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VIMUTTAMAGGA AND ABHAYAGIRI: THE FORM-AGGREGATE ACCORDING TO THE SAMSKRĪTĀSAMSKRĪTA-VINĪŚCAYA

A. Introduction

The *Vimuttimaggā* is a comprehensive manual of the Theravādin school; lost in the original Pāli (or, less probably, Sanskrit),¹ it is preserved in a complete Chinese translation, made by a *bhikṣu* of Funan in the early 6th century.² This version has been translated into English in full under the title *The Path of Freedom*.³

While both Chinese and Pāli sources agree that the name of the author is Upatissa (Skt Upatiṣya),⁴ there is some confusion about the Sanskrit form of the translator's name. In 1883 Bunyiu Nanjio gave the name Saṃghapāla, with the alternative Saṃghavarman.⁵ In 1915 Sylvain Lévi rejected the form Saṃghapāla as erroneous, and suggested

1 cf. Bechert 1992, pp. 95–96, and Skilling 1993A, p. 167. See, however, Louis Renou and Jean Fillozat (edd.), *L'Inde classique II* (Hanoi, 1953) § 2147: "à en juger par les noms ou termes transcrits, la version chinoise du *Chemin de la Libération* ne semble pas être faite sur un original de langue pāli; on n'y trouve aucun nom singhalais ... tout indique, pour cet original, une origine indienne et non singhalaise". Sylvain Lévi (1915, p. 26) notes, with reference to the *Mahāmāyūri*, that *Saṃghabhāra "paraît être un sanscritiste et un indianiste médiocre".

2 T 1648 (Vol. XXXII), KBC 968, *Chieh t'o tao lun*.

3 See Bibliography: the English translation is hereafter referred to as *Path*.

4 The name, prefaced by "arhat", is transcribed at the head of the Chinese version; in the *Visuddhimagga* Commentary the author is described as *thera* (*Paramatthamañjūsā*, cited at *Path* xxxvi, *ekacce ti upatissatheram sandhāyāha, tena hi vimuttimagge tathā vuttam*).

5 Bunyiu Nanjio, *A Catalogue of the Chinese Translation of the Buddhist Tripiṭaka, the Sacred Canon of the Buddhists in China and Japan*, [Oxford, 1883] San Francisco, 1975, § 1293 "Saṃghapāla"; Appendix II § 102, "Saṃghapāla or Saṃghavarman".

Samghavarman or Samghabhara.¹ In 1923 J. Przyluski, after referring to both Nanjio and Lévi, described Samghapāla as “doubtful”, and suggested Samghabhara or Samghabhata.² In 1927 Prabodh Chandra Bagchi, after referring to the above-mentioned sources, rejected both Samghapāla and Samghavarman, and accepted Samghabhara.³ The *Hōbōgirin* gives “Samghabhara (?)”,⁴ as well as “Samghavara (?)”, and “Samghavarman (?)”.⁵ Lancaster and Bareau give Samghabhara without discussion.⁶ The *Pañh* reverts to Samghapāla; since the translators do not discuss the name, and since the bibliography does not refer to any of the other works mentioned above, it is likely that they took the name from Nanjio’s *Catalogue*, which they refer to on pp. xxvii and xxxvi. This is unfortunate, since the form Samghapāla, rejected by all authorities since Nanjio, has thereby been perpetuated.⁷ For the time being, I accept the form *Samghabhara; I hope that the question will be re-examined by those competent in the field, in the light of resources now available.

There is also confusion about the date of translation. Bagchi, Przyluski, and *Hōbōgirin* agree that *Samghabhara’s dates are 460–524. Nanjio (§ 1293) gives the date of translation of the *Vimuttimaggā* as 505, ³ since at Appendix II § 102 he himself says that *Samghabhara began his

¹ Lévi, *loc. cit.*

² J. Przyluski, *La légende de l’empereur Açoka (Açoka-avadāna) dans les textes indiens et chinois*, Paris, 1923, pp. xi–xii.

³ Prabodh Chandra Bagchi, *Le canon bouddhique en Chine*, tome I, Paris, 1927, pp. 415–18.

⁴ *Hōbōgirin*, *Répertoire du canon bouddhique sino-japonais*, Paris-Tōkyō, 1978, § 1648.

⁵ *ibid.*, p. 281a, under Sōgyabara.

⁶ KBC § 968; Bareau 1955, p. 242.

⁷ Samghapāla is given by George Coedès, in *The Indianized States of Southeast Asia*, Honolulu, 1968, note 92, p. 285 (see also p. 58), by W. Pachow, “The Voyage of Buddhist Missions to South-East Asia and the Far East”, in *Journal of the Greater India Society* XVII/1&2 (1958), p. 13, and no doubt elsewhere in secondary literature.

career as a translator in 506 — a date confirmed by Lévi, Przyluski, and *Hōbōgirin* — this must be an error. Both Bagchi and Lancaster give the date of translation as the 14th year of the T’ien Chien era of the Liang Dynasty, which Bagchi equates with 519, Lancaster with 515. *L’Inde classique* states that the translation was made between 506 and 524, “probablement en 515”; *Hōbōgirin* does not give a date. According to Dr. Josef Kolmaš, 515 is the correct date.¹

In addition to the Chinese translation, the *Vimuttimaggā* is known from extensive quotations given by Daśabalaśrimitra in his *Saṃskṛtāsamskṛta-viniścaya*, a compendium of the tenets of several Buddhist schools, also lost in the original, but extant in Tibetan translation.² In this paper, I will give an extract from Chapter 13 of the *Sav*, a citation of the *Vimuttimaggā* which corresponds to the opening of the 10th fascicle, 11th chapter, first section, of the *Pañh* (pp. 237–38), in the following format:

a) romanised Tibetan text;

b) English translation of the Tibetan;

c) English translation of the Chinese from the *Pañh*.³

The object of study is a passage giving a list of the 26 types of derived form (*upādāya-rūpa*) that, along with the four basic elements

¹ I am grateful to Dr. Kolmaš for checking the date for me during a visit to the Oriental Institute, Prague. It is likely that Nanjio’s 505 is simply a misprint for 515. (cf. also e.g. KBC 1086, where the 15th year of T’ien Chien = 516.)

² *Dus byas dañ ’dus ma byas rnam par ñes pa* = *Sav*. I have been able to consult only two editions: D and Q (see Bibliography); variants are given in parentheses without discussion. For an analysis of this work and a discussion of its authorship and date, see Skilling 1987.

³ From the passages selected for this study, it can be seen that the translation of the *Pañh* is often unreliable. I am grateful to Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn (Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok) for consulting the Chinese text; his clarifications are followed by the initials [PA].

(*mahābhūta*), constitute the aggregate of form, *rūpa-kkhandā*. The list is of considerable interest and importance because it throws light on the problem of the school affiliation of the *Vimūtimagga*. Because "school" in this context refers to divisions or traditions within the broader fold of the Theravāda, the tradition of the Pāli *Aṭṭhakathās*, *Ṭīkā*s, and Abhidhamma manuals will be specified as that of the Mahāvihāravāsins throughout.¹

I have also given the opening of the chapter leading up to the above-mentioned list, in order to place the passage in context, and — since Daśabalaśrīmitra's citations of the *Vimūtimagga* have not been studied to date — to demonstrate how closely they agree with the Chinese version. I will also translate a number of other passages from the same chapter of the Sav in the discussion that follows.

B. Text and Translation

B.0a (D 185a3; Q 98b6) *paññita chen po gnas brtan dge sloṅ* (D om. *gnas brtan dge sloṅ*) *stobs bcu dpal bsés gñen gyis bsdus pa 'dus byas dan' 'dus ma byas rnam par nes pa las* (Q *la*) *gnas brtan pa 'i sde pa 'i tshul lugs phuṅ po skye mched khams rnam par nes pa zes bya ba le 'u bcu gsum pa 'o//²*

¹ For the two main divisions of the Theravāda, see Bareau 1955, chapters XXIX and XXX. A third branch, the Jetavanīyas or Sāgalikas (Bareau, chapter XXXI) seems to have played a less significant role. For the Abhayagiri, see *Encyclopaedia of Buddhism*, Vol. 1, fasc. 1, [Colombo] 1961, pp. 21–25 ("Abhayagiri"), 25–28 ("Abhayagirivāsins"), 67, 77–78 ("Abhidharma Literature"), and Walpola Rahula, *History of Buddhism in Ceylon*, Colombo, [1956] 1966, pp. 83–85, 92–99, etc.

² This is the colophon of the chapter of the Sav from which the citations are drawn.

