## APPENDIX: THE STORY OF THE YAKSA NANDAKA, GUARDIAN OF THE GATE OF ISVARA

### Judith M. Jacob

- 29. There was once a yakşa called Nandaka, keeper of the portals of Siva's palace on Mount Kailāsa. Nandaka was ugly. He had a bald head, with tufts of hair at the sides.
- 30. As a result, (30) all the celestial beings, the sons of the gods, the nagas and the yaksas used to enjoy ridiculing him. Every time they came to call upon Siva they would slap his head or rap him on the head with their knuckles, laughing at him and mocking him in their various modes of speech before going to attend upon Siva in his residence. That was how it was every time!

Nandaka was a yakṣa who had no particular power or prowess. When he was slapped and thumped he felt furious and thought to himself, 'The reason why all the celestial beings hold me in contempt is that I am a humble person with no powers like theirs. I must go and see my master,

- 31. Siva, and ask a boon of him. Let (31) him grant that my index finger should become a weapon. Then I shall point it at all that horde and make them fall into the outer Cakravāla. That will serve them right for looking down on me and slapping and rapping my head! With this in mind, Nandaka presented himself before Siva and said, bowing low before him, 'My lord, I, who am here before you, am your servant, keeper of the gate of your palace for many a long year. I have never received a single gift from you. But now all the celestial beings, the sons of the gods, the nāgas and the yakṣas despise me, my lord, and on every occasion they slap me and rap me on the head. I am incensed with rage and I ask you, my master, to bestow a certain boon
- 32. on me.(32) Will you grant that my right index finger should become a weapon-finger with the power to point at that vulgar rabble and make them flee far away from me, pellmell? Then I shall be able to stay and carry out my duties to you, my lord, in contentment.' When the great lord Siva heard this, he was sorry for Nandaka. He took hold of the index finger of his right hand, raised it up and recited a formula, bestowing the boon, all in a moment, through his own personal might. And the index finger became a weapon, exactly as Nandaka wanted it to be.
  - 33. When he had achieved his wish, Nandaka took leave of Siva respectfully and went away to carry on guarding the

gate as before. He set about pointing his finger at all the celestial throngs who came to amuse themselves by hitting his head and daily sent them drifting away confusedly towards the distant Cakravāla.

The whole celestial throng, the nāgas and the yaksas, were reduced to humility by Nandaka's finger.
Nandaka kept on pointing his finger, no matter which divinity it was. He merely had to see any one of them coming through the air from afar and he would point at him making him fall towards the Cakravāla. The divine beings were all terrified of Nandaka. They did not dare to come and call on Śiva!(34) - Śiva's meeting hall was deserted from then onwards.

The matter was not kept secret; news of it reached Siva. He was horrified and anxious. 'I gave too great a gift to Nandaka', he thought. 'At present he is pointing his finger only at the outer gods. But suppose he thought of treachery towards me and pointed at me? I should be sent flying towards the distant Cakravāla - no doubt of it! This royal domain of mine on Mount Kailāsa would go to Nandaka! He would certainly take possession of it. Mmm. I can't let this state of affairs continue. I must think about getting rid of him. Then I shall have my peace of mind for the future.' With this thought (35) in mind, Siva sent a

- 35. the future.' With this thought (35) in mind, Siva sent a message to his young brother, Nārāyaṇa. Would he please come to see him in the inner room? Nārāyaṇa came and Siva told him all about the special weapon which Nandaka's index finger had become. Nārāyaṇa listened and then said, 'You gave the boon without considering its potential danger to yourself. How can you now take it back and make it disappear? The matter has already gone too far. The only thing is to work out a way to kill him off.' Nārāyaṇa took it upon himself to help and bade Lord Siva goodbye. Leaving 36. the royal residence he changed his form into that of a (36)
- beautiful young girl and walked with graceful movements towards Nandaka's home. When he reached it, he glanced provocatively in Nandaka's direction, behaving like a woman who enjoyed the society of men and leading Nandaka on by various means to fall in love with her. When Nandaka turned and saw the attractive Nārāyaṇa girl, he felt sure, not knowing it was Nārāyaṇa in changed form, that she was a girl from a troupe of dancers. And so he fell head over heels in love with the transformed Nārāyaṇa. He smiled broadly and spoke persuasively, breaking into verse as follows:
- 37. (37) 'Come, O dearest treasure! Approach, beloved. I would talk with you. Where are you going and where do you come from? I look at you and want us to be friends'.

