room: CRESTONE PEAK III | 4:30–6:30pm, October 4, 2014

Translating Canonical Materials: Tantra

with Thomas Yarnall, Christian Wedemeyer, David Gray

David Gray's
Presentation



David Gray
(Santa Clara University)

David B. Gray is an Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Santa Clara University. His research explores the development of tantric Buddhist traditions in South Asia, and their dissemination in Tibet and East Asia, with a focus on the Yoginītantras, a genre of Buddhist tantric literature that focused on female deities and yogic practices involving the subtle body. He is the author of both *The Cakrasamvara Tantra: A Study and Annotated Translation* (New York: American Institute of Buddhist Studies, 2007), and *The Cakrasamvara Tantra: Editions of the Sanskrit and Tibetan Texts* (New York: American Institute of Buddhist Studies, 2012).

**Garland of Essence or Garland of Light?
On the need for critical editions when translating canonical texts**

David B. Gray
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Tibetan translation of a passage in *Abhidhānottara Tantra* ch. 4:

/dngos med mdun sogs phyogs bcu ru/ /snying po'i phreng bas pro bar bya/ /des
na snying po de mthong nas/ /dra ba ra ba de bzhin te/ /rdo rje sa sogs byin gyis
brlab/ /bla re mda' yi dra ba dang / /rdo rje me ni 'bar bar bskor/ /phyi rol ring nas
dgod par bya/

(Tōh. 369, sde-dge rgyu 'bum vol. ka, 254b.3)

My tentative Sanskrit edition of the corresponding text:

sphārayed rasmimālām¹ vā bhavāgrām diśādaśāntagaṃ [rasmim]² tato drṣṭvā
prākāraṃ pañjaraṃ tathā //
vajrabhūmyāv adhiṣṭhaṃ ca vitānaṃ śarajālayoḥ /
vajrāgnijvalaprākāraṃ tadbāhyadūrato nyaset // 21

My tentative English translation:

One should radiate a light ray garland going to the end of the ten directions, the
limit of the universe. Seeing thus the light rays, there is the fence and tent, as
follows:

[21] The adamantine ground is established,
As well as the arrow net canopy,
Outside one should lay down from a distance,
The adamantine fence of blazing fire.

¹ Two mss. I consulted read *rasmimālām*, while four read *gabhastimālām*.

² This is a hypothetical reconstruction based on the context as well as what appears to be the
best reading, *bhasmim*, found in one ms. Other variants here include *bhast*, *gasti*, and *svāgadṛṣṭi*.