



FACULTY OF ARTS
Charles University

Institute of Asian Studies

SUPERVISOR'S STATEMENT

Linda Szabóová, *The Three-headed Black Man: Analysis of a Ritual Text from the Gto Collection (Gto 'bum)*. Master Thesis, Faculty of Arts, Institute of Asian Studies, Prague, 2024, 66pp.

Linda Szabóová started her Bachelor's degree in Tibetan Studies in 2015 while studying Hungarian. She then continued her Master's studies in Tibetan Studies in 2018. The studies lasted for quite a long time, during which Linda kept appearing and disappearing from our horizon. However, this was accompanied by unpleasant health problems that made her studies difficult. The writing of her master's thesis was also affected by them.

Linda's results were excellent throughout her studies. This is evident in the examination results. I know her as an exceptionally bright, capable and talented student who demonstrated the ability to extract relevant information from literature, to structure texts logically, a talent for languages. Her seminar papers were among the best that students in our study program have ever written.

I proposed the topic of this thesis to Linda for her bachelor thesis a long time ago. This ritual has been the subject of research (largely unpublished) by my colleague in Paris, Charles Ramble, based on manuscripts and performances of the ritual, particularly from within the Bön tradition. This particular Tibetan text has so far lain outside his interest. Although it is a difficult text in terms of language, when compared to the texts of the Bön tradition it is translatable by students of Tibetan studies. However, later on, due to personal complications, Linda and I agreed to keep this topic, but for the Master's thesis.

As already mentioned, Linda's health complicated the process of writing this thesis. A long time ago, we met to translate the opening lines of the Tibetan text, and after a long time I received the final text before submitting it, in which I suggested only a few minor changes.

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Linda worked completely independently, consulting only a few difficult points in the translation with our colleague, Geshe Nyima Choekhortshang.

From the text of the thesis it is not obvious to a non-expert how difficult the translated text is. As a representative of the philology department, I am glad that Linda has obviously coped well with its translation.

The translation of this text is introduced by general sections on ritual, astrology and the context of the text. These sections are well laid out, but the introduction to ritual is not much connected with the text translated. There is certainly room in this section to better situate the text in its Tibetan setting and to examine the entire Gto 'bum collection and its likely author Karma chags med in more detail. Nevertheless, within the realm of possibility, I consider the present text to be well suited to the requirements set for a master's thesis. The thesis is formally very well done, written in lively English, and the transcriptions from Tibetan or quotations are also formally sound.

I conclude that the thesis meets the requirements for a master's thesis and, also taking into account Linda's study performance, I propose to classify it as 'excellent'.

Prague, August 28, 2024

Daniel Berounsky
supervisor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Berounsky'.