'You have asked me a question; I must reply -

with warmth, with eagerness, with desire. I am here because I am looking for a husband, one who pleases me; then I will take him on.'

'Dear lady, blessed with beauty, you are here looking for a husband, to live in harmony together. What kind of man will you choose, precious love? Does a man like me please you?'

'O handsome young man, I am searching for a husband who can dance. If you can dance well enough, I can like you, love you and take you as my husband.'

'My treasure, your beauty excels that of all others! As for dancing the yoke-carrying dance, whatever the measure, I can perform it. What's the difficulty? Dance on, my lady.

38. 'I shall then (38) follow you and so dance correctly. Being a man of intelligence, I shall learn all the rules from you, my teacher. Please dance, beautiful lady!'

When the transformed Nārāyaṇa heard Nandaka undertake to imitate the dancing, he swayed his body, performing the measure  $c\bar{a}k'$   $l\bar{a}t^2$  and he twisted his right index finger round so that it pointed down towards his thigh. Nandaka performed the same dance movements and pointed his finger in the same way. The moment his weapon-finger pointed at his thigh, he fell down instantly on the spot.

Nārāyaṇa turned himself back into the splendid, powerful Nārāyaṇa, four-handed, holding the disc. Moving quickly, he grasped Nandaka's head, pressed him down and raised the disc above him, ready to attack him with it.

39. Nandaka (39) was full of gloom and dismay when he saw Nārāyaṇa. 'I am beaten by Nārāyaṇa's trickery', he thought. 'In his disguise as a girl, he led me on - I lost my senses.' Compressing his lips in anger, Nandaka spoke. 'So! I have slipped up and let my enemy get the better of me! What can I do, my lord, in my situation, with only two arms? How can I do battle against you, with your four arms? If we both had two, I would not accept defeat by you.'

Nārāyaṇa heard this and said, 'In this existence I have four arms and you only two and so you lose. Now, off you go and be born in the world of humans with ten faces and twenty arms. I shall descend and be born as a man with only two arms and we shall fight each other again.'(40) And with these words Nārāyana killed Nandaka,

using his special disc.

When he learned that Nandaka had been born as the demon king, Rāvaṇa, Lord of the yakṣas on the island of Laṅkā, Nārāyaṇa changed his form, leaving his old shape on the shore of the great ocean and was born as Rāma. There was much fierce fighting between them. The full story is in the book of the Rāmakerti. Do read it.

I draw upon the early part of this story in order to show its gati: 3 Nandaka, who died as a result of his own index finger, has a gati like that of a clever individual who talks constantly and shows off. He points towards himself alone, praises only himself.(41) A boastful person attracts criticism and will be destroyed like Nandaka. Wise people with understanding would do well to give this further thought.

O Nandaka, you had your master dip 4 your finger so that it became a weapon-finger. With the power thus achieved, you pointed your finger at the godly throngs and dispersed them.

You confidently used your finger, without forethought, until all the divine beings felt angry with Siva, your master, who told  $N\bar{a}r\bar{a}yan$ , to dispose of you.

You lost your life because, through his powers, the flame of passion consumed your being. You could see only the girl, and were an easy prey for your sweetheart! You met with your end through not taking thought.

When you became overwhelmed by passion's fires, you proceeded to dance, following (42) the movements of Nārāyaṇa, who performed the dance figure Phkā Phkul.<sup>2</sup>
You pointed at your own thigh, collapsed and so died.

The section on dying by means of one's own finger ends here. It is gati No.68.