B.0b "An analysis of the aggregates, bases, and elements according to the system of the Sthavira school" (**Sthavira-nikāya-naya-skandha-āyatana-dhātu-viniścaya*), Chapter 13 of the *Analysis of the Conditioned and the Unconditioned*, compiled by the great authority (*mahāpañña*), the senior monk (*sthavira-bhikṣu*), Daśabalaśrīmitra.¹

B.1a (D 179a1; Q 90b3) *'phags pa gnas brtan pa 'i sde pa 'i lun las 'di ltar rnam par bzag ste/ de la las dan po pa 'i rnal 'byor pas rga śi las grol bar 'dod pa dan/ 'khor ba 'i rgyu yaṅ dag par gcod pa don du gñer ba* (Q *bas*) *dan/ ma rig pa 'i mun pa rnam par sel ba 'i don du gñer ba dan/ 'phags pa 'i ses rab thob pa don du gñer ba rnam kyis gnas lta la mkhas par bskyed par bya 'o/ 'di lta ste/ phuṅ po la mkhas pa dan/ skye mched la mkhas pa dan/ khams la mkhas pa dan/ rten cin 'brel bar 'byuṅ ba la mkhas pa dan/ 'phags pa 'i bden pa la mkhas pa 'o//*

B.1b The Āgama of the Ārya-Sthavira school (*nikāya*) sets forth the following:

Herein, the novice meditator (*āḍikammika-yogin*) who wishes to be liberated from ageing and death (*jarā-maraṇa*), who strives to cut off the cause of cyclic existence (*samsāra*- or *bhava-hetu*), who strives to dispel the darkness of ignorance (*avijjā-andhakāra*), and who strives to realise

¹ For the title, which, in accordance with Tibetan (and Indian) tradition, is given at the end of the chapter, I have given Sanskrit equivalents for the Tibetan. Although the bulk of the Sav, dealing with Vaibhāṣika and Mahāyāna tenets, would have been composed in Sanskrit, we do not know the language of the *Vimūtimagga* and other Sthavira citations given by Daśabalaśrīmitra. In order to facilitate comparison with the Mahāvihāravāsins Theravādin tradition, which is preserved in Pāli, I have given Pāli equivalents in the translation of the citations, based on the Sanskrit equivalents of the Tibetan as given for example in the *Mahāvīyūtpatti* (Mvy). In most cases these equivalents are virtually certain; those which require some explanation are discussed in the notes. The Pāli terms given in the citations of the *Path* have been taken from the footnotes to that work as appropriate.

the wisdom of the noble (*ariya-paññā*), should develop proficiency (*kosalla*) with regard to five states (*thāna*): proficiency with regard to the aggregates (*khandha-kosalla*), proficiency with regard to the bases (*āyatana-kosalla*), proficiency with regard to the elements (*dhātu-kosalla*), proficiency with regard to conditioned arising (*pañcikkasamuppāda-kosalla*), and proficiency with regard to the truths of the noble (*ariya-sacca-kosalla*).

B.1c (*Path* 237,1) Here, if the new yogin aspires after release from decay and death, and wishes to remove the cause of arising and passing away, wishes to dispel the darkness of ignorance, to cut the rope of craving and to acquire holy wisdom, he should develop the methods, namely, the aggregate-method [*khandha-kosalla*, PA],¹ sense-organ-method [*āyatana-kosalla*], element-method [*dhātu-kosalla*], conditioned-arising-method [*pañcikkasamuppāda-kosalla*], and truth-method [*saccakosalla*].

B.2a (D 179a3; Q 90b6) *de la phuñ po lña ni 'di lta ste/ gzugs kyi phuñ po dan/ tshor ba 'i phuñ po dan/ 'du ses kyi phuñ po dan/ 'du byed kyi phuñ po dan/ rnam par ses pa 'i phuñ po 'o//*

¹ The translators of the *Path* supply the term *upāya*; the characters employed are also used for *kausālya* = *kosalla*, equivalent here to the Tibetan *mikas pa* [PA]. While forms with *kuśala* (MN III 62,4, *dhātu-kuśala*, *āyatana-*, *pañcikkasamuppāda-*, *īhānāṭhāna-*, *kuśala* (E.B. Cowell and R.A. Neil [edd.], *The Divyāvadāna*, Delhi, 1987, 340,26, and Nalinaksha Dutt [ed.], *Gilgit Manuscripts*, Vol. III, Part 4, [Calcutta, 1950] Delhi, 1984, 42,18, *dhātu-kuśala*, *prāṭīyasamutpāda-*, *sṭhānāṣṭhāna-*, *Divyāvadāna* 567,8, *skandha-kuśala*, *dhātu-*, *āyatana-*, *prāṭīyasamutpāda-*), or *kausālya* (Vidhushekhara Bhattacharya [ed.], *The Yogācārabhūmi of Ācārya Asaṅga*, Calcutta, 1957, 71,9, *dhātu-kausālya*, *āyatana-*, *prāṭīyasamutpāda-*, etc.) are well-attested in this context, the use of *upāya* is not. I therefore take the nominal form *kosalla* (for which confer PTS D 230b), equivalent to the Tibetan *mikas pa* (in the passage cited clearly a noun = Skt *kausālya*), to be the correct form.

B.2b Herein, there are five aggregates (*khandha*): the aggregate of form (*rūpa*), the aggregate of feeling (*vedanā*), the aggregate of notion (*saññā*), the aggregate of formations (*saṅkhāra*), and the aggregate of consciousness (*viññāna*).

B.2c (*Path* 237,8) What is the aggregate-method? The five aggregates are the aggregate of form, the aggregate of feeling, the aggregate of perception, the aggregate of formation, and the aggregate of consciousness.

B.3a (D 179a4; Q 90b6) *de la gzugs kyi phuñ po ni gñis te* (Q om. *te 'di ltar/ 'byuñ ba chen po dan/ 'byuñ ba chen po las byuñ ba 'i gzugs so//*

B.3b Herein, the aggregate of form is twofold: the basic elements (*mahābhūta*) and form derived from the basic elements (*mahābhūtānam upādāya rūpam*).

B.3c (*Path* 237,10) What is the aggregate of form? The four primaries and the material qualities derived from the primaries.

B.4a (D 179a4; Q 90b7) *de la 'byuñ ba chen po la bzi ni 'di ltar/ sa dan/ chu dan/ me dan/ rñuñ ño//*

B.4b Herein, there are four basic elements: earth (*paṭhavi*), water (*āpo*), fire (*tejo*), and air (*vayo*).

B.4c (*Path* 237,14) What are the four primaries? Earth-element, water-element, fire-element, air-element.¹

¹ Here the Sav omits the definitions of the four basic elements given in the *Path* pp. 237,15–238,10.

B.5a) (D 179a5; Q 90b7) 'byuñ ba chen po las byuñ ba 'i gzugs ni ñi śu ñer drug ste/ 'di ltar ...

B.5b) There are 26 [types of] form derived from the basic elements¹ ... [See Table 1.]

B.5c) (*Path* 238,12) What are the derived material qualities? ... [See Table 1.]

B.6a) (D 179a7; Q 91a3) *de 'i phyir 'byuñ ba chen po bzi dan ñe bar bs lañ ba 'i gzugs ñi śu ñer drug ste/ gzugs (Q rdzas) sum cur 'gyur ro//*

B.6b) Therefore, there are four basic elements and 26 [types of] derived form (*upādāya-rūpa*), making 30 [types of] form (*rūpa*).²

B.6c) (*Path* 240,31) ... these 26 material qualities and the four primaries make up 30 kinds of matter [*rūpa*, PA].³

C. Discussion

The earliest suttas, both Pāli and Sanskrit, speak of two types of form, generally in definitions of either the form aggregate (*rūpa-kkhandā*) or of the "form" in "name-and-form" (*nāma-rūpa*). For example:

¹ This introductory sentence is not given in the *Path*, which gives instead a question. In Table 1 I have omitted the *dan* (ca, "and") that follows each item in the Tibetan.

² D *gzugs* = *rūpa*, Q *rdzas* = *labba* (Skt *dravya*). The Chinese here definitely = *rūpa* [PA].

³ This sentence follows the definitions of the 26 types of derived form that are given in the *Path* (pp. 238,20–240,31) but omitted in the *Sav*.

Katamañ ca bhikkhave rūpaṃ? Cattāro ca mahābhūtā catunnaṃ ca mahābhūtānaṃ upādāya rūpaṃ, idaṃ vuccati bhikkhave rūpaṃ (SN III 59,19)

What, O monks, is form? The four basic elements and form derived from the four basic elements: this, O monks, is termed form.

While the four basic elements are listed and defined in the *suttas*, for example in the *Mahāhatthipadopama-sutta* (MN 28, Vol. I 185,14 foll.), no definition of "derived form" is given in the early texts. This gave the various schools a free hand to compile their own lists of the constituents of derived form.

The earliest list of the Mahāvihāravāsīn Theravādīns is found in their *Abhidhamma* in the *Dhammasaṅgani* (§ 596)¹ which gives 23 types of derived form in response to the question *katamaṃ taṃ rūpaṃ upādā*. This type of form became known as *upādā-* or *upādāya-rūpa*. The 23 types of derived form of the *Dhammasaṅgani* (indicated with an asterisk in Table 1) follow the same order as the corresponding items of the *Vimuttimagga* list.

From the time of Buddhaghosa on, the Mahāvihāravāsīns added the "heart-base", *hadaya-vatthu*, between no. 12, *jīvītindriya*, and no. 13, *kāyaviññatti*, to make a total of 24 varieties of derived form. This list is found, for example, in the *Visuddhimagga* (375 § 36; Mm 11,10).² The

¹ References to this work are by section number, as given in the PTS edition (ed. Edward Müller, [1885] London, 1978) and in the Devanagari script edition (ed. P.V. Bapat and R.D. Vadekar, Poona, 1940).

² References to this work are to Henry Clarke Warren (ed.) and Dharmananda Kosambi (rev.), *Visuddhimagga of Buddhaghosacariya* (Harvard Oriental Series 41), [1950] Delhi, 1989, by page and paragraph number, and to the Thai

Sav and the *Path*, however, state explicitly that there are 26 types of derived form (see above, §§ B.5ab and B.6abc).

The list of the Sav in fact gives 27 items; as may be seen from Table 1, I have not counted *reg pa* (= *phassa*), which is not given in the *Path* or in the following analysis and classification of the 26 types as cited in the Sav. As a *cetasika*, *phassa* does not belong here; if *phoṭṭhabba* (Tibetan *reg bya*) is intended, it also does not fit, because according to the *Vimuttimaggā* as cited by Daśabalaśrīmitra himself (D 184b1; Q 97b8) the “tangible base” (*phoṭṭhabbāyatana*) consists of the earth, fire, air, and water elements, and hardness (*kakkaḷaitta*), softness (*mudutā*), heat (*uṇhatta*), and coolness (*sītatā*), which are within the range of the body (*kāya-gocara*):

reg bya 'i *skye mched ni sa* 'i *khams dan/ me* 'i *khams dan/ rluñ*
gi khams dan/ chu 'i *khams dan/ sra ba dan/ 'jam pa dan/ dro*
ba dan/ bstil ba ste/ gañ lus kyi spyod yul lo!

This definition is confirmed by the *Path* (254,19):

Touch-object is hardness, softness, coolness, and warmth of the elements of earth, water, fire, and air. This is the field of the body.²

script edition published by Mahāmaṅgalajavidyālaya (Mm), Bangkok, 2509 [1976] by page and line.

¹ The order of the four elements here in the *Path* agrees with that of both the Sav and the *Path* at B.4 above. This seems to be the standard order as found at e.g. DN III 228,1 and MN I 185,12.

² “Touch-object is the earth-element, water-°, fire-°, air-°, hardness, softness, coolness, and warmth [which are within] the range of the body (*kāya-gocara*)” [PA].

The Mahāvihāravāsins, however, hold that the *phoṭṭhabbāyatana* consists of only three great elements, excluding water, *āpo-dhātu*, and that cold, *sīta*, is not *āpo-dhātu* but *tejo-dhātu*, in the “condition of feeble heat” (*mande hi uṇhabhāve sītabuddhi*).¹ The position of the *Vimuttimaggā* is closer to that of the Vaibhāṣikas, who include all four elements as well as cold (*sīta*) in the *spraṣṭavyāyatana*.² Confirmed by both the Tibetan of the Sav and by the Chinese of the *Path*, the definition of *phoṭṭhabbāyatana* is another important point on which the tradition of the *Vimuttimaggā* disagrees with the Mahāvihāra school.

When this error is corrected, the Sav and the *Path* agree completely on the 26 items enumerated and their order.³ This list of 26 items may safely be termed the *Vimuttimaggā* list of derived form.

A comparison of the *Dhammasaṅgāṇi* list with that of the *Vimuttimaggā* shows that the two lists are identical in order and in items enumerated, with the important difference that the latter adds three items: *rūpassa jāti* (21), *vatthu-rūpa* (25), and *middha* (26).

Of these three, *vatthu-rūpa* may be identified with the *hadaya-vatthu* of the Mahāvihāravāsins from the time of Buddhaghosa on. Unfortunately, since Daśabalaśrīmitra’s presentation of the *Vimuttimaggā* is abridged, he omits the definitions of the 26 varieties of derived form that follow the list in the full Chinese translation, and thus does not define *vatthu-rūpa*. In the *Path* (240,29) the definition of the equivalent term is translated as “the growth which is dependent on the primaries and the element of

¹ cf. *Dhammasaṅgāṇi* §§ 647–51 and Karunadasa 1967, pp. 19–20, 29–30.

² cf. P. Pradhan (ed.), *Abhidharmakośabhāṣyam of Yasubandhu* (Tibetan Sanskrit Works Series VIII, 2nd edition), Patna, 1975, I, 104, p. 7, 8.

³ The basic list in the *Path* gives 25 items only, omitting the important no. 21, “birth of matter”, which is, however, given in the Chinese (see note 5 to Table 1).

consciousness [*viññāna-dhātu*, PA] is called the sense-organ of the material element¹, which is not very illuminating.

That *hadaya-vatthu* and *vatthu-rūpa* are equivalent is, however, made clear in the *Aṭṭhakathā* and later literature, for example in the definition of the “base-decad”, *vatthu-dasaka*, given in the *Vibhāṅga-aṭṭhakathā* (Vibh-a 22.7–10):

*Tattha vatthurūpaṃ, tassa nissayāni cattāri mahābhūtāni,
tannissīṭā vaṇṇa-gandha-rasa-ojā jīvitaṃ ti, idaṃ
vatthudasakaṃ nāma.*

Herein, the base-decad consists of *vatthu-rūpa*, the four basic elements on which it depends, colour, odour, taste, and nutriment that depend on it, and life.

The Sav does not give the definition of the “base-decad”, but refers it to that of the “eye-decad”:

(D 179b6; Q 91b4) *de la mig bcu zes pa ni/ rab tu dan ba i mig
gi dhos por gyur pa i 'byuñ ba chen po bzi dan/ kha dog dan/
dri dan/ ro dan/ gzi brgyid dan/ srog gi dbaṅ po dan/ mig gi
rab tu dan ba 'o// chos bcu po 'di nams gnas nam pa tha dad
med pa i goñ bu yin pas/ mig bcu zes brjod do// ... (D 180a4; Q
92a4) de bzin du rna ba bcu ldan dan/ sna bcu ldan dan/ lce
bcu ldan dan/ lus bcu ldan dan/ bud med kyi dbaṅ po bcu ldan
dan/ skyes pa i dbaṅ po bcu ldan dan/ dhos po bcu ldan dan/
srog gi dbaṅ po bcu ldan nams rgyas par ses par bya 'o//*

¹ “Sense-organ of the material element” = *vatthu-rūpa*: the definition belongs to the *vatthu-rūpa* of the preceding list (Table 1, § 25), and the characters are nearly the same [PA].

Herein, that which is called the “eye-decad” (*cakkhu-dasaka*) consists of the four basic elements, colour, odour, taste, nutriment (*ojā*), life-element, and the sensitive eye-tissue (*cakkhu-pasāda*) that make up the substance of the sensitive eye. Because these ten *dhammas* are a physically undifferentiated conglomeration (*piṇḍa*), they are called the “eye-decad” The ear-decad, the nose-decad, the tongue-decad, the body-decad, the femininity-faculty-decad, the masculinity-faculty-decad, the base-decad (*vatthu-dasaka*), and the life-faculty-decad [correct to “enneed”]¹ should be understood in detail in the same manner.

(*Path* 242.1) What is the eye-decad? The four elements of eye-sentience are its basis. And again, it consists of the four

¹ “Life-faculty decad”, *srog gi dbaṅ po bcu ldan*, must be an error of scribe or translator. In the Pāli Abhidhamma, the life-faculty is an enneed (*jīvitindriya-navaka*); for it to be a decad, one would have to count the life-faculty twice. Furthermore, the enneed is referred to later on in the Sav: (D 180b4; Q 92b7) *tshans pa nams kyi skye ba i dus su gzugs sum cu dgu ni 'di lta ste/ dhos po bcu ldan dan/ mig bcu ldan dan/ rna ba bcu ldan dan/ srog gi dbaṅ po dgu ldan no// 'du ses med pa i sems can nams kyi skye ba i dus su gzugs dgu 'byuñ bar 'gyur te 'di lta srog gi dbaṅ po dgu 'o//* “For Brahmā at the moment of birth there are 39 [constituents of] form: the base-decad, the eye-decad, the ear-decad, and the life-faculty-enneed (*jīvitindriya-navaka*). For beings without perception (*asaññi-satta*) at the moment of birth 9 [constituents of] form arise, that is, the life-faculty-enneed.” *Path* p. 244.6 has “Brahmā arouses 49 material qualities at the moment of birth. They are the basis-decad, the eye-decad, the ear-decad, the body-decad, and the life-principle-enneed” for the first part. The figure 39 of the Sav is correct, since the *Abhidhammattha-saṅgaha* (Mm 38,8; Nārada 312,1) states that since the nose-, tongue-, body-, and sex-decads are not found in the world of form, that is the Brahmāloka, at the moment of birth there are four *kalāpas*, the eye-, ear-, and base-decads, plus the life-enneed: *rūpaloke pana ghāna-jivhā-kāya-bhāva-dasakāni ... na labbhanti, tasmā tesam paṭisaññhi-kāle cakkhu-sota-vatthu-vasena tīṇi dasakāni jīvita-navakañceṭi cattāro kamma-samuṭṭhāna-kalāpā ... labbhanti.*

primaries, form, odour, flavour, contact,¹ life-principle and the sentient eye. This decad is produced together and does not separate. This is called “group” and this is called the eye-decad ... (242,16). Thus should the eye-decad be known. In the same way one should know the ear-decad, the nose-decad, the tongue-decad, the body-decad, femininity-decad, masculinity-decad, life-principle-ennead at length.

It is possible that the term *vatthu-rūpa* is older than the term *hadaya-vatthu*. The latter only appears from the time of Buddhaghosa onwards, while *vatthu-rūpa* is employed in the earlier *Vimuttimagga* as well as in later works of the Mahāvihāravāsins.

The importance of *vatthu-rūpa* or *hadaya-vatthu* in Theravādin philosophy is demonstrated by the fact that it makes up one of the two essential decads that must arise at the moment of birth:

(D 180a6; Q 92a6) *mñal gyī skye ba 'i skad cig la gzugs sum cu 'byun bar 'gyur ro// dños po bcu ldan dan/ lus bcu ldan dan/ gañ gi ishe bud med na (D ni) bud med kyi dbaṅ po bcu ldan dan/ yañ na skyes par (D skye bar) 'gyur na de 'i ishe skyes pa 'i dbaṅ po bcu ldan dan/ ma niñ rnam s kyi ni gzugs ñi šu 'byun bar 'gyur te/ 'di lta ste/ dños po bcu ldan dan/ lus bcu ldan no//*

Thirty [categories of] form arise at the moment of birth in a womb (*gabbha*): the base-decad (*vatthu-dasaka*), the body-decad (*kāya-dasaka*), plus, for a female, the femininity-faculty-decad (*tithindriya-dasaka*), or, for a male, the masculinity-faculty-decad (*purisindriya-dasaka*). For asexuals (*napunsaka*),

¹ Here the Chinese has *phassa* against the *ojā* (*gzi brgyid*) of the Tibetan [PA]. The latter is correct.

twenty [categories of] form arise [at the moment of birth]: the base-decad and the body-decad.

(*Path* 243,16) How, through birth? It should be known by way of a male or female entering a womb. In the first moment thirty material qualities are produced. They are the basis-decad, body-decad, femininity-decad, masculinity-decad. In the case of a person who is neither a male nor a female, twenty material qualities are produced. They are the basis-decad and the body-decad.

The same theory is given in the *Vibhaṅga-aṭṭhakathā* (Vibh-a p. 22) and the *Abhidhammattha-saṅgaha* (Mm 37,15; Nārada 311,10, *gabbha-seyyaka-satiānam pana kāya-bhāva-vatthu-dasaka-saṅkhātāni tīni dasakāni pāubhavanī, tatthā pi bhāva-dasakam kadāci na labbhati*).

Vatthu-rūpa, along with its opposite *avatthu-rūpa*, is used in another sense in the Pāli Abhidhamma, as one of the classifications of form. The *Abhidhammattha-saṅgaha* (Mm 34,20; Nārada 296,19) defines the term in this sense as follows:

Pasāda-hadaya-saṅkhātam chabbidham pi vatthu-rūpan-nāma, itaraṃ avatthu-rūpan-nāma.

Form as “base” [for consciousness] is six-fold, consisting of what is called *pasāda* [the five sense bases] and the heart-base. The rest are “form as non-base”.

This classification derives from the list of synonyms given for the five sense bases in the *Dhammasaṅgani* (§§ 597 foll.): *loka, dvāra ... khetta, vatthu*, etc. The *Visuddhimagga* (382 § 78; Mm 21,15) notes that the five sense bases are both “base” and “door” (*pasāda-rūpaṃ vatthuñ c' eva*

dvārañ ca), while the heart-base, which is not given in the *Dhammasaṅgani*, is a “base” but not a “door” (*yaṃ paṇ’ettha hadaya-rūpaṃ nāma taṃ vatthu na dvāraṃ*).

After defining the 24 types of derived form accepted by the Mahāvihāravāsins, Buddhaghosa, in his *Visuddhimagga* (381 § 71; Mm 19,10), goes on to say:

Imāni tāva pāḷiyam āgatarūpān’ eva. Aññakathāyaṃ pana bala-rūpaṃ sambhava-rūpaṃ jāti-rūpaṃ roga-rūpaṃ ti ekaccānaṃ matena middha-rūpaṃ ti evaṃ aññāni pi rūpāni āharitvā “addhā muni’ si sambuddho n’ atthi nīvaraṇā tavā” ti ādīni vatvā middha-rūpaṃ tāva natthi yevā ti paṭikkhitam. Itaresu roga-rūpaṃ jaratā-aniccatā-gahaṇena gahitam eva, jāti-rūpaṃ upacaya-santati-gahaṇena, sambhava-rūpaṃ āpodhātuggahaṇena, bala-rūpaṃ vāyodhātuggahaṇena gahitam eva. Tasmā tesu ekam pi visuṃ n’ atthi ti sannīṭhānaṃ gatam. Iti idam catuvisati-vidham upādāya-rūpaṃ pubbe vuttam catubbidha-bhūtarūpañ ca ti aññavīsati-vidham rūpaṃ hoti aññam-anadhikam.

Only this many [types of] form are given in the Pāli [i.e. in the *Tiṭṭhaka*].¹ In the *Aññakathā*, however, other [types of] form are brought in: *bala-rūpa*, *sambhava-rūpa*, *jāti-rūpa*, *roga-rūpa*, and, in the opinion of some, *middha-rūpa*. [Because the Abhidhamma states that form is not to be abandoned, *apahātabba*, while torpor, as one of the hindrances, *nīvaraṇa*, is to be abandoned, as the verse says:]

“Surely you are a sage, fully enlightened:

¹ As noted above, the sole canonical source, the *Dhammasaṅgani*, lists only 23.

there are no hindrances in you”,¹

middha-rūpa, physical torpor, is rejected as simply non-existent. As for the others, *roga-rūpa* is included in the categories of decay and impermanence; *jāti-rūpa*, “birth of form” belongs to the categories of growth and continuity; *sambhava-rūpa* is included under the water-element; and *bala-rūpa* is included under the air-element. Therefore it is definitely understood that not one of these exists independently. Thus these 24 types of derived form and the previously mentioned fourfold elemental form make 28 types of form, no more and no less.

From this passage several important conclusions may be drawn. Firstly, the *jāti-rūpa* or *rūpassa jāti*² of the *Vimuttimaggā* list was not accepted by the Mahāvihāravāsins as a separate or distinct entity, although, since it was mentioned in an unnamed *Aññakathā* it was acceptable as a concept for the growth and continuity of form. (A similar interpretation is given in the *Abhidhammattha-saṅgaha*, Mm 34,10, Nārada 286,7, *jāti-rūpaṃ eva paṇ’ettha upacaya-santati-nāmena pavuccatī ti*.) Secondly, *middha-rūpa*, “physical torpor” — described significantly not as from the *Aññakathā* but as according to “the opinion of some” — was rejected outright.

From this we see that the *Vimuttimaggā* disagrees with the Mahāvihāravāsin tradition on one of the most fundamental categories of the Abhidhamma, the definition of form, by including two extra items: the conventionally acceptable *rūpassa jāti* and the totally unacceptable *middha-rūpa*. The *Vimuttimaggā* thereby gives a total of 26 varieties of

¹ Citation from *Sutta-nipāta* v. 54|cd.

² I take these two terms to be equivalent. For the *gzugs kyi skye ba* of the Sav I have given *rūpassa jāti* on the analogy of the *rūpassa upaccaya*, etc., of the Pāli.

derived form. The *Visuddhimagga*, however, states emphatically that only 24 varieties are found in the Pāli, and that, added to the four great elements, these make a total of 28 constituents of the form aggregate, *no more and no less*, against the *Vimuttimaggā* total of 30.

Although the *Visuddhimagga* attributes the “heresy” of *miḍḍharūpa* to the opinion of an unspecified “some” (*ekaccānaṃ matena*), the *Ṭīkā* tells us that this refers to the Abhayagirivāsins: *ekaccānaṃ ti abhayagiri-vāsīnaṃ*.¹ Thus the inclusion of *miḍḍha-rūpa* in both the Chinese version and the Tibetan extracts of the *Vimuttimaggā* is convincing evidence that the *Vimuttimaggā* contains classifications that were categorically rejected by the Mahāvihāra but accepted by the Abhayagiri school.

Following the list of the 30 constituents of the form-aggregate, the *Vimuttimaggā* classifies them according to the various categories of the Abhidhamma. The classifications of the three “extra” (from the standpoint of the *Dhammasaṅgāṇī*) items of the *Vimuttimaggā* list that can be extracted from Daśabalaśrīmitra’s abridged citation are given in Table 2.

The classification of *vattu-rūpa* agrees with that given for *hadaya-vattu* in the *Visuddhimagga* and other Mahāvihāravāsīn texts. Thus the *Vimuttimaggā* and the Mahāvihāravāsīns agree on these points. Since the latter reject both *miḍḍha* and *rūpassa jāṭī*, they do not include them in their scheme of classification.

The classification into *upādiṇṇa*, etc., reads as follows:

¹ *Paramatthamañjūsāya nāma Visuddhimagga-saṃvannanāya Mahāṭīkā-sammāṭāya tatiyo bhāgo*, Mahāmakūṭarājavidyālaya, Bangkok, 2508 [1965], p. 48.2.

(D 181a2; Q 93a7) *yaṅ gzuḡs ihaṃs cad ni rnam pa gsum ste 'di ltaṛ/ zin pa 'i gzuḡs daṅ/ ma zin pa 'i gzuḡs daṅ/ rnam par phye ba 'i gzuḡs so//*

1) *de la las las skyes pas zin pa 'i gzuḡs la dgu ste 'di ltaṛ/ dbaṅ po 'i gzuḡs brgyad daṅ/ dños po 'i no bo 'o//*

2) *las las ma skyes pa 'i don gyis ma zin pa 'i gzuḡs la* (Q om. *la*) *dgu ni 'di ltaṛ/ sgra daṅ/ lus kyi rnam par* (Q om. *rnam par*) *rig byed daṅ/ ṅag gi rnam par rig byed* (Q *rnam rig* only) *daṅ/ gzuḡs kyi yaṅ ba ṅid daṅ/ gzuḡs kyi 'jam pa ṅid daṅ/ las su ruṅ ba daṅ/ rga ba daṅ/ mi rtag pa daṅ/ ṅñid do//*

3) *ḡñi ga yin pa 'i don gyis rnam par phye ba 'i gzuḡs la bcu ḡñis ni 'di ltaṛ/ lhag ma gzuḡs bcu ḡñis so//*

Furthermore, all form (*sabbaṅ rūpaṅ*) is of three types: *upādiṇṇa-rūpa*, *anupādiṇṇa-rūpa*,¹ and **vibhatta-rūpa*.²

1) Herein, *upādiṇṇa-rūpa*, which arises from *kamma* (*kamma-ja*), is of 9 [types]: the 8 [types of] form which are faculties

¹ *Zin pa-ma zin pa* are the regular Tibetan equivalents of the technical terms *upāta-anupāta* of the Vaibhāṣikas. As noted by Karunadasa (1967, pp. 103 foll.), *upāta-anupāta* as employed in the *Abhidharmakośa* have a different meaning from the *upādiṇṇa-anupādiṇṇa* of the Theravādin Abhidhamma. However, since the classifications and definitions as *kammaja*, etc., agree with those of the Pāli, and since *zin pa*, “grasped, appropriated”, etc., means the same as *upādiṇṇa*, there can be no doubt that these are the correct equivalents in this context.

² *Rnam par phye ba* is the usual Tibetan equivalent of *vibhajya*; Hirakawa et al. (p. 157) also give *vibhakta*, *vipañcita*, and *vijukta*; Yamaguchi (p. 129) gives *vikalpita*, *vibhāga*; Mvy 6838 *vicita*. The PTSD (p. 629) has “divided, distributed, parted, partitioned, having divisions ...” for *vibhatta*; since it does not seem to be a technical term in Pāli, this is a tentative equivalent.

(*indriya-rūpa*: eye, ear, nose, tongue, body, femininity, masculinity, life) plus *vaithu-rūpa*.

2) In the sense of not arising from kamma (*akamma-ja-atīhena*), *anupādiṇṇa-rūpa* is of 9 [types]: sound (*saddā*), bodily expression (*kāya-viññatti*), vocal expression (*vacī-viññatti*), lightness of form (*rūpassa lahūtā*), plasticity of form (*rūpassa mudūtā*), wieldiness (*kammaññatā*), decay (*jarā*), impermanence, (*aniccatā*), and torpor (*middha*).

3) In the sense of being both (*ubhayaṭṭhena*), **vibhatta-rūpa* is of 12 types, that is, the remaining 12 [types of] form.

The Chinese version as given in the *Path* (244,28), while revealing some difficulties in translation, agrees with the Sav:

All material qualities can be divided into three kinds. They are non-material qualities and arrested material qualities.¹

1) Here nine material qualities are feeling [*upādiṇṇa*, PA]. They are the eight faculties and the material basis, because they are produced owing to kamma-result.

2) Nine material qualities are² the sense-object of sound, body-intimation, speech-intimation, buoyancy of matter, impressibility of matter, workability of matter, decay of matter, impermanency

¹ The *Path* garbles the text. "They are *upādiṇṇa*, *anupādiṇṇa*, and 'perishable' [PA]. The last, "perishable" presumably translates a form in *BHĀJ* against the *BHĀJ* of the Tibetan.

² "Nine material qualities are *anupādiṇṇa*:" ... [PA]. The *Path* omits *anupādiṇṇa*.

of matter and torpidity. These are not produced through kamma-result.

3) The other twelve material qualities are breakable ones because they have two kinds of significance (?).¹

The classification into *upādiṇṇa-anupādiṇṇa* is given only as a *duka-mātikā* in the *Dhammasaṅgaṇi* (§§ 585, 653–54); however, as the group from *rūpāyatana* to *kabaḷīnikāra āhāra* is given under both categories, this implies the third **vibhatta* category of the *Vimuttimagga*. The itemisation of the *Vimuttimagga* and the *Dhammasaṅgaṇi* is otherwise identical, except, of course, that the former adds *vatthu-rūpa*, *rūpassa jāti*, and *middha*.

The passage on *sabhāva-rūpa*, etc., reads as follows:

(D 181a7; Q 93b6) *yañ gzuḡs thams cad la rnam pa lha² ni 'di ltar rañ bzin gyi gzuḡs dan/ rnam par 'gyur ba 'i gzuḡs dan/ mshan ñid kyī (Q om. kyī) gzuḡs dan/ yoñs su chad pa 'i gzuḡs so//*

1) *de la yoñs su rdzogs pa 'i don gyis rañ bzin gyi gzuḡs la dbye ba bcu dgu (D dgu bcu [!]) ste/ 'di ltar/ gañ rags pa 'i gzuḡs su gsuñs ba 'i bcu gñis po de dan/ bud med kyī dbaṅ po dan/ skyes pa 'i dbaṅ po dan/ srog gi dbaṅ po dan/ chu 'i kham s dan/ kham gyi zas dan/ dhos po 'i no bo dan/ gñid (Q ñid) do//*

¹ The uncertainty is expressed by the translators of the *Path*. The Chinese agrees with the Tibetan: "in the sense of being both" (*ubhayaṭṭhena*) [PA]. That is, the items of the last category are both *upādiṇṇa* and *anupādiṇṇa*.

² The text states "five (*lha*)", but lists only four, as do the *Path* and the *Visuddhimagga*; thus "five" must be an error.

- 2) *rañ bzin gyi gzugs rnam par 'gyur ba 'i don gyis rnam par 'gyur ba 'i gzugs la bdun ni 'di ltar/ lus kyi rnam par rig byed dan/ nag gi rnam par rig byed dan/ gzugs kyi yan ba ñid dan/ gzugs kyi 'jam pa ñid dan/ las su ruñ ba ñid dan/ gzugs kyi 'phel ba dan/ gzugs kyi rgyud do//*
- 3) *'dus byas kyi don gyis (Q adds na) mtshan ñid kyi gzugs la gsum ni 'di ltar/ gzugs kyi skye ba dan/ gzugs kyi rga ba dan/ gzugs kyi mi rtag pa 'o//*
- 4) *tshogs pa yoñs su chad pa 'i don gyis yoñs su chad pa 'i gzugs geig ni 'di ltar/ nam mkha 'i khams so// 'dir rañ bzin gyi gzugs gañ yin pa de (D de 'i) yoñs su chad pa yin gyi lhag ma ni yoñs su ma chad pa 'o//*

Furthermore, all form (*sabbaṃ rūpaṃ*) is of four¹ types: intrinsic form (*sabhāva-rūpa*), transforming form (*vikāra-rūpa*), characterising form (*lakṣhaṇa-rūpa*), and delimiting form (*pariccheda-rūpa*).

- 1) Herein, in the sense of being absolute (*parinipphannaññena*),² there are 19 categories (*bheda*) of intrinsic form: the 12 that have been taught as coarse form (*oḷārika-rūpa*), the femininity-faculty, the masculinity-faculty, the life-faculty, the water-element (*āpo-dhātu*), nutriment (*kabañjākāra-āhāra*), *vaṭṭhu-rūpa*, and torpor (*middha*).

¹ See preceding note.

² *Yoñs su rāzogs pa = pariniṣpanna, paripūrṇa*, etc., Hirakawa et al. p. 262. While *nipphanna* is the preferred term in the Pāli Abhidhamma, *parinipphanna* is also used, for example in the *Aṭṭhasālinī*: cf. Karunadasa 1967, p. 42.

- 2) In the sense of transforming intrinsic form (*sabhāva-rūpa-vipariṇamanaññena*),¹ transforming form is of 7 [types]: bodily expression, vocal expression, lightness of form, plasticity of form, wieldiness, growth of form, and continuity of form.
- 3) In the sense of being conditioned (*saṅkhataññena*), characterising form is of three [types]: birth of form, decay of form, and impermanence of form.
- 4) In the sense of delimiting an aggregation (*kalāpa-paricchedanaññena*),² there is one delimiting form: the space-element (*ākāsa-dhātu*). Herein, essential form is delimited (*paricchinna*); the remainder (*sesa*) are not delimited (*aparicchinna*).

(*Path* 245.8) Again, all material qualities are of four kinds, by way of intrinsic nature of matter [*sabhāva-rūpa*, PA], material form, material characteristics [*lakṣhaṇa-rūpa*, PA], and delimitation of matter [*pariccheda-rūpa*, PA].³

- 1) Here 19 material qualities are intrinsic [*sabhāva*, PA]. They are the 12 gross material qualities, femininity, masculinity, life-

¹ This is tentative: *rnam par 'gyur ba = vipariṇāma, vikāra*, Hirakawa et al. pp. 155–56; *vikṛti*, Yamaguchi p. 128.

² *Tshogs (pa) = kalāpa, saṅghāta, samudāya, samūha, sāmagrī*, etc., Hirakawa et al. p. 225: the reference is to the Abhidhammic atom, *rūpa-kalāpa*, for which see Karunadasa 1967, Ch. VIII, and especially p. 152, “Every *rūpa-kalāpa* is delimited (*paricchindate*) by the enviroing *ākāsa*, space”.

³ The first term, *sabhāva-rūpa*, is clear. The second might be equivalent to (*lakṣhaṇa-rūpa*) rather than the “material characteristics” of the *Path*, and the fourth “delimiting form” (*pariccheda-rūpa*) rather than “delimitation of matter” [PA].

principle, element of water, solid food, material basis, and material quality of eye,¹ because they limit (?).²

2) Seven material qualities are material form. They are body-intimation, speech-intimation, buoyancy of matter, impressibility of matter, workability of matter, integration of matter, continuity of matter, and intrinsic nature of matter, because they change.³

3) Three material qualities are material characteristics [*pariccheda-rūpa*, PA]. They are birth of matter, decay of matter, and impermanency of matter, because they are conditioned.

4) One material quality is delimitation of matter [*pariccheda-rūpa*, PA]. It is space-element, because it defines the groups.⁴ Here, through intrinsic nature one discriminates, not through the others.⁵

¹ "Material quality of eye" in fact represents *middha*, as in the Tibetan. One of the Chinese terms for *middha* is the character for "eye": see Akira Hirakawa et al., *Index to the Abhidharmakosābhāṣya* (*Peking Edition*), Part One, Sanskrit-Tibetan-Chinese, Tokyo, 1973, p. 295 [PA].

² The uncertainty is expressed by the translators of the *Path*. The character rendered as "limit (?)" also means "definite", "ultimate" (*atyanta, accanta*): see William Edward Soothill and Lewis Hodous, *A Dictionary of Chinese Buddhist Terms*, [London, 1937] Delhi, 1987, 361a [PA]. The definition is probably equal to the Tibetan, "in the sense of being absolute".

³ The Chinese lists only the seven items of the Tibetan. "Intrinsic nature of matter" (= *sabhāva-rūpa*) belongs to the concluding statement, which agrees roughly with the Tibetan [PA].

⁴ "Because it defines the groups" = "in the sense of delimiting an aggregation" of the Tibetan; the Pāli here would also be *kalāpa-paricchedanattihena* [PA].

⁵ The Chinese of this sentence again corresponds exactly to the Tibetan: "Herein, essential form is delimited (*paricchinna*); the remainder (*sesa*) are not delimited (*aparicchinna*)" [PA].

A similar fourfold classification is given in the *Visuddhimagga* (382 § 77; Mm 21,12):

Nippanna-rūpaṃ paṇ'etiha rūpa-rūpaṃ nāma ākāsa-dhātu pariccheda-rūpaṃ nāma kāyaviññāti ādi kammaññātā-pariyantaṃ vikāra-rūpaṃ nāma jāti-jarā-bhaṅgaṃ lakkhana-rūpaṃ nāmā ti evaṃ rūparūpādi-catukka-vasena catubbidham.

Absolute form [18 items: 4 elements, 13 starting with the eye, plus nutriment] is "form as form"; the space-element is "delimiting form"; from bodily expression to wieldiness are "transforming form"; birth, decay, and destruction are "characterising form". Thus, form is fourfold through the four groups starting with "form as form".

The *rūpa-rūpa* of Buddhaghosa is equivalent to the *sabhāva-rūpa* of the *Vimuttimagga* and consists of the same items, except that the latter adds *middha*. Buddhaghosa equates *rūpa-rūpa* with *nippanna-rūpa*, which he defines as *sabhāveva pariggahetabbo*, "to be comprehended in its intrinsic nature". At a later date, Anuruddha, in his *Abhidhammatthasaṅgaha* (Mm 34,5; Nārada 285,22), gives *sabhāva-rūpa* as the preferred name for this category, thus agreeing with the *Vimuttimagga*.¹

D. A note on the heart-basis in the *Vijñaptimātratāsiddhi*

To return to the theory of the heart basis, we may note that it was also known to other North Indian sources, for example the *Abhidharmakośa-vyākhyā* of Yaśomitra and the *Vijñaptimātratāsiddhi* of Hsüan-tsang.² In

¹ cf. Karunadasa 1967, pp. 42 foll. for a thorough study of the concept of *nippanna-rūpa* and its implications.

² For a discussion of Yaśomitra's reference, see Skilling 1993B.

the latter, the theory of the heart-basis, without being named as such, is attributed to the Sthaviras:

Les Sthaviras disent qu'il y a dans la poitrine un *rūpa*, un *rūpadravva*, analogue a l'oeil, etc., qui sert d'*indriya* au *manovijñāna*.¹

The Sthaviras say that there is within the bosom of every sentient being a *rūpa*, a *rūpadravva*, something substantial, analogous to the eye, etc., which serves as the *indriya* of *manovijñāna*.²

If the use of the Sanskrit technical term *indriya* here is correct, it does not agree with either the *Vimuttimaggā* or the Mahāvihāra tradition. For the former we have the following passage:

(D 181a1; Q 93a5) *gātan yañ gzugs la rnam pa gñis ni 'di ltar/ dbaṅ po 'i gzugs dan/ dbaṅ po min pa 'i gzugs so// de la bdag po 'i don gyis (Q gyi) dbaṅ po 'i gzugs la brgyad ni 'di ltar/ mig dan/ rna ba dan/ sna dan/ lce dan/ lus dan/ bud med kyi dbaṅ po dan/ skyes pa 'i dbaṅ po dan/ srog gi dbaṅ po 'o// dbaṅ po dan mi ldan pa 'i don gyis dbaṅ po min pa 'i gzugs la ñi šu ñer gñis te 'di ltar// gzugs lhag ma rnams so//*

Furthermore, there are two types of form: form as faculty (*indriya-rūpa*) and form as non-faculty (*anindriya-rūpa*).

¹ Louis de La Vallée Poussin (tr.), *Vijñaptimātratāsiddhi, la Siddhi de Huan-tsang*, Vol. I, Paris, 1928, p. 281.

² Wei Tat (tr.), *Ch'eng Wei-Shih Lun, The Doctrine of Mere-Consciousness*, Hong Kong, 1976, p. 327. Although Wei Tat's version is purportedly rendered directly from the Chinese, in the present case it seems to be dependent on La Vallée Poussin, particularly for the Sanskrit terms.

Herein, in the sense of exercising sovereignty (*adhipatiyathena*), there are 8 [types of] form as faculty: the eye, ear, nose, tongue, and body, the femininity-faculty, masculinity-faculty, and life-faculty. In the sense of not possessing faculties¹ there are 22 [types of] form that are non-faculty, that is, the remaining [types of] form.

(*Paṭh* 244,21) And again, there are two kinds. They are faculty and non-faculty.² Here 8 material qualities are faculty. They are the five internals (possibly, five sentient organs),³ the faculty of femininity, of masculinity, and life; they are so because of dependence. The other 22 are non-faculty, because they are non-dependent.

For the Mahāvihāra, this distinction goes back to the *Dhammasaṅgāṇi* (§§ 661–62):

Katamaṃ taṃ rūpaṃ indriyaṃ ? Cakkhu-indriyaṃ sotindriyaṃ ghānindriyaṃ jivhindriyaṃ kāyindriyaṃ itthindriyaṃ purisindriyaṃ jvitindriyaṃ, idaṃ taṃ rūpaṃ indriyaṃ.

Katamaṃ taṃ rūpaṃ na indriyaṃ ? Rupāyatanaṃ ... pe ... kabaṅkāro āhāro, idaṃ taṃ rūpaṃ na indriyaṃ.

¹ *Dbaṅ po dan mi ldan pa 'i don gyis*: it is possible that *dbaṅ po* = *indriya* (in both D and Q) is a mistake for *bdag po* = *adhipati*, as in the definition of *indriya-rūpa*.

² As noted by the translators of the *Paṭh* (p. 244, note 1), the Chinese in fact has "Lit. Life-faculty and non-life-faculty" [*jvitindriya, ajvitindriya, PA*] throughout. It is clear that the term equals the *indriya* of the Tibetan.

³ This is the translators' parenthesis. As seen from the Tibetan, the reference is to the five "internal" faculties: the eye, ear, nose, tongue, and body.

As mentioned above, however, the *Dhammasaṅgani* does not include *hadaya-vatthu* in its list of form. That it is not *indriya-rūpa* is made clear by the *Visuddhimagga* (381 § 73; Mm 20,14):

*Pasādarūpaṃ [= cakkhādi pañcavidhaṃ rūpaṃ] eva
iṭṭhīndriyādītatayena saddhīṃ adhipatīyaṭṭhena indriyaṃ, sesaṃ
tato viparītāṭṭā anindriyaṃ.*

Just the form of the [5] sense-organs together with the three starting with the femininity-faculty are faculty, in the sense of exercising sovereignty; the remaining [22 faculties] are non-faculty for the opposite reason [that is, because they do not exercise sovereignty].

I may note here that the *adhipatīyaṭṭhena* of the *Visuddhimagga* is directly equivalent to the *bḍag po i don gyis* of the Sav. Again, we find the same classification in the *Abhidhammattha-sāṅgaha* (Mm 35,2; Nārada 296,23):

*Pasāda-bhāva-jīvita-saṅkhātāṃ aṭṭhavidhaṃ pi indriyarūpaṃ,
itaram anindriyarūpaṃ.*

Form as faculty is eightfold: that known as the [5] sense-organs, the [2] sex-faculties, and the life-faculty. The rest are form as non-faculty.

Thus it is clear that for both the *Vimuttimagga* and the Mahāvihāra *vatthu-rūpa* or *hadaya-vatthu* was *anindriya-rūpa*. An interesting explanation for this is put forward by Y. Karunadasa, who writes that unlike the sense-organs, the *hadaya-vatthu* "is not an *indriya*. Because of this reason, although *mano* and *mano-viññāna* have *hadaya-vatthu* as their basis, they are not controlled by it in the sense that the relative

strength or weakness of the latter does not influence the former. Since mental culture is a central theme in Buddhism, the scholiasts seem to have taken the view that it is not proper to conceive *mano* and *mano-viññāna* as controlled by the *hadaya-vatthu*, although the latter is recognised as the physical basis of the former".¹

E. Conclusions

There is on-going debate about the school affiliation of the *Vimuttimagga*. While it is accepted that the text belongs to the broader Theravādin tradition, there is disagreement as to whether or not it can be associated with the Abhayagirivāsins.² My own conclusion — based primarily on the sections of the *Vimuttimagga* discussed in this article — is that it may indeed be associated with that school. My evidence and arguments are as follows:

- 1) The *Vimuttimagga* clearly belongs to the Theravādin tradition, and therefore should belong to either the Mahāvihāra, the Abhayagiri, or the Jetavanīya school.
- 2) The *Vimuttimagga* cannot have been transmitted by the post-Buddhaghosa Mahāvihāra, since it disagrees with the texts of that school on a number of points, such as the important definition of one of the four elements and the inclusion of *rūpassa jāti* and *middha* as an elemental form.³ The passages translated above or given in Table 2 on the classification of *rūpassa jāti* and *middha-rūpa* show that they are fully

¹ Karunadasa 1967, p. 65.

² See Norman 1983, p. 29 and accompanying note, and pp. 159–60. The most recent contribution to the debate is Norman 1991, pp. 41–50, which gives an extensive bibliography.

³ For other points on which the *Vimuttimagga* disagrees with the Mahāvihāra, see P. V. Bapat, *Vimuktīmārga Dhūtaḡa-nirdeśa*, Bombay, 1964, pp. xviii–xix.

integrated into the system of the *Vimuttimaggā*. Furthermore, while the Mahāvihāra rejected *middharūpa* categorically, in the *Vimuttimaggā* it is classified as a *sabhāva-rūpa*, the most substantial type of derived form, thus placing it ontologically on a par with the four elements, the five sense-bases, and the five sense-objects.

3) None of this information is new, since it has long been available in the Chinese *Vimuttimaggā* itself and in English translation in the *Path*. However, the fact that the material on *middha-rūpa* is confirmed perfectly by a North Indian text in Tibetan translation has not been previously noted. The inclusion and description of *middha-rūpa* as a type of derived form in the *Vimuttimaggā* is thus solidly based on two versions separated by thousands of kilometres and about six centuries.

4) These are not, as suggested by some scholars, minor points.¹ According to the Theravādin Abhidhamma tradition, there are four ultimates (*paramattha*): mind (*citta*), mental states (*cetasika*), form (*rūpa*), and nibbāna.² When the *Vimuttimaggā* disagrees with the Mahāvihāra tradition on the definitions of both constituents of one of these ultimates, form — of the four basic elements and of derived form — this is a major point of contention. The fact that Buddhaghosa takes pains to discuss *rūpassa jāti* and *middha-rūpa* in his *Visuddhimaggā*, and that he is so emphatic about the numbers of types of derived form, itself shows that this was a controversial point.

¹ See for example Ñānamoli, Introduction p. xxviii: "That [the *Vimuttimaggā*] contains some minor points accepted by the Abhayagiri Monastery does not necessarily imply that it had any special connexion with that centre ... the disputed points are not schismatical". Ñānamoli's statement is cited and approved at *Path* xxxvii; see also *Path* xxxii–xxxiii.

² *Abhidhammatthasāṅgaha*, Mm 1,6, Nārada 6,10.

5) Buddhaghosa attributes the theory of *middha-rūpa* to an anonymous "some"; the *Ṭīkā* specifies that this refers to the adherents of the Abhayagiri tradition, which eliminates the Jetavanīyas. This statement may, of course, be wrong, since no commentator is infallible. However, since the author of the *Ṭīkā* was a learned Theravādin monk writing in Ceylon, where we know that the different schools lived in close proximity, I see no basis for reasonable doubt, and assume that he is correct in attributing the theory of *middha-rūpa* to the Abhayagiri.¹

6) It is sometimes suggested that the *Vimuttimaggā* cannot belong to the Abhayagiri because it shows no sign of Mahāyāna influence. This is beside the point: as an Abhidhammic meditation manual, there is no reason that it should. Monks of the Abhayagiri tradition who practised the Mahāyāna would have been defined as Abhayagirivāsin by their Vinaya lineage; whether or not they composed their own "Mahāyānist" texts cannot be said, but they would certainly not have tampered with the ancient literature of the school. At any rate, Bechert (1992) has shown that "Mahāyānist" ideas are present in such Mahāvihāra texts as the *Buddhavamsa*, *Cariyāpiṭaka*, and *Buddhāpadāna*: the absence or presence of such ideas tells us nothing about school-affiliation within the greater Theravādin lineage.

¹ The authors of the *Ṭīkā*s certainly had access to Vaibhāṣika texts — which are paraphrased in Pāli in some of their works (for example, Vaibhāṣika explanations of the number and order of the 22 faculties [*indriya*] given in the *Visuddhimaggā-ṭīkā*, *Vibhaṅga-anuṭṭikā*, and *Abhidhammattha-vibhāvinī*) — and I see no reason to doubt that they had direct access to Abhayagiri works. Reference to philosophical opponents as "some" or "others" would rarely if ever suggest that a writer did not know the name or school of his opponents: rather it was a matter of protocol, widely followed in Sanskrit Buddhist texts of all periods. In both the Pāli and Sanskrit tradition, it was left to the commentators to name the opponents if they so chose.

I therefore conclude that the *Vimuttimaggā*, which asserts the existence of a type of intrinsic form, *sabhāva-rūpa*, called *middha*, was a manual transmitted by the Abhayagiri school within the greater Theravādin tradition.¹ I use the word “transmitted” advisedly: there is no evidence to date that Upatissa was a native of Ceylon or that he composed his only surviving work at the Abhayagiri Vihāra. The *Vimuttimaggā* may have been composed elsewhere in Ceylon, in India, or perhaps even South-east Asia.

Who transmitted the *Vimuttimaggā* in India? This is an open question. I can only note that Daśabalaśrimitra attributes his citations to the Sthaviras — whether those of Ceylon or of India cannot be said.² According to *L’Inde classique* (§ 2147), the *Vimuttimaggā* was translated from a manuscript brought to China in about 502 by another monk of Funan. Unfortunately, no source is given. If the information can be shown to be reliable, this would be important evidence for the presence of non-Mahāvihāra Theravāda in South-east Asia at an early date.

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Abbreviations and Bibliography

References to Pāli texts are to the editions of the Pali Text Society, with standard abbreviations, unless otherwise noted.

- D Derge (sDe dge) edition of the Tibetan *Tanjur* (“Karmapa reprint”, copy courtesy Prof. H. Bechert, Göttingen)

¹ For references to other works considered by some to be affiliated with the Abhayagiri see Norman 1983 and 1991 and Skilling 1993A.

² For the question of the Sthavira presence in India, see Skilling 1987 and 1993B.

- KBC Lewis L. Lancaster in collaboration with Sung-bae Park, *The Korean Buddhist Canon: A Descriptive Catalogue*, Berkeley, 1979
- Mm Thai script edition(s) of Mahāmakutaṛājavidyālaya, Bangkok
- Mvy R. Sakaki (ed.), *Mahāvvyūtpatti*, Kyōto, 1926 [repr. Suzuki Research Foundation, Tōkyō, n. d.]
- [PA] Comments on the Chinese text by Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn (see note 1 on p. 4)
- Path N.R.M. Ebara, Soma Thera, and Kheminda Thera, *The Path of Freedom (Vimuttimaggā)*, [Colombo, 1961] Kandy, 1977
- Q Peking (Qianlong) edition of the Tibetan *Tanjur* (“Otani reprint”)
- Sav ‘*Dus byas dan ’dus ma byas nam par nes pa*. D 3897, Vol. 108, *dbu ma, ha*; Q 5865, Vol. 146, *no mishar bstan bcos, ṅo*.
- T Taishō edition of the Chinese Tripiṭaka
- Abhidhammattha-saṅgaha*: Thai script edition, Mahāmakuta-rājavidyālaya, Bangkok, 2516 [1973]; Nārada Mahā Thera (ed., tr.), *A Manual of Abhidhamma, being Abhidhammattha Sangaha of Bhadanta Anuruddhācariya*, 5th. ed., Kuala Lumpur, 1987
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- Skilling, Peter, 1993A: "A Citation from the **Buddhavaṃsa* of the Abhayagiri School", *JPTS* XVIII, pp. 165–75
- Skilling, Peter, 1993B: "Theravādin Literature in Tibetan Translation", *JPTS* XIX, pp. 69–201
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Table 1: The 26 types of derived form¹

	<i>Saṃskṛtāsaṃskṛta-viniścaya</i> (D 179a5; Q 90b8)	<i>The Path of Freedom</i> (238,12)
*1.	<i>mig</i> <i>cakkhu</i> eye	The sense organs of 1. eye
*2.	<i>rna ba</i> <i>sota</i> ear	2. ear
*3.	<i>sna</i> <i>ghāna</i> nose	3. nose
*4.	<i>lee</i> <i>jivhā</i> tongue	4. tongue
*5.	<i>lis</i> <i>kāya</i> body	5. body
*6.	<i>gzugs</i> <i>rūpa</i> [visible] form	6. matter as sense-object
*7.	<i>sgra</i> <i>sadda</i> sound	7. sound as sense-object

¹ An asterisk indicates that an item is given in the *Dhammasaṅgani* list (§ 596).

- *8. *dri*
gandha
odour
8. odour as sense-object
- *9. *ro*
rasa
taste
9. taste as sense-object
-
- (*reg pa*)
(*phassa*)
(contact)
- *10. *bud med kyi dbaṅ po*
itihindriya
femininity-faculty
10. femininity
- *11. *skyes pa 'i dbaṅ po*
purisindriya
masculinity-faculty
11. masculinity
- *12. *srog gi dbaṅ po*
jvitiindriya
life-faculty
12. life-principle
- *13. *lus kyi rig byed*
kāyaviññatti
bodily expression
13. body-intimation
- *14. *riag gi rig byed*
vaciṅṅhatti
vocal expression
14. speech-intimation
- *15. *nam mkha 'i kham*
ākāsadhātu
space element
15. element of space

- *16. *gzugs kyi yaṅ ba ṅid²*
rūpassa lahutā
lightness of form
16. buoyancy of matter
- *17. *gzugs kyi 'jam pa ṅid*
rūpassa mudutā
plasticity of form
17. impressibility of matter
- *18. *gzugs kyi las su ruṅ ba ṅid*
rūpassa kammaññatā
wieldiness of form
18. adaptability of matter
- *19. *gzugs kyi 'phel ba³*
rūpassa upacaya
growth of form
19. integration of matter
- *20. *gzugs kyi rgyud*
rūpassa santati
continuity of form
20. continuity of matter
21. *gzugs kyi skye ba⁴*
rūpassa jāiti
birth of form
21. arising of matter⁵

² D *span* for *yaṅ*.

³ Also at Q 91b1, 94a2. *'Phel ba*, increase, development, growth, etc., is given as the equivalent of Sanskrit *upacaya* at Mvy 7437, and in Yamaguchi, p. 145. Other equivalents include *virūḍhi*, *vivardhana*, *vṛddhi*, *caya*, etc. The *Visuddhimagga* (380 § 67, Mm III 18,10) gives *vaḍḍhi* as a synonym of *upacaya* "according to the Aṭṭhakathā". Both Nāṇamoli (p. 489) and Karunadasa (1967, pp. 78, etc.) translate *upacaya* as "growth".

⁴ Also at Q 91b1, 94a2.

⁵ "Arising of matter" is omitted here in the English translation (*Paṭh*, 238,17) but found in the Chinese of the Taishō edition (445c22). It is given at *Paṭh* 240,25, where it is defined as "the arising of material objects is the coming to birth of matter", as well as at 241,26 ("birth of matter"), 242,5,28 ("birth"), 245,17 ("birth of matter").

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*22.	<p>gzugs kyi rga ba⁶ <i>rūpassa jara[tā]</i> decay of form</p> <p>22. decay of matter</p>
*23.	<p>gzugs kyi mi riag pa <i>rūpassa anicca[tā]</i> impermanence of form</p> <p>23. impermanency of matter</p>
*24.	<p>kham kyi zas⁷ <i>kabaṅkāra-āhāra</i> nutriment</p> <p>24. solid food</p>
25.	<p>dhos po 'i no bo⁸ <i>vatturūpa</i> form as base</p> <p>25. the basis of the material element</p>
26.	<p>gñid⁹ <i>middha</i> torpor</p> <p>26. the material quality of torpor <i>(middha-rūpa)</i></p>

⁶ Same at Q 93b1, 94a3 but *gzugs kyi rñins pa* at 91b2.

⁷ Also at Q 91b1, 93b8.

⁸ Also at Q 91a6, 93a8, 93b8. *Dhos po* = *vastu*, *padārīha*, *bhāva* (Yamaguchi, pp. 41–44); Mvy 793, 949, etc.; Hirakawa et al. p. 50. *No bo* = *rūpa* (Yamaguchi, p. 41), also *bhāva* (Hirakawa et al., p. 49). Note that while both Sav and the *Paṭh* place *vatturūpa* here as § 25, the *Visuddhimagga* places the equivalent *hadayavattu* between §§ 12 and 13.

⁹ Also at Q 91a8 (correct *nīd* to *gñid*), 93b2, 93b8 (correct *nīd* to *gñid*).

Table 2: Classification of *vattu-rūpa*, *middha*, and *rūpassa jāti*

A. *Vattu-rūpa*

1) *las k'ys kun tu bsan ba*

Q 91a5, D 179b1

kamma-samuihāna
 arisen from karma¹

2) *phra mo*, Q 93a3, D 180b7

sukhuma

subtle

3) *phyi rol*, Q 93a4, D 180b7

bahiddhā

outer

B. *Middha*

dus dan sems dan zas k'ys

k'ys kun tu bsan ba

Q 91a7, D 179b3

utu-citta-āhāra-samuihāna
 arisen from temperature, mind,
 and nutriment

idem

idem

dus dan las dan sems dan zas

rnam s k'ys kun tu bsan ba

Q 91a8, D 179b3

utu-kamma-citta-āhāra-samuihāna
 arisen from time, karma, mind,
 and nutriment

idem

C. *Rūpassa jāti*

¹ The *vattu-dasaka* is also described as *las k'ys kun nas bsan ba* (Q 91b3, D 179b1).

- 4) *dbaṃ po min*, Q 93a6, D 181a2
amindriya
 non-faculty
 idem
- 5) *zin pa*, Q 93a8, D 181a3
upādānina
 ungrasped
 to be distinguished (?)
 idem
- 6) *bstaṃ du med pa thogs pa med pa*
 idem
 Q 93b5, D 181a7
anidassana-appaṭiḡha
 invisible and non-obstructive
 idem
- 7) *raṇ bzin gyi gzugs*, Q 93b7, D 181b1
 idem
sabhāva-rūpa
 intrinsic form
 idem
- misshaṇ ṅid kyī gzugs*, Q 94a2, D 181b3
lakḡhaṇa-rūpa
 characterising form

PĀLI LEXICOGRAPHICAL STUDIES XII¹

TEN PĀLI ETYMOLOGIES

Here is another random group of words which are either omitted from PED,² or given an incorrect meaning or etymology there, or misunderstood by translators.

1. (a)pi; emphatic particle
2. *abhijāna* "knowledge"
3. *assa* = *yassa*
4. *kañcana* "golden"
5. *kañcanaḡpiccha* "golden two-winged one"
6. *khuddā* "bee", *khuddā(ka)* "honey"
7. *je*: vocative particle
8. *dhoreyya* "foremost"
9. *bārasa* "twelve"
10. *sadhāyamānarūpa* "abusive"

1. (a)pi: emphatic particle

We find at D III 203,22 the sentence *api ssu naṃ mārisa amanussā rittam pi pattam sise nikkujjeyyūṃ*, which is translated by Rhys Davids

¹ See K.R. Norman, "Pāli Lexicographical Studies XI", in *JPTS* XVIII, 1993, pp. 149–64.

² Abbreviations of the titles of Pāli texts are as in the Epilegomena to V. Trenckner: *A Critical Pāli Dictionary*, Vol. I, Copenhagen 1924–48 (=CPD). In addition: BHS(D) = Buddhist Hybrid Sanskrit (Dictionary); CP I, II, III, IV = K.R. Norman, *Collected Papers*, Vols. I, II, III, IV, PTS 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993; MW = M. Monier-Williams, *Sanskrit-English Dictionary*, Oxford 1899; PTS = Pali Text Society; PED = PTS's *Pali-English Dictionary*; PTC = *Pāli Tipiṭakaṃ Concordance*; AMg = Ardhā-Māgadhī; Pkt = Prakrit; Skt = Sanskrit; GDhp = Gāndhārī Dharmapada; B^e = Burmese edition; C^e = Sinhalese edition; E^e = European edition; cty/cties = commentary/ commentaries.