

## 4 Use of space

Here the use of ‘blank spaces’ and ‘gaps’ (see below for the definitions of these two terms) used to structure and delimit the various sections or units of a text within the frame of a text-section on the pages of the manuscript will be investigated. Blank spaces and gaps can be considered features of the overall page layout regarding the use of those parts of the page largely not containing writing or symbols.

### 4.1 Blank space

The label ‘blank space’ serves to indicate an empty space appearing within the frame or pre-planned frame of text-section on the page at the end of smaller text units, chapters or even whole texts, and is delimited by a set of double *daṇḍas*. Regarding blank spaces occupying more than one text line and appearing at one or both sides of chapter colophons or colophons, the text of the chapter colophon or colophon is only written on the first text line. Such blank spaces can often accompany and highlight the chapter colophons or colophonic statements. Otherwise they appear at a particular location in the manuscript text, thus serving as a reader’s aid to navigation. So they are to be understood as features structuring the various parts of a text.

To the best of my knowledge, to the present day only few studies have dealt with such blank spaces, e.g. Einicke (2009, 344–345). In her study she presents examples from one inscription and a few manuscripts.<sup>447</sup> Aside from the inscription, her examples are from manuscripts dated from the fifteenth to twentieth c.

Their presence in modern transcriptions is often completely omitted; if reported at all, they are usually represented by symbols or signs that give little much information on their appearance.

On the reason for the existence of blank spaces, it should always be kept in mind that some blank spaces may not have been intended, and serve as a sign that the scribe may have intended to fill them with symbols or have someone place sym-

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<sup>447</sup> Such blank spaces are labeled by Einicke 2009, 344 as ‘Zwei Doppeldanḍas ohne Zwischenelement’. All of her examples (see 344–345; Sarīs(1002)\_1, Ben2(1446)\_41, Bir2(1834)\_1, Bir3(1874)\_22, Bir4.1(1884)\_23, Bir4.2(1884)\_21, Bir4.2(1884)\_22, Bir5(1902)\_19, Naj6(1582)\_20, New16(1826)\_3) from both inscription and manuscripts are demarcated by only a set of double *daṇḍas*, therefore, it can be assumed that these examples are probably only one line in height.

bols or similar items there (see section 3.6.2.4.2 where a set of three large ‘blank spaces’ from three manuscripts appear at the end or near end of the texts).

In most manuscripts, the presence of a chapter colophon or colophon-like phrase is highlighted by symbols or blank spaces. If the former ones have not been used, blank spaces often appear and the reader may use them as means of navigation through the manuscript. Flipping through densely written folios, blank spaces easily catch the attention of the eye. In the following sections examples largely from Nepalese and East Indian manuscripts from my ‘core’ corpus will be presented.



#### 4.1.1 Blank spaces in Nepalese manuscripts

##### SP<sub>1</sub>

In SP<sub>1</sub>, one of the oldest dated manuscripts of the corpus, there is at least one blank space at the end of one chapter. The blank space is just one line of the folio. Aside from the blank space, a variety of symbols are found at the end of the chapters in this manuscript.<sup>448</sup> The blank space can be found before the chapter colophon and is followed by double circles (see Fig. 4.1.1-I).



**Fig. 4.1.1-I:** Blank space before the chapter colophon and symbol after the chapter colophon, fol. 64a3 © NAK

[64a3]  | ○|skandapurāṇe śumbhanisumbhasaindravarṇṇanaḥ(?)<sup>449</sup> 

‘[Thus], the description of Sumbha and Nisumbhasa ... in the *Skandapurāṇa* [is concluded].’

<sup>448</sup> For symbols, see section 3.9.1 and Appendix below.

<sup>449</sup> Bhaṭṭarāi 1988, 373 reads this line without any remarks as follows *iti skandapurāṇe śumbhanisumbhayuddhe sainyaavarṇṇanaḥ nāma catuḥṣaṣṭitamodhyāyaḥ*. Furthermore, Yokochi 2013, 299 in the critical edition reads the line *iti skandapurāṇe catuḥṣaṣṭo 'dhyāyaḥ*.

SP<sub>2</sub>

In SP<sub>2</sub> various kinds of simple or beautifully drawn symbols feature at the end of the chapters.<sup>450</sup> Nonetheless there are at least 41 blank spaces in the same manuscript.<sup>451</sup> They all appear at the end of the chapters. Most of the blank spaces in the manuscript are three lines in height. However, some blank spaces are one to two text lines of the folio. The height of a few blank spaces is only two lines on the folio, though they are delimited by three sets of double *danḍas*. See one of the blank spaces that appears after the chapter colophon in Fig 4.1.1-II.



Fig. 4.1.1-II: Blank space after the chapter colophon, fol. 164a3 © NAK

[164a3] *skandapurāṇe aṣṭatrim* | ○ | *śottaraśato(!) dhyāyaḥ*<sup>452</sup>



‘[Thus], the 138<sup>th</sup> chapter in the *Skandapurāṇa* [is concluded].’

SP<sub>3</sub>

In SP<sub>3</sub> there is a large number of beautifully drawn symbols, of which three fully fledged *puṣpikās*, feature at the end of the chapters.<sup>453</sup> However, at least eleven

<sup>450</sup> For instance, circles with curved-like line in the centre (type no. 4), double circles (type no. 6), a variety of different kinds of stylised *puṣpikās* (such as type nos. 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 26, 35, 37, 39, 40, 41), one realistic *puṣpikā* at the end of the chapter and one realistic *puṣpikā* under the right string-hole on one folio. For discussion and examples of symbols, see sections 3.4, 3.5.1, 3.9.1 and Appendix.

<sup>451</sup> Note that in a few blank spaces figure-numerals added later feature in the upper part, most correspond to chapter numbers written in word in chapter colophons (such as 26, 42, 132, 153, 162). Furthermore, in two blank spaces the speaker name ‘vyāsa’ has been written normally to be expected after the first set of double *danḍa* of the blank spaces.

<sup>452</sup> Bhaṭṭarāi 1988, 749 reads the line as *iti skandapurāṇe gaṇayuddhe jambhavadhe aṣṭatrisaduttaraśatatamodhyāyaḥ*.

<sup>453</sup> See sections 3.4, 3.5.1 and Appendix below.

blank spaces appear at the end of the chapters.<sup>454</sup> Blank spaces in this manuscript are a size of one to three text lines. See the two blank spaces demarcating one of the chapter colophons in Fig. 4.1.1-III.



**Fig. 4.1.1-III:** Blank spaces before and after the chapter colophon, fol. 232v © Bodleian Library, Oxford



‘[Thus], namely, the chapter 130 in the *Skandapurāṇa* [is concluded].’

## HV<sub>1</sub>

In HV<sub>1</sub> a few circles, some simple stylised symbols and a few well drawn stylised symbols can be found at the end of some chapters. However, blank spaces usually feature at the end of the chapters.<sup>455</sup> There are also two blank spaces after

<sup>454</sup> Blank spaces appear on 153r1–2\_B/ACC, 154v3\_ACC, 157r4\_ACC, 160v1\_ACC, 164r3\_BCC, 168r1\_ACC, 198v5\_B/ACC, 232v2\_B/ACC.

<sup>455</sup> Further blank spaces can be found on 4v4\_ACC, 9r3\_ACC, 10r2\_ACC, 15v2\_ACC, 17r5\_ACC, 21r1\_ACC, 25r5\_ACC, 26v4\_ACC, 29v1\_ACC, 48v3\_ACC, 51r1\_ACC, 53v4–5\_B/ACC, 61v2\_ACC, 62v5\_BCC, 65v3\_ACC, 72r4\_ACC, 75r1\_ACC, 75v5\_B/ACC, 79r3\_ACC, 80r5\_B/ACC, 85v4\_ACC, 87v1\_ACC, 91r5\_BCC, 93r3\_ACC, 94r3\_ACC, 95r4\_ACC, 96v2\_ACC, 97v4\_BCC, 100r5\_B/ACC, 102r4\_BCC, 103v5\_B/ACC, 104v4\_ACC, 106v3\_ACC, 107r4\_ACC, 108v4\_ACC, 110r2\_ACC, 111r4\_ACC, 115v3\_ACC, 117v3\_ACC, 121r3\_B/ACC, 122v1\_ACC, 125r1\_ACC, 128v3\_ACC, 132v2\_ACC, 134r2\_ACC, 139r3\_ACC, 140v5\_ACC, 143r2\_ACC, 149v4\_ACC, 151r5\_ACC, 154r4\_BCC, 155v3\_BCC, 157v1\_BCC, 160r1\_ACC, 171r2–3\_B/ACC, 173v5\_ACC, 176r5\_BCC, 178r1\_ACC, 179v5\_B/ACC, 179v5\_ASI, 180v2\_BCC, 182v3\_ACC, 184v4\_ACC, 187r2\_ACC, 191r2\_ACC, 193r5\_ACC, 199v3\_ACC, 200v4\_ACC, 201v3\_ACC, 205r2\_ACC, 212r5\_ACC, 218r2\_ACC, 224r1\_BCC, 228r2\_ACC, 230v3\_ACC, 232v1\_BCC, 234v1\_ACC, 236r2\_BCC, 237v2\_ACC, 239r4\_ACC, 242v3\_ACC, 244r2\_B/ACC, 245r2\_BCC, 246r2\_BCC, 249v2\_ACC, 250r3\_BCC, 251r4\_B/ACC, 252v2\_ACC, 256v2\_ACC, 266v5\_B/ACC, 268v1\_ACC, 285r4\_BCC, 287v4\_ACC, 289r5\_ACC, 292v1\_B/ACC, 293v5\_B/ACC, 294v4–5\_B/ACC, 295v1\_B/ACC, 296r3\_B/ACC, 297v3\_B/ACC, 298v2\_BCC, 300v2\_B/ACC, 304r4\_B/ACC, 307r3\_ACC, 309v2\_ACC, 311r4\_ACC, 319r3\_ACC, 321r3\_B/ACC, 324v3\_BCC, 326v5\_ACC.

speaker indications.<sup>456</sup> The blank spaces are one to three lines of the folio in height. Most of the blank spaces are a size of two lines of the folio. See the blank space in Fig. 4.1.1-IV after the chapter colophon.

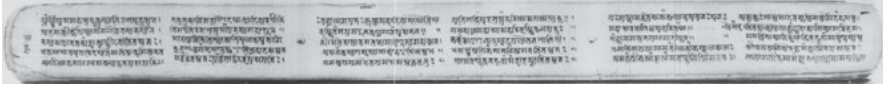
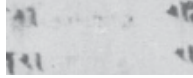


Fig. 4.1.1-IV: Blank space after the chapter colophon, fol. 15v © NAK

[15v2] *mahābhārata khileṣu harivaṃṣe*



‘[Thus, the chapter] in the supplementary *Harivaṃśa* in the *Mahābhārata* [is concluded].’

## DDh

Though five simple circles and the majority of attractively drawn stylised *puṣpikās* are at the end of the chapters in DDh, blank spaces appear at least four times at the end of chapters.<sup>457</sup> They are a height of one to two lines of the folio. An example of the blank space appears after the chapter colophon in Fig. 4.1.1-V. It is surrounded by three sets of double *daṇḍas*, though it occupies only two lines on the folio.

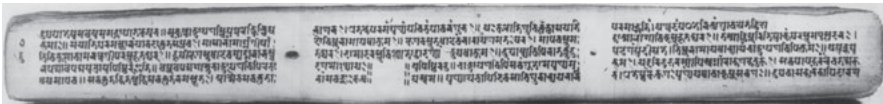
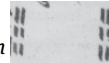


Fig. 4.1.1-V: Blank space after the chapter colophon, fol. 58v © NAK

[58v4] *vaiṣṇave dharmaśāstre cāndrāyaṇavidhir ekā* | ○ | *daśamo 'dhyāyaḥ*



‘[Thus], the eleventh chapter, the instruction on *cāndrāyaṇa* in the Vaiṣṇava treatise on *dharma* [is concluded].’

<sup>456</sup> Namely on 17r5\_ASpI, 80r5\_ASpI.

<sup>457</sup> On 57r2\_ACC, 58v4\_ACC, 63r4\_ACC, 68r5\_ACC.

TS<sub>1</sub>

In TS<sub>1</sub> blank spaces feature at the end of most chapters,<sup>458</sup> except at the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter that contains stylised *puṣpikā*<sup>459</sup> and circles.<sup>460</sup> The height of blank spaces in this manuscript is two to four lines of the folio. See the blank spaces before and after the chapter colophon in Fig. 4.1.1-VI. The height of both blank spaces is two lines of the folio, even though the second blank space appears surrounded by three sets of double *danḍas*.



Fig. 4.1.1-VI: Blank spaces before and after the chapter colophon, fol. 42v © NAK

[42v1–2]




iti bhairavasrotasi mahātāntre vidyāpiṭhe saptakoṭīpramāṇe

śrīta[2]ntrasadbhāve mudrādhikāro nāmāṣṭamaḥ paṭalaḥ



**458** Namely on 14r2\_B/ACC, 18r5\_B/ACC, 24r3\_ACC, 25v6\_BCC, 26r1\_ACC, 28r6\_B/ACC, 35r4\_B/ACC, 39v4\_ACC, 42v1–2\_B/ACC, 57r5\_ACC, 90r5\_B/ACC, 95r4\_B/ACC, 96v6\_B/ACC, 104r3\_B/ACC, 108r3\_B/ACC, 118r1\_B/ACC, 121v5\_BCC, 123r4\_B/ACC, 127v2–3\_B/ACC, 139r3–4\_B/ACC, 148r1\_B/ACC, 149r2\_ACC, 161v4–5\_B/ACC, 171r1\_B/ACC, 179v5–6\_B/ACC, 181v4–5\_B/ACC, 182v5–6\_B/ACC, 186r1–2\_B/ACC, 186r2\_AC.

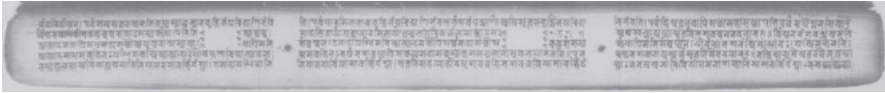
**459** On 99r3\_BCC.

**460** On 24r2\_BCC, 39v3\_BCC, 57r4\_BCC, 99r3\_ACC, 121v5\_BCC, 149r1\_BCC. Please note that circles are also frequently used before opening phrases (such as on 21v4 *sāṃprataṃ mad sam-uddhāraṃ kathayāmi tava priye* | on 24v1 *ataḥ paraṃ pravakṣāmi parāyavidhim uttāmaṃ* | etc.) on 4v3, 5r2, 5r5, 5v2, 6v4, 16v5, 21v4, 21v5, 22r5, 23r2, 23v5, 24v1, 30r6, 37v1, 41r3, 49r6, 49v2, 49v6, 50r3, 50v1, 50v2, 50v1, 50v2, 50v5, 51v2, 52r2, 62v3, 67v3, 70r3, 70r4, 77r2, 77v5, 78r2, 78v4, 80r1, 84v5, 85v5, 86r1, 106r4, 107v2, 112r5, 112v4, 113r1, 114v4, 124v2, 124v5, 124v6, 125r1, 129r5, 130r4, 130v5, 132r1, 132r6, 132v6, 134r1, 134r5, 134v2, 134v4, 135r2, 135r3, 135r6, 136v6, 137r3, 138r5, 138v4, 141v1, 141v4, 142r3, 142r4, 142v, 143r3, 167v2, 171v4, 175v1, 176v4, 177v6, 178v6, 185r1. A few dots can be found before opening phrases on 25r2, 66v2, 79v3, 167v5, 184v4. One dot is used before a *mantra* on 52r4 and circles are also used before some *mantras* on 52r5, 52r6. Circles can also be found after some of particular sections on 53r4, 55v5. Two sets of circles have been drawn placing horizontally after a few invocations (for instance, on 172v5 *om viṣavāhanāya namaḥ*  on 172v5–6, 173r1–3.

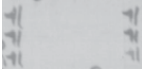


‘Thus, the eighth chapter, namely the section on *mudrā* in the *vidyāpīṭha* in the glorious *Tantrasadbhāva* measuring seven thousand [lines] in the great Tantra in the Bhairava branch [is concluded].’

## AṣṢP<sub>1</sub>

In AṣṢP<sub>1</sub> many blank spaces feature before and/or after chapter colophons, before the concluding Buddhist formula and after the colophon,<sup>461</sup> however, there are also two attractively drawn realistic *puṣpikās*, various kinds of florally stylised symbols and a dot-like symbol, some ‘figure-eight knot’ symbols and a simple circle. Blank spaces in the manuscript are a height of one to three lines of the folio. The height of most of the blank spaces is two lines of the folio, even though they appear surrounded by three sets of double *danḍas*. See the blank spaces before and after the chapter colophon in Fig. 4.1.1-VII.



**Fig. 4.1.1-VII:** Blank spaces before and after the chapter colophon, fol. 184r © NAK

[184r2]  *āryāṣṭa||*  *|sāhasrikāyāṃ prajñāpāramitāyāṃ śūnyatāparivart-*  
  
*to nāmāṣṭādaśaḥ* 

‘[Thus], the eighteenth chapter, namely the *śūnyatā* in the noble Perfection of Wisdom in Eight Thousand Lines [is concluded].’

**461** On 50v2–3\_B/ACC, 92r3\_BCC, 99v4\_B/ACC, 106r3–4\_B/ACC, 110r2\_ACC, 122r4\_B/ACC, 145v3\_B/ACC, 178v1\_BCC, 184r2\_B/ACC, 192r3\_B/ACC, 222r5\_BCC, 222v1\_ACC, 225r1–2\_B/ACC, 228v3\_B/ACC, 234r2\_B/ACC, 238v4–5\_B/ACC, 244r5\_ACC, 254r4\_B/ACC, 257r2–3\_B/ACC, 263r5\_BCC, 263v1\_ACC, 280v5\_B/ACC, 282r2\_ABCF, 282r2–3\_B/ACC, 282r5\_ACC.

HV<sub>2</sub>

In HV<sub>2</sub> mostly symbols can be found at the end of the chapters, however, there are also a few blank spaces at the end of some chapters.<sup>462</sup> The blank spaces are two lines of the folio in height. But most of the blank spaces measure one line of the folio. See the blank spaces in Fig. 4.1.1-VIII.

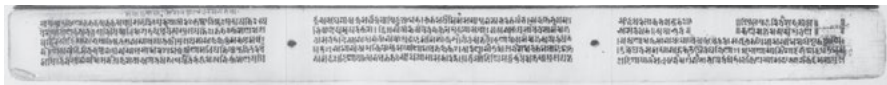
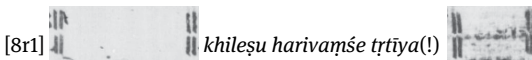


Fig. 4.1.1-VIII: Blank spaces before and after the chapter colophon, fol. 8r1



[Thus], the third [chapter] in the supplementary *Harivaṃśa* [is completed].'

## SDhPS

Blank spaces feature at the end of some chapters in SDhPS.<sup>463</sup> Blank spaces in the manuscript are two to four lines of the folio in height. Aside from blank spaces; circles, stylised *puṣpikās* and '*tha*' symbols feature at the end of chapters. Furthermore, a series of three beautifully drawn large symbols are on the last folios (on 138v, 139r, 139v) at the end or near end of the text in the manuscript (see section 3.6.2.4.2 above). See the blank spaces in Fig. 4.1.1-IX. The blank spaces measure three lines of the folio in height, although they appear surrounded by four sets of double *daṇḍas*.

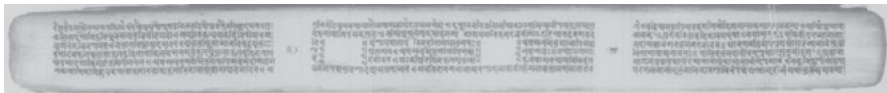




Fig. 4.1.1-IX: Blank spaces before and after the chapter colophon © NAK

<sup>462</sup> On 8r1\_B/ACC, 69r1-2\_B/ACC, 95r5\_BCC, 133r5-133v1\_B/ACC, 149r5\_BCC, 154r5\_B/ACC, 179v5\_BCC, 186v5\_BCC, 243v1\_BCC, 256r1\_ACC, 265r5\_BCC, 267r4\_BCC, 273r5\_BCC, 351r5\_B/ACC.

<sup>463</sup> On 46v5\_BCC, 58v3\_ACC, 77r2\_BCC, 84v2\_BCC, 93v2\_BCC, 98r3\_B/ACC, 110r4\_BCC, 116r1\_ACC, 125v3-4\_B/ACC, 130r4\_B/ACC, 138r2\_B/ACC.



[98r3]  *pun̄yaparyāyaparivartto nāma ṣoḍaśamaḥ* 

‘[Thus], the sixteenth chapter, namely the *pun̄yaparyāya* [is completed].’

## AṣP<sub>2</sub>

In AṣP<sub>2</sub> the majority of beautifully drawn symbols are at the end of the chapters. However, four blank spaces have also been used before and after two chapter colophons, on 44r4–5\_B/ACC and 145r3\_B/ACC. Blank spaces in the manuscript measure one to two text lines of the folio in height. Examples of blank space can be seen in Fig. 4.1.1-X.

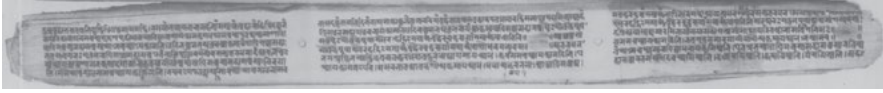





Fig. 4.1.1-X: Blank spaces before and after the chapter colophon, fol. 145r © NAK

[145r3]  *āryaṣṭaśaḥ* |  *hasrikāyām prajñāpāramitāyām mupāyakaūśalyam-*  
*imānsāparivartto(!) nāma viṃśatimaḥ* 

‘[Thus], the twentieth chapter, namely the *upāyakaūśalyamimānsā* in the noble Perfection of Wisdom in Eight Thousand Lines [is completed].’

## *Aṣṭasāhasrikā Prajñāpāramitā* (NAK 5/76 / NGMPP A 37/11–A 38/1)

In the manuscript of the *Aṣṭasāhasrikā Prajñāpāramitā* (NAK 5/76 / NGMPP A 37/11–A 38/1) a series of three large blank spaces can be found on 195v. Each blank space appears almost at the centre of the text-section. Blank spaces feature in the part of the colophon and post colophonic parts. The examples have also been presented in section 3.6.2.4.2 above and discussed in detail.



Fig. 4.1.1-XI: A series of three large blank spaces at the end of the text © NAK

## SS

Save for a few circles<sup>464</sup> and a majority of *siddham* (like type no. 44), only blank spaces feature before and/or after chapter colophons or before and/or after author lines, after the *mantra* and after the donor phrase) in SS on 1v7, 2r1, 2r5, 2r5, 3r1, 3r2, 3r4, 3v1, 3v2, 3v3, 3v4, 4v6, 6v5, 9v5, 11r2–3, 12r2, 15r5, 24v7, 34v6, 115v4–5 etc. In this manuscript nearly all blank spaces measure one text line on the folio (except the blank spaces on 6v5\_ACC, 6v5\_AAL, 7v4\_AAL, 73v3\_AAL, 89v2\_ACC that are two text lines in height). See the blank space in Fig. 4.1.1-XII.

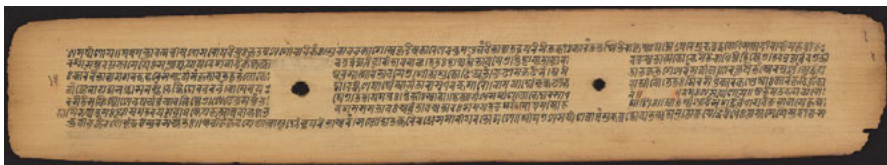


Fig. 4.1.1-XII: Blank space at the end of a text, 13v © CUL

[13v] *ity āryakhasarppaṇalokeśvarasādhana*□*nam*



‘Thus, the *Sādhana* on the noble Khasarppaṇalokeśvara [is completed].’

In Nepalese manuscripts containing various kinds of text, blank spaces can be found. In most of the manuscripts of this corpus, blank spaces appear at the end of a chapter before and after the chapter colophon. However, in some manuscripts, blank spaces feature only before or after the chapter colophon. The size of the blank space varies even within a manuscript or from manuscript to manuscript. They measure from one line to almost the entire height of the folio.

#### 4.1.2 Blank spaces in East Indian manuscripts

The use of blank space is also attested in many East Indian manuscripts that have investigated in the course of this study. In the following section a few examples have been selected to illustrate how blank spaces appear.

<sup>464</sup> For instance, on 49v4, 49v7, 223r4, 224r2, 224r4, 224r5, 225r2, 225v2, 226r2, 226v1 (type no. 2).

## AAĀ

In AAĀ, aside from the *siddham* and three stylised *puṣṭikās* (see section 3.6.2.4.1 above), blank spaces feature at the end of most of the chapters.<sup>465</sup> Most of the blank spaces measure two text lines of the folio in height. Only two blank spaces measure one line, namely on 147v7, 159r7. Furthermore, in the majority of cases, blank spaces appear after chapter colophons (see note below). See Fig. 4.1.2-I.

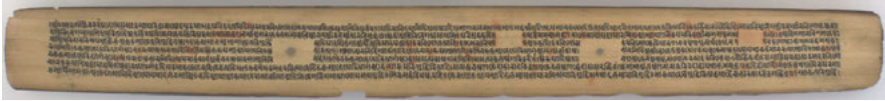


Fig. 4.1.2-I: Blank spaces before and after the chapter colophon, fol. 78r © NAK



‘[Thus], the seventh chapter, namely the *niraya* in the commentary on the *Prajñāpāramitā* in the *Abhisamayālaṅkāṛālokā* [is completed].’

## GV

In GV numerals indicating the chapter number are placed between double *daṇḍas* (on 6v4, 8v6), aside from this, one *siddham* (on 10r6) (type no. 45) at the end of two chapters and one blank space features before the last chapter colophon (on 10r5). In this instance, the blank space appears precisely under the right string-hole. See Fig. 4.1.2-II.

<sup>465</sup> On 35r3\_ACC, 48v4\_ACC, 61r3\_ACC, 64r1\_ACC, 66v4\_ACC, 74r5–6\_B/ACC, 78r2\_B/ACC, 83r3\_ACC, 84v5\_ACC, 88r5\_B/ACC, 93v2\_ACC, 96r4\_ACC, 102r2\_B/ACC, 103r2–3\_B/ACC, 108r2\_B/ACC, 119r3\_B/ACC, 123v7\_ACC, 127r6\_ACC, 132r2\_ACC, 134r4\_ACC, 135v6\_ACC, 139r3\_ACC, 141r5\_ACC, 147v7\_ACC, 156v2\_ACC, 159r7\_ACC, 164r2\_ACC.

<sup>466</sup> For the line, see also Tucci 1932, 261.



Fig. 4.1.2-II: Blank space at the end of the text, fol. 10r © KL

[10r5]



*guṇavatyām mahāmāyāṭikāyām tṛtīyo nirdeśaḥ ||*

‘[Thus], the third instruction in the commentary [called] *Mahāmāyā* on the *Guṇavati* [is completed].’

## HP

In HP, aside from two symbols (on 4v7, 23r1), blank spaces appear at the end of sub-chapters and chapters.<sup>467</sup> With the exception of one blank space before the colophon, all blank spaces appear after the sub-colophons and measure one text line of the folio. An example of the blank space can be seen in Fig. 4.1.2-III.



Fig. 4.1.2-III: Blank space after the chapter colophon, fol. 14v © KL

[14v5] *abhiṣekaṇṭaḥ daśamaḥ*



‘[Thus], the tenth *abhiṣeka* chapter [is completed].’

<sup>467</sup> On 5v4\_ACC, 6v3\_ACC, 6v5\_ACC, 8r5\_ACC, 9r1\_ACC, 9v2\_ACC, 13r3\_ACC, 14r2\_ACC, 14v5, 15r1\_ACC, 15r3\_ACC, 17r1\_ACC, 18r1\_ACC, 21r4\_ACC, 22r3\_ACC, 22r4\_ACC, 22r5\_ACC, 22r7\_ACC, 22v4\_ACC, 22v6\_ACC, 23r1\_BC.

## HAP

In HAP, only blank spaces have been used at the end of the chapters.<sup>468</sup> Blank spaces in the manuscript measure one to two lines in height on the folio. See Fig. 4.1.2-IV.



Fig. 4.1.2-IV: Blank space after the chapter colophon, fol. 1v © KL

[1v5] ... *iti śriherukābhyudaye prathamapaṭalapañjikā*<<y>>



‘... Thus, the *pañjikā* of the first chapter in the glorious *Herukābhyudaya* [is completed].’

## LTṬ

In LTṬ predominantly ‘*tha*’ symbols,<sup>469</sup> three *siddham*<sup>470</sup> and a few circles<sup>471</sup> feature at the end of smaller text units and chapters. However, at the very end of the colophon a blank space appears on 30v1. After which the folio is largely blank. See Fig. 4.1.2-V.



Fig. 4.1.2-V: Blank space at the end of the colophon, fol. 30v © KL

<sup>468</sup> On 1v5\_ACC, 10r2\_AC, 10r3\_APC.

<sup>469</sup> On 5r6, 6r2, 6r3, 6r5, 6v1, 6v4, 6v6, 7v2, 7v5, 8r2, 8v5, 8v6, 11r3, 15r3, 15r7, 15v3, 16v2, 16v7, 17r2, 17r5, 19r2, 19r5, 19v1, 19v4, 20r2 (type no. 46).

<sup>470</sup> On 17v2, 25r2, 25r4 (type no. 45).

<sup>471</sup> On 3r3, 4v2, 9v5, 14v1, 15v7, 16r4, 17v7, 27r6, 30r1 (type no. 2).

[30v2] iti lakṣābhīdhānād uddhṛte laghvabhīdhāne piṇḍārtha<sup><h></sup>vivaraṇaṃ nāma

prathamaṭīkāparicchedaḥ<sup>472</sup>



‘Thus, the first chapter of the commentary called *Piṇḍārthavivaraṇa* in the *Laghvavidhāna* selected from the *Lakṣābhīdhāna* [is completed].’

## CPN

In CPN at the end of the sub-chapters and chapters, only blank spaces have been used (with the exception of one circle at the end of one of the chapters on 49v1).<sup>473</sup> The majority of blank spaces measure two lines in height on the folio. The height of four blank spaces is one line of the folio (on 13v7, 33r7, 49v1, 52v7). Save for the blank spaces before and after the colophon, all blank spaces appear after the chapter colophons in this manuscript. An example of the blank space can be seen in Fig. 4.1.2-VI.



Fig. 4.1.2-VI: Blank space after the chapter colophon, fol. 7v © KL

[7v1] ity ātmapīṭhe catuṣpīṭhanibandhe prathamaḥ paṭālaḥ



‘Thus, the first chapter in the *ātmapīṭha* in the *Catuspīṭhanibandha* [is completed].’

## STṬ

In STṬ a puzzling symbol (on 5v7),<sup>474</sup> a symbol resembling a kind of syllable-like element (on 6r1) and a majority of circles<sup>475</sup> appear at the end of sub-chapters,

<sup>472</sup> For the line, see also Cicuzza 2001, 26.

<sup>473</sup> On 7v1\_ACC, 12v4\_ACC, 13v7\_ACC, 19v4\_ACC, 25v4\_ACC, 31r1\_ACC, 32r7\_ACC, 33r7\_ACC, 48r2\_ACC, 49v1, 50v4, 52v7\_ACC, 53v6\_B/ACC.

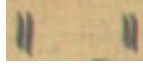
<sup>474</sup> See section 3.6.2.2 above for more details.

chapters and smaller text units in the manuscript. Aside from which, two blank spaces appear at the end of the chapters (e.g. on 2v1, 6r3). Please note that all these elements can be found after the sub-colophons. See Fig. 4.1.2-VII.



Fig. 4.1.2-VII: Blank space after the chapter colophon, fol. 2v © KL

[2v1] *tatvaparakaraṇaṃ prathamam*



‘[Thus], the first *Tatvaparakaraṇa* [is completed].’

## AP

Aside from one circle and *siddham*,<sup>476</sup> blank spaces appear in AP at the end of many chapters.<sup>477</sup> All blank spaces measure only one line in height on the folio (except for one of the blank spaces on 38r2 which measures two lines on the folio). See Fig. 4.1.2-VIII.



Fig. 4.1.2-VIII: Blank spaces before and after the chapter colophon, 37r © NAK

<sup>475</sup> On 2v1, 3r1, 3v6, 4r3, 4r6, 4v5, 5r1, 6r2, 6r3, 6r6, 6v2, 6v5, 7r1, 7r2, 8v3, 8v6, 9r1, 9r3, 9r6, 9r7, 9v1, 9v3, 10r4, 10r6, 10r7, 10v1, 11r6, 11r7, 11v1, 11v3, 11v4, 11v5, 11v6, 11v7) (type no. 2)

<sup>476</sup> For example, one circle on 28r5 (type no. 2) and *siddham* symbols on 7v7\_B/ACC, 9v3\_B/ACC, 13v3\_B/ACC, 14r5\_ACC, 21v6\_ACC, 28r5\_AAL) (type no. 45).

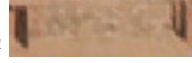
<sup>477</sup> On 21r7-21v1\_B/ACC, 22r3\_ACC, 22v7\_ACC, 23r2\_ACC, 23v2\_ACC, 37v7\_B/ACC, 38r2\_B/ACC, 38r5\_AAL.

[37r7]



*paṇḍitābhayākaraguptakṛtāyām abhayapaddhatyām*

*śribuddhakapālamahāntraṭīkāyām trayodaśaḥ paṭalaḥ*



‘[Thus], the thirteen chapter in the commentary, the glorious *Buddhakapālamahāntra* in the *Abhayapaddhati* written by Paṇḍita Abhayākaragupta [is completed].’

To summarize, in most East Indian manuscripts of this corpus, blank spaces are partly or entirely at the end of the chapters, sub-chapters, and occasionally at the end of the text before and/or after colophon or in the part of the post colophon. In most of the manuscripts, blank spaces appear only after the text-line of sub-colophons. Furthermore, blank spaces are one to two lines in height on the folio.

#### 4.1.3 Blank spaces in West Indian manuscripts

Unlike Nepalese and East Indian manuscripts, blank spaces are not used at the end of chapters or sub-chapters in the West Indian manuscripts of the ‘core’ corpus. As already mentioned in the section on layout, West Indian manuscripts texts are generally written in a very dense and compact way. This results in hardly any free spaces occurring between simple sentences, *ślokas*, or at the end of chapters.

Of the possible reasons for such a peculiarity, one may assume that the practice of leaving a blank space at the end of chapters or whole texts may not have been seen as a dividing device for the text in the manuscript from this region.

One may speculate that another reason may be closely related to aesthetic principles guiding the hands of the scribes. Blank spaces could have been seen as breaks interrupting the evenness of the page layout, causing irregularities in the way in which lines appear on the folio.

#### 4.1.4 Blank space – Overall conclusions

In manuscripts of the corpus blank spaces appear mainly in manuscripts from Nepal and East India, but not from West India.

In Nepalese manuscripts blank spaces range from one line to the entire height of the folio. However, in almost all East Indian manuscripts (mostly from Vikramaśīla) blank spaces occupy just one to two text lines of the folio. In some



manuscripts from both areas there are virtually only blank spaces at the end of the chapters; e.g. in TS<sub>1</sub> (save for two symbols), CPN (with the exception of one circle) and HP (save for two symbols). Such blank spaces can also occur in manuscripts where symbols have been attractively drawn (e.g., in SP<sub>1</sub>, SP<sub>2</sub>, KV/UVDh, SP<sub>3</sub>, HV<sub>1</sub>, DDh, AṣP<sub>1</sub>, HV<sub>2</sub>, SDhPS, AṣP<sub>2</sub>, AAĀ, etc.).

Quite frequently the number of sets of double *daṇḍas* delimiting a blank space corresponds to the number of text lines the blank space occupies on the page. However, examples of blank spaces are also present where the number of sets of double *daṇḍas* does not correspond to the lines on the page. In this instance, if a blank space is delimited by three sets of double *daṇḍas*, the actual height of the blank may only be that of two text lines of the folio or if there are four sets of double *daṇḍas*, the height may be just three lines of the folio (see SP<sub>2</sub>, DDh, TS<sub>1</sub>, AṣP<sub>1</sub>, SDhPS) etc. Moreover, in the case of blank spaces of more than one text line in size and appearing at one or both sides of chapter colophons or colophons, the text of (sub-)chapter colophon or colophon is often only written on the first text line.

The use of blank spaces in manuscripts can be understood as one of the main means to visually indicate the end of a chapter, sub-chapter or of a whole text etc.

## 4.2 Gaps

I label ‘gap’ a small but conspicuous space left largely unwritten on the folio used to separate smaller text units, such as sentences, *pādas* or half *ślokas*.<sup>478</sup> Bühler (1896, p. 84) made a short remark on gaps (he calls them ‘ein grösserer Zwischenraum’ a larger gap) used to divide smaller text units such as *pādas* or half verses with regard to inscriptions:

In den sorgfältig geschriebenen metrischen Inschriften der späteren Zeit folgt mitunter ein grösserer Zwischenraum am Ende der Pāda oder der Halbverse und die Zeilen enthalten oft je einen Halbvers oder Vers.

---

<sup>478</sup> In some manuscripts we also occasionally find small gaps between *akṣaras* in lines or in the last line on the folio. In the latter case, such gaps are mainly used between *akṣaras* to fill the free space on the folio and to show the regularity of the line e.g. in the manuscript of the *Vinayavastvāgama* (GBM 1050) on the last folio 523r in the last line (see section 3.6.2.4.2); in the manuscript of the *Bodhisattvabhūmi* (CUL Add.1702) on 144v in the last line (see section 3.6.2.4.2); in the manuscript of the *Viṣṇudharma* (NAK 4/1389 / NGMPP A 10/3) on one of the folios (NGMPP exposure 144) in the last line.

In the carefully written metrical inscriptions from the later period a large free space occurs occasionally at the end of the *Pāda* or the half verses and the lines contain often a half verse or a verse.<sup>479</sup>

In this chapter, examples of manuscripts emerge showing the gaps can be divided into two main categories according to how they appear on the page: (a) those simply occurring within the text line, and (b) those that are integrated into the text-section of the page.

#### 4.2.1 Gaps: type (a)

To show the first kind of gaps seen in manuscripts examples are provided from manuscripts of my corpus, and an example from a manuscript preserved in the University Library of Cambridge.<sup>480</sup>

##### 4.2.1.1 Gaps used to divide *pādas* in NTS

In NTS every *pāda* is divided by small gaps, only in the first folios of the manuscript (folios 1–4). Almost always, a single *danḍa* is placed after the first half of each *śloka*, and a double *danḍa* is placed after its second half (see Fig. 4.2.1.1-I from an extracted and enlarged part of the folio Fig. 4.2.1.1-II). However, no *danḍa* occurs between the first and second *pādas* or between the third and the fourth.

Sometimes, the last *halanta* (i.e. a consonant without vowel) of a *pāda* is written after the gaps at the beginning of the following *pāda* (e.g., in line no 2: *tena pṛcchāmi bhagava\_n yena vetsi mataṅga tvam ||*).

Here is the transcription of a part of the text from folio 1v in which gaps are indicated by the sign *\_*. To illustrate the way in which gaps appear on this folio, the left part has been extracted and enlarged; I have marked the gaps with a small rhombus (◊) (see Fig. 4.2.1.1-II below).

<sup>479</sup> The translation is mine.

<sup>480</sup> It is significant that on some folios of the manuscript (NAK 3/737 / NGMPP A 38/5) written in Bamiyan/Gilgit Type 1 (see Sander 1968), smaller text units such as sentences are divided by small gaps. Furthermore, the use of gaps between smaller text units is also in many folios in the manuscript of the *Śatasāhasrikā Prajñāpāramitā* (NAK 5/197 / NGMPP A 36/2), e.g., on 29v.



Fig. 4.2.1.1-I: Gaps between *pādas* on the folio, fol. 1v © NAK

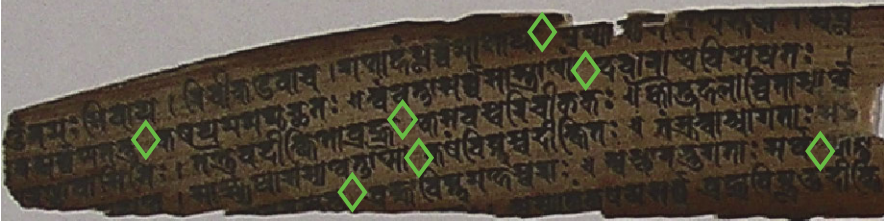


Fig. 4.2.1.1-II: Extracted and enlarged part from folio 1v?

[1v1–2] *om̐ namaḥ śivāya* | *ricika uvāca* |  
*gato haṃ pūrvvam āśāyāṃ* — *puṣpā++++dhes*<sup>481</sup> *tathā* |  
*apū*|⊙|*rvvadṛṣṭam āścarya* — *n tan dṛṣṭvā kautukānvitaḥ* ||  
*aṣṭā++saha*<sup>482</sup>||<sup>483</sup>  
[2] ||*++van sarvvam etat tu* — *kathaya mama pr̥cchataḥ* ||  
*tvam̐ vettā sarvvaśāstrāṇāṃ* — *devānāṃ ca viśeṣataḥ* ||⊙|  
*tena pr̥cchāmi bhagava* — *n yena vetsy mataṅga tvam* ||  
*mataṅga uvāca* |  
*śṛṇu vatsa samāśena* — *pravakṣyā*|⊙|*mi tavākhilam* |  
*naīmīṣe vasamānais tu* — *śrutaṃ*<sup>484</sup>||*+++++*<sup>485</sup>  
...

One may wonder why this type of *śloka* division appears only on folios 1–4 and not throughout the entire manuscript. Tentatively it could be argued this style was implemented to emphasise the very beginning of the text and was later dropped as it required too much time and effort to maintain consistency.

<sup>481</sup> Most parts of the *akṣaras* have been lost.

<sup>482</sup> After which something has been stuck on the folio, making the *akṣaras* illegible. The element was possibly used for ‘restoration’ purposes on the leaf.

<sup>483</sup> The upper part of the folio is damaged. Only some lower parts or strokes or *akṣaras* are visible.

<sup>484</sup> After which only a small part of one *akṣara* is visible.

<sup>485</sup> The text has been transcribed as faithfully as possible. Even the apparent scribal errors and other grammatical mistakes have not been considered here. This text is critically edited and translated in Kafle 2015, 99–100 and 195–196.

#### 4.2.1.2 Gaps used to divide *pādas* in SS/N

This manuscript is of particular importance for its visual organisation. It is assumed more than one scribe was involved in the manuscript production which, however is not a subject of discussion here.<sup>486</sup>

Small gaps are found on many folios between the first and second half of *ślokas* (e.g., on 110rv, 112rv–121rv, 125rv–131rv, 133rv–139rv, 141rv–176rv, 187rv–209rv, 213rv–217rv, 219rv). In many cases, *danḍas* appear in the middle of the gaps. I have selected one folio (198r) from SS/N (see Fig. 4.2.1.2-I below) and transcribed a part of the text marking the position of each gap.<sup>487</sup> To show the gaps on the folio more clearly, part of folio 198r has been extracted and enlarged. Small circles highlight the position of the gaps in the extracted part (○) (see Fig. 4.2.1.2-II below).



Fig. 4.2.1.2-I: Use of gaps, fol. 198r © KL

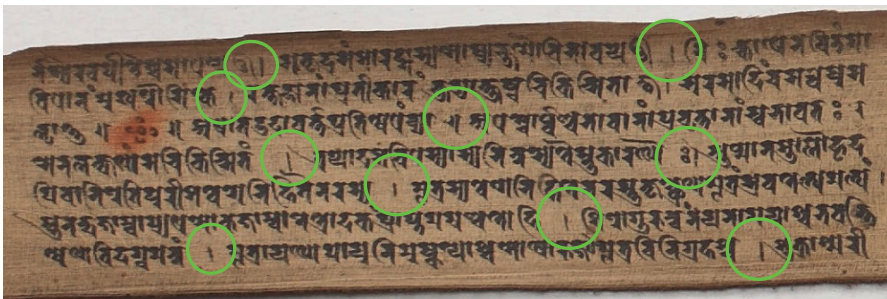


Fig. 4.2.1.2-II: Extracted and enlarged part from fol. 198r

<sup>486</sup> According to the symbols, space-fillers and paleographical evidence it seems safe to assume at least five scribes worked on the manuscript production. See also Klebanov 2010, 61–63.

<sup>487</sup> The text portion given below is the part of the chapters *krimiṛoga* ('disease caused by worms') the *Kāyacikitsā* ('General medicine') section. Here I have transcribed the text from the manuscript as faithfully as possible.

[198r1–2] *masyair avapiḍaiś ca sādhayet* |  
*śakṛdrasaṃ sāraṅgasya soṣya bhūmau vibhāvayet* |  
*niḥkvāthena(!) viḍaṃgā|*○*|nāṃ cūrṇaṃ pradhamanan tu tat* |  
*ayaścūrṇāny anenaiva vidhinā yojayīta ca* |  
*sakāṃsanīlaṃ tailaṃ ca nasyaṃ syāt surasādike* |  
*indraluptavidhiś cāpi vidhe|*○*|yo romarājiṣu* |  
*dantajānāṃ samuddiṣṭaṃ*∞*[2] vidhānaṃ mukharogike* |  
*raktajanāṃ pratikāraṃ kuryāt kuṣṭhacikitsitāt* |  
*surasādiṃ ca sarveṣu sa|*○*|rvathaivopayojayet* |  
*pravyaktatiktakaṭukaṃ bhojanaṃ ca hitaṃ sadā* |  
*kulattharasasaṃyuktaṃ kṣārapānaṃ ca pūjitaṃ* |  
*kṣīrāṇi māṃsāni ghṛtāni caiva|*○*| dadhīni śākāni ca paṇṇavanti* |  
*māśānato mlāṃ madhurāṃ rasāṃś ca krimīṃ jighāṃsuḥ parivarjayīta* ||<sup>488</sup>

It may be interesting to know why scribe(s) used gaps on many folios in the manuscript. As stated in the previous chapter, leaving small gaps in the writing may be related to the scribe's own habits or practice, perhaps even the oral transmission of the text. Nonetheless, to a degree these text divisions visually demarcate smaller text units in the manuscript. The gaps appear not only between the first and second half of the *śloka*, but also between the first and second half of other stanzas in the manuscript.

#### 4.2.1.3 Gaps used to divide *pādas* in the *Śivadharmā* corpus (CUL Add.1645)

Furthermore, in the copy of the *Śivadharmā* corpus<sup>489</sup> (CUL Add.1645), dated NS 259 (1139 CE), the first and second half of the verses are divided on many folios (e.g., 2rv–5rv, 9v, 10rv, 13rv–14rv, 21rv–24rv, 26rv–33rv) by small gaps. These small gaps usually appear before and after the *daṇḍas*. I have selected two folios in which visible gaps can be found. This example reveals another interesting phenomenon: as the gaps appear to be aligned in blank diagonal lines, their distribution renders the folio a sort of striped layout (e.g. 23r). The effect may be intentional.

A part of the text from 22v has been transcribed with the designated mark for gaps. The text portion is part of one of the chapters of the *Śivadharmāśāstra* ('Treatise on Śaiva Religion')<sup>490</sup> of the *Śivadharmā* corpus. To show the occurrence of gaps, I have extracted and enlarged the middle part of 22v and put circles around gaps (see Fig. 4.2.1.4-II below).

<sup>488</sup> For part of the section of the text with reading variations and its translation see, Sharma 2001, Vol. III, 544–545. Please note this manuscript was not consulted for his study.

<sup>489</sup> On the study of Nepalese manuscripts of the *Śivadharmā* corpus, see De Simini 2016, 233–286.

<sup>490</sup> On the translation of the title, Ibid. 238.

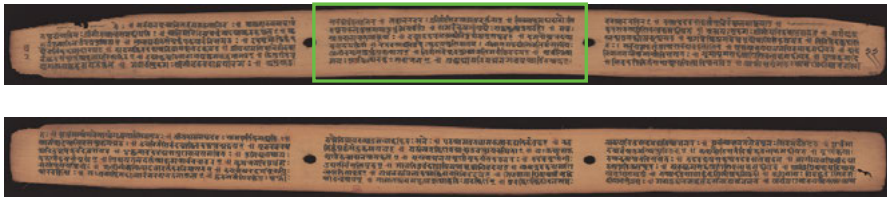


Fig. 4.2.1.4-I: Use of gaps, fols. 22v, 23r © CUL

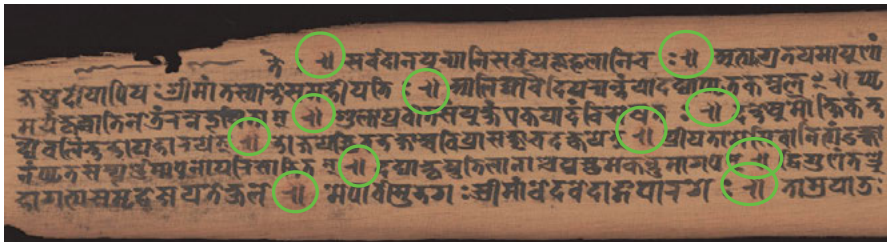


Fig. 4.2.1.4-II: Extracted and enlarged part from fol. 22v

[22v1–2] ∞∞ taiḥ ॥  
 sarvadānapunyāni(!) sarvayajñaphalāni ca\_h(!) ॥  
 aty ugratayamāpunyaṃ] | sarvatīrthaphalāni ca ॥  
 labdhānaravaraḥ śrīmāṃśvayātrāpravarttanāt ॥  
 śivaloke mahābhogaiḥ śi | vavat(!) modate ciram ॥  
 tasyān te devarājatvaṃ sūciraṃ kālān āpnuyāt ॥ ∞  
 [2]japadīpādhipaḥ śrīmān tasyān te sa mahipatiḥ ॥  
 ālijñāvaidīparyantaṃ(!) yo dadhyāghṛtakambalam ॥  
 ghr | | tadhārāphalan tasya māghapūrṇami parvvaṇi ॥  
 ...

#### 4.2.2 Gaps: type (b)

Another style of text division occurring in only a few manuscripts integrates gaps into the text-section layout of the page. Here each text-section looks as if it has been divided into two halves by the gaps. In the many cases in which a text is composed in *śloka* verses, this visual arrangement corresponds to the separation of the first half from the second one.

Bühler (1896, 84) briefly mentioned that this occurs in some Indian inscriptions,<sup>491</sup> while appreciating the care taking in its realization, one may confidently assume that scribes writing in such a style may have known the structure of the text and took care in its writing. Near similar type of usage of gaps between the *pādas* can also be found in some early Gandharan Buddhist scrolls dating from ca. 1<sup>st</sup> c.<sup>492</sup> and also in some other inscriptions from other areas such as South-East Asia<sup>493</sup> (N.B. the scope and framework of this study prevents going into any detail here).

I have found a near similar kind of text division in at least three Nepalese manuscripts of this corpus so far. In SP<sub>1</sub>, and SP<sub>2</sub> some verses are separated by gaps, whereas in the third HV<sub>1</sub>, most of the text is divided by such gaps.

#### 4.2.2.1 Gaps used to divide *ślokas* in SP<sub>1</sub>

This puranic manuscript displays many significant aspects in its visual text-organisation. There are two string-holes on the folio and the text appears divided into three text-sections. As already mentioned in the previous chapter (see 4.2.1.1 above), there may have been at least two scribes involved on the manuscript production (excluding the folios on which similar hand writing can be found as in the *Pārameśvaratantra*). Only one of the two scribes writes the text dividing the *ślokas* by means of gaps. At least on '134' of the extant folios, the text may have been written by this scribe (e.g., on 73a–155a, 181b–189a, 191a–205a, 213a–224a, 230a–256a).<sup>494</sup> In general, one may assume the consistent style of puranic texts, mostly composed in *ślokas*, may have helped the scribe write in this particular layout.

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**491** See section 4.2 above.

**492** Attestations of usage of gaps to divide parts of verses can also be observed in early Buddhist scrolls, for instance, in the Rhinoceros sūtra scroll (ca. 1<sup>st</sup> c.) (British Library Kharoṣṭhi Fragment 5B) (see Salomon 2000, Pl. 1–2); in the Khotan Dharmapada scroll (ca. 2<sup>nd</sup> c.) (Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris/Institute for the Eastern Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg) (see Baums 2014).

**493** Examples of usage of gaps can be seen in the stone inscription from Vāt Ph'u, Basāk, Laos datable to the 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> c. The text is in Sanskrit and composed in *śārdūlavikrīḍita* (stanzas 1, 3–5) and *sragdharā* (stanza 2) metres. The stanzas are clearly divided by small gaps between every first and second *pāda*, and also between every third and fourth *pāda*, see Salomon 1998, 282–283, Fig. 19; in the Stela from Mỹ Sơn (19 May 687) (Corpus of the Inscriptions of Campā, C. 87); in the Pedestal at Mỹ Sơn (ca. 7<sup>th</sup> c.) (Corpus of the Inscriptions of Campā, C. 79); in the Pedestal at Mỹ Sơn (ca. 7<sup>th</sup> c.) (Corpus of the Inscriptions of Campā, C. 97); in the 8<sup>th</sup> c. inscription from Combodia (K. 1236), see Goodall 2013, Fig. 5. See also Salomon 1998, 66. For the Corpus of the Inscription of Campā: <<http://isaw.nyu.edu/publications/inscriptions/campa/inscriptions/index.html>> (last accessed on 25.05.2018).

**494** The digital colour images were produced in 2010.

On many of these folios, gaps are used to divide text-section in two halves (e.g., on 74ab–76ab, 77a, 80a, 81b, 83ab–85ab, 86, 87, 94ab–96ab, 97a, 98ab, 100ab, 101b, 102b, 103ab–104ab, 105a, 106ab–107ab, 110b, 111a, 112a, 113ab, 114b, 115ab–119ab, 120a, 121a, 122ab–144ab, 145a, 147ab, 148ab–150ab, 151a, 152b, 153a, 155a, 181b, 182ab–183ab, 184a, 185a, 186a, 191, 194ab(?), 195b–196ab, 197a, 199ab, 201b, 202b, 204ab, 205a, 213a, 214ab–223ab, 224a, 230a, 231ab–248ab, 249a, 250b, 251ab–255ab, 256a, 278b).

The regular distribution of gaps has been dropped should additional elements e.g. sub-colophon, speaker indication, symbols etc. occur, or if the text has verses composed in other metres than *śloka*. In the latter, text-sections are not regularly divided into two halves (e.g., on 73a, 77b, 78ab–79ab, 80b, 81a, 82ab, 88ab–93ab, 97b, 99ab, 101a, 102a, 105b, 108ab, 109ab, 110a, 114a, 118b, 139b, 146, 151b, 152a, 153b, 154ab, 186b, 187ab, 188ab, 189b, 192ab–193ab, 195a, 197b, 198ab, 200ab, 201a, 202a, 249b, 250a, 279a, 287b, 288a). See Fig. 3.9.2-V for an image of one folio of similar case (lower ones).

Fig. 4.2.2.1-I, provides two examples where the first and second half of *śloka*s are divided by gaps within each text-section. Some portion of the text of the upper folio of Fig. 4.2.2.1-I has been transcribed with the designated mark for gaps. The central part of the upper folio of Fig. 4.2.2.1-I has been extracted and enlarged to show the occurrence of gaps in text-sections more clearly (see Fig. 4.2.2.1-II below). One box has been added to emphasize the occurrence of gaps.



Fig. 4.2.2.1-I: Use of gaps; fols.?, 74ab © NAK



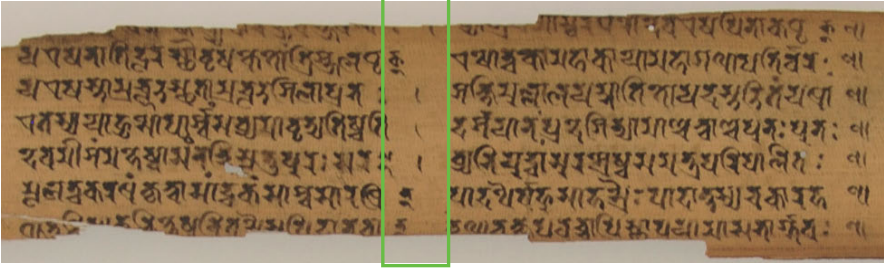


Fig. 4.2.2.1-II: Extracted and enlarged part from fol.?, 74a © NAK

[74a1–2] ///mbaradharo deva eṣa pinākadhr̥k |||○|  
yas tv eṣa kapiṣiṃhāsyō nīlavastraḥ(!) caturbhujah |  
taruṇārkkasamo bhāti nandy eṣa gaṇanāya+  
[2]///++rucco gñisaṃkāśo ya eṣo gñir ivojjvalah |  
brāhmaṇādhīpa+++ha+ca++++ | ||○|  
ya eṣa nātidūrastho vṛṣaketo(!) trīśūladhr̥k |  
eṣo ndhako mahākāyo mahāgaṇapatir varah |||○|  
ya eṣo(!) sthāya(!) kūjantaṃ bhāti citrakalāpina | m |  
mayūraṃ bālasūryabhaḥ(!) śaktipāṇir mmahābalaḥ(!) ||<sup>495</sup>  
...

#### 4.2.2.2 Gaps used to divide ślokas in SP<sub>2</sub>

This puranic manuscript exhibits further examples in terms of layout. As mentioned in chapter 3.9.2, there may have been at least two scribes involved in the manuscript production. One of the two scribes makes use of type (a) gaps, i.e. adds gaps between the various parts of the ślokas without arranging them more precisely within the text-sections.

Gaps are used largely on 4, 5b, 6ab–12ab, 15ab, 17ab–20ab, 22ab–34ab, 37ab–40ab, 45ab–46ab, 83ab, 91ab–95ab, 72ab, 73ab, 106ab–108a, 110ab, 112ab–115ab, 119ab–120ab, 122ab–123ab, 128ab–136ab, 138ab–141ab, 144ab–149ab, 151ab–152ab, 155ab–156ab, 158ab, 163ab, 165a, 167ab, 166b, 168ab–169ab, 215b, 216a.<sup>496</sup>

Gaps are used only at times on 13ab–14ab, 16ab, 21ab, 35ab, 36ab, 41ab–44ab, 47ab–71ab, 74ab–82ab, 84ab–90ab, 96ab–105ab, 108b, 109ab, 111ab, 116ab–118ab, 121ab, 124ab–127ab, 137ab, 142ab–143ab, 150ab, 153ab–154ab, 157ab, 159ab–161ab, 162a, 164ab, 165b, 166a, 170ab–182ab, 183a.

<sup>495</sup> Please note I have transcribed the text from the manuscript as faithfully as possible. For the ‘edition’, see Bhaṭṭarāi 1988, Ch. 132.9–13.

<sup>496</sup> The digital colour images were produced in 2010.

Furthermore, the same scribe also uses type (b) gaps, arranging *ślokas* in text-sections at least on two folios (on 5a, 162b). However, there are some exceptions to this pattern. In case of image 5a (shown in Fig. 4.2.2.2-II), in the fifth line on the folio, a chapter colophon appears together with double circles, followed by the (partly) abbreviated speaker indication (*sanatku[māra]* u[*vāca*]). Although these elements do respect the metrical structure of the main text, they have been adjusted to the style of the layout. However, the justification of the text-sections has been lost as the extra gaps have not been added between single *aḥṣaras*. After the speaker indication, *ślokas* start again, but here there is not enough space to accommodate one *pāda* in each half of the text-sections: as a result the final part of the *pāda* slips into the first half on the immediate right, as shown in Fig. 4.2.2.2-I.



Fig. 4.2.2.2-I: Extracted part from fol. 2v

Fig. 4.2.2.2-II, shows where most of the first and second half of *ślokas* has been divided by gaps within each text-section. A part of the text has been transcribed with the designated mark for gaps. The right part of the folio has been extracted and enlarged to show the occurrence of gaps in text-sections more clearly (see Fig. 4.2.2.2-III below). One box has been added to emphasize the occurrence of gaps.



Fig. 4.2.2.2-II: Use of gaps; fol. 2v? (5a) © NAK

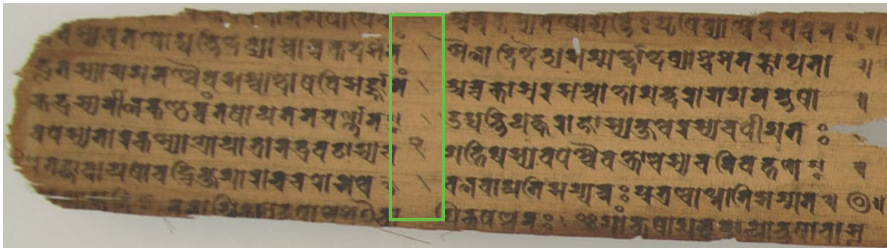


Fig. 4.2.2.2-III: Extracted and enlarged part from fol. 2v? (5a)

[2v1-2] ///+++++++dānam athāpi ca \_|\_  
 andhakasya tathotpattiḥ pṛthivyās caiva bandhanam |||○|  
 hiraṇyākṣavadhaś caiva hiraṇyakaśīpos tathā \_|\_  
 balaśayamaṇam(!) caiva devyāḥ samaya eva ca \_|||○|  
 devānā(!) gamanañ caiva a+++++\_  
 ++++++krasya ca visa///++  
 [2]///+tasya ca tathotpattir devyās cāndhakadarśanaṁ \_|\_  
 śailādidaityasammarddo devyās ca śatarūpatā |||○|  
 āryāvara<<da>>pradānañ ca śailādis tava eva ca \_|\_  
 devasyāgamanañ caiva vṛttasya kathanan tathā|||○|  
 pativratāyās cākhyānaṁ guruśūśrūṣaṇasya ca \_|\_  
 ākhyānaṁ pañcacūḍāyās tejasāś cāpy adhṛṣyatā|||<sup>497</sup>  
 ...

The editors of SP<sub>1</sub>,<sup>498</sup> maintain that manuscript SP<sub>1</sub> is a slightly older copy than SP<sub>2</sub> (the same can be said of the two versions of the same text they contain; the *Skandapurāṇa*). Both manuscripts feature the same kind of layout, in which type (a) and type (b) gaps have been implemented. It is possible to hypothesise that the scribe(s) of SP<sub>2</sub> may not only have consulted SP<sub>1</sub>, but were also influenced by the latter's layout.

#### 4.2.2.3 Gaps used to divide ślokas in HV<sub>1</sub>

This manuscript shows significant features with in terms of its visual text-organisation. There are two string-holes on the folio. According to the string-holes the text appears to have been divided into three text-sections. In most parts of the manuscript ślokas have been divided by gaps on almost all the folios (with exceptions where no śloka division by gaps can be seen, e.g., on 1v, 307v–308rv).

In the majority of the folios, the first and second half of the ślokas have been divided by means of precise gaps in each text-section (e.g., on 2rv–267rv, 268v, 269rv–276rv, 278rv–290r, 291rv–293rv, 296rv–297rv, 300rv–302rv, 305rv, 309rv, 310rv, 311v, 312rv, 313rv, 314v, 325rv–326rv, 329rv).

Two examples in Fig. 4.2.2.3-I, show where the first and second half of ślokas have been divided by gaps within each text-section. The centre part of the folio 39v of Fig. 4.2.2.3-I has been extracted and enlarged to illustrate in detail the use

<sup>497</sup> Here I transcribe the text from the manuscript as faithfully as possible. For the edition, see Bhaṭṭarāi 1988, Ch. 2.15–23 and for the critical edition, see Adriaensen et al. 1998, Ch. 2.14cd–23ab.

<sup>498</sup> See Adriaensen et al. 1998, 32–33.

of gaps by means of a box in the area of gaps (see Fig. 4.2.2.3-II). A part of the text of the upper folio 39v of Fig. 4.2.2.3-I has been transcribed with a mark designating the use of gaps on the folio.

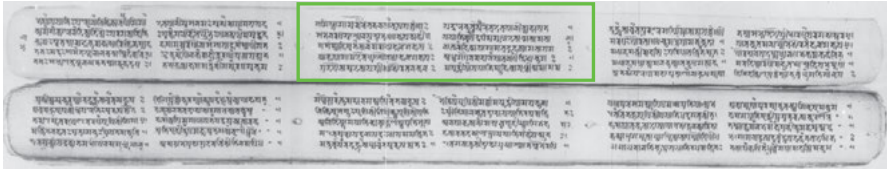


Fig. 4.2.2.3-I: Use of gaps; fols. 39v, 40r © NAK

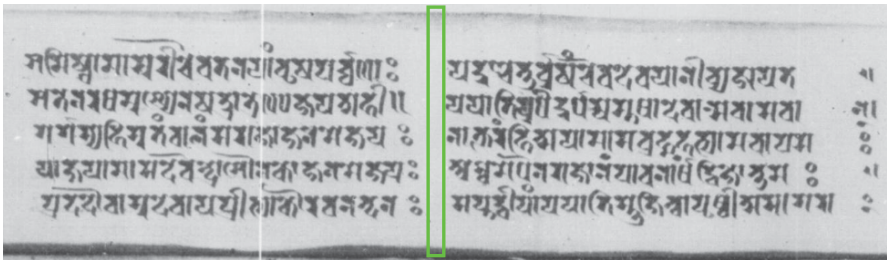


Fig. 4.2.2.3-II: Enlarged and extracted part from fol. 39v

[39v1–2] *teṣāṃ yayātiḥ pañcānāṃ vijitya va\su/dhām imāṃ*    
*devayānīm uśanasah sutāṃ bhāryām avāpa ha*  |||○|  
*śarmiṣṭhām āsuri(!) caiva tanayāṃ vṛṣaparvvaṇaḥ*    
*yaduṇ ca turvūṣaṃ caiva devayānī vyajāyata*  |||○|  
*druhyuṃ cānuṃ ca pūrūṇ ca śarmmiṣṭhā vārṣaparvvaṇī*    
*tasya śakro dadau prīto ratham paramabhāsavam* |  
 [2] *asaṃgaṃ kāncanaṃ divyaṃ divyaiḥ paramavājibhi*    
*ḥ yuktam manojavai(!) śubhraiḥ yena kāryaṃ samudvaha*  t ||○|  
*sa tena rathamukhyena ṣaḍrātrenājayan mahi(!)* ||    
*yayāti(!) yudhi(!) durdharsas tathā devān savāsavā*  n||○|  
*sa rathaḥ pauraṇān tu sarveṣāṃ abha\va/t tadā* ||    
*yāvat tava sanāmano(!) vai kauravaṃ janamejayam* |  
 ...

### 4.2.3 Gaps – Preliminary conclusion

Gaps can be understood as a crucial dividing device in terms of the visual demarcation of smaller text units in the manuscript. They can be found between sentences or parts of *ślokas* (as described in Gaps: type (a) and Gaps: type (b)).

Gaps have been found largely in the Nepalese manuscripts of my corpus. Three manuscripts, where precisely the first and second half of the *ślokas* have been (partially or almost entirely) divided by gaps within text-section (like Gaps: type (b)) contain puranic texts (SP<sub>1</sub>, SP<sub>2</sub>) and an epic text (HV<sub>1</sub>).

We can assume that the presence of gaps reflects the work of a skilful scribe, who took care and great effort in producing the manuscript and implemented a well-planned layout strategy.<sup>499</sup> The scribe was probably familiar with the metrical structure of the text he was writing down. Regarding the use of manuscripts exhibiting such kinds of features, the division of smaller text units may have helped readers orient themselves in the text. It can also be said that gaps can be understood as a reader-friendly layout.

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<sup>499</sup> This openly contradicts the statement of Al-Beruni. For the English translation of his statement, see Sachau 1910, Vol. I, 18 “... the Indian scribes are careless, and do not take pains to produce correct and well-collated copies”. It may not bear out that the scribes did not pay sufficient attention to the production of manuscripts, when we observe the use of various kinds of symbols, the arrangement of smaller text units in manuscripts or the overall layout of East Indian manuscripts where text lines have been written with remarkable regularity (see section 2.4.2 above).