TEXT

មានយក្សមួយឈ្មោះខន្ទកៈ ជាអ្នករក្សាខ្វេះន៍ ទ្វារកំនីព្រះឥសូរ នៅលើភ្នំកែលស ឧទ្ទកៈនោះ រូបភាក្រក់ ក្យល់ទំពែក សក់ខាននៅតែជាយ់គ្រងី ជាទីនាំឲ្យអស់ពួកទេវមុត្រទេវតា នាគយកូទាំងខ្យាយចូលចិត្តលេន ចំអកចំអន់ទៅផ្សេងៗពួកទេវបុត្រ ទេវតា នាគ យក្ខ តែឡើងមកតាល់ព្រះឥសូរ
កាលណា សឹងនាំគ្នាទះក្បាល ត្បូកក្បាលឧទ្ទកៈនោះ
ហើយសើចចំអកចំអន់លេងទៅតាមកាស ហើយ
ទើបចូលទៅតាល់ព្រះឥសូរឯក្នុងព្រះពេជមន្ទីរ តែ
យាងនេះសព្ទាកាលមក ។

ឯឧន្ទក:នោះ ជាយក្ខឥតឫទ្ធីចេស្តា ត្រូវត្ថក ទៅ-ភាទះក្បាល ត្បូកក្បាលដូច្នោះ ក៏ខំងឺចិត្តគិតថា ចណ្តា គួកទៅភាទាំងឡាយ ដែលមាក់ងាយអញយ៉ាងីដូច្នេះ ក៏ព្រោះអញជាអ្នកថោកទាប ឥតឫទ្ធានុភាពដូចគេ បើ ដូច្នេះគួរអញចូលគាល់ សូមពព្រះឥសូរជាម្ចាស់ ឲ្យ

– ന 🤊 –

គ្រោះអង្គ ប្រាស ប្រសិទ្ធិចង្អលៃ ដៃអញ ឲ្យកើតជាចង្អល់ ដៃ គេជ្រ ខ្មែត អញ ទំនិច ផ្ដួល ពួក ភាអស់ ខេះ ឲ្យ វា ធ្វាក់ ខេត្ត ខ្មែត ខ្មាត ខ្មែត ខ្មិត ខ្មែត ខ្មិត ខ្មែត ខ្ម

ទុំត្រះករុណាបានមួយយ៉ាង គឺប្រោសច្រសិទ្ធិចង្អុល ដៃស្តាំ ខ្ញុំត្រះករុណានេះ ឲ្យកើតជាច្រាមពេជ្រស់បេច ដោយ ឫទ្ធិតាចនឹងចង្អុលពួកកា សាមាខ្យុកស់នោះឲ្យប់ តែខ្លាត់ខ្លាយ ទៅធ្វាយអំពីកាយខ្ញុំត្រះករុណានេះ ទើប ខ្ញុំត្រះករុណានេះ បាននៅធ្វើពជការបំរើល្អន៍ធូលីជា សុទសប្បាយតទៅ " ។

ឯព្រះមហិស្សកធិបតី កាលបើថ្មានស្លាប់ពាក្យ នន្ទកៈដូច្នោះហើយ ក៏អាណិតនន្ទកៈនោះទើបទ្រង់ ចាប់ចង្គលដៃស្ពាំនន្ទកៈ លើកាឡីងសូត្រប្រសិទ្ធិ ដោយឫទ្ធិត្រះសយម្ភមួយរំតេចឡើន ឯចង្គួលដែនោះ កំកើតជាពេជ្រដូចចិត្តប្រាញ្ញានៃនន្ទកៈនោះឯង ា

### - നന\_

ឯ៩នូក: សោះកាលសំរេចក្តី (ជាថ្នាំខ្លួន ហើយ កំ ក្រាបលា ព្រះឥសូរ ចេញមកនៅរក្សាទ្វាវដូចប្រក្រតិ មុន ហើយតាំឱចង្អីលពួកទៅបុត្រទៅតា ដែលមក លហេងីត្បកក្បាលខ្លួន នោះ ឲ្យអណ្តែតខ្លាត់ទៅចក្រ-បាខ្យួន យាតែរឿយ១ រាល់១ ថ្ងៃ ២

ញ្អាទេវតាខាតបក្ខទាំងឡាយ សឹងខ្ទប់ខ្ទាប់
បង្គួលដៃខន្ទកៈនោះគ្រប់ ១ គ្នា ឯឧទ្ទក:សោតក៏បេះ
តែបង្គួលមិនថា ទវតាអង្គ ណាឡើយ និមិត្តតែឃើញ
ហោះមកពីបម្វាយ ក៏បង្គួលឲ្យធ្លាក់ទៅ បក្រវាឡទាំង
អស់ ឯពួកទេវតាអស់នោះ សឹងភិតភាប់ខ្ទាប់ខន្ទក:
គ្រប់ប្រាណ ពុំហាំនបូលមកគាល់ព្រះឥសូវសោះ

เญ็น จีนี่รุ้เตะส*พูเค็*ญล่พู่ธุญณั้น อาบเนีย ห์ตีใช่เลาะยก ๆ

ការនោះពុំជាត់ស្ងាត់ឡើយ ក៏ឲ្យថ្មត្រាប ដល់ព្រះឥស្ស ១ ក៏កើតក្ដីតក់ស្កុតព្រួយព្រះហឫទ័យ ដោយក្ដីតិតឃើញថា អាញឲ្យពេះដល់ខន្ទកៈខោះ ជា ការហួសប្រមាណណាស់ នេះខន្ទកៈវាចន្ទឹលតែពួក ទៅតាក្រៅ១ ប្រសិនណាខន្ទកៈវាតិតក្បត់នឹងីអាញជា ចន្ទឹលរូបអញកាលណា អញក៏នឹងអណ្ដែតខ្លាត់ទៅ ឯចក្រវាទ្យនាយពុំខាន សម្បត្តិកាដស្ថានអញក្នុងភ្នំកែ លាសនេះ នឹងប្រទៅខន្ទកៈវាយកដារបស់វាប្រាកដ អោះការនេះ នឹងសៀមនៅពុំជាន ចាំតិតអានយករូប វារចញា ទើបក្ដីសុខអញនឹងមានតទៅ ។ ព្រះឥស្សគិត

### ගුද් -

ដូច្នោះ ហើយ ខើ**៤៤ស្រា**ម ញ្ជើញគ្រះ**ខា**កយណ៍**ជា** គ្រះអនុជចូលមកភាល់ខាងក្នុង ។

ព្រះសារយណ៍ ក៏ឡើង ទៅសាល់ព្រះឥសូរ។ ក៏
គ្រាស់ព្រប់រឿងខន្ទកៈ បានចង្អួលដៃពេជ្រជាអាវុធ
វិសេសសោះសព្វបការ ព្រះនារាយណ៍បានស្ដាប់
ដូច្នោះ ក៏ខូលថា ព្រះជេដ្ឋាមានពយើយ មិនពិហារៈ
ណាឲ្យយល់ការអន្តរាយទី មានដល់ខ្លួន ឥឡូវនឹងនៅ
ដកទៅស្របយកវិញ្ច ណាក៏បាន ដ្បិតការកំហួសទៅ
ហើយ ដូច្នេះខាន់តែតិតកែខ្លាយសម្លាប់កំចេញ ទើប
បាន ខូលហើយព្រះសារយណ៍ ក៏ខខួលយកអាសា
ទើបបន្ដំណាព្រះមហិស្សាធិបតី ចេញមកទាងក្រៅ
ព្រះរាជមន្ទីរ ហើយនិម្មិតកាយថ្ងៃងកាយក្លាយជាស្រី

ក្រមុំសមសេតា លីលាតែក្រាយដើរចូលទៅកាន់
សំណាត់នៃ ចៅនទូតៈនោះឯង ដល់ៈហីយក៏ច្រើបក
ពាក់យៃ ធ្វើងប្អង់ក្នុក ដើមវត្តក ក្រឡេកគន់មុខ
នទូកៈធ្វើភាការដូចជាស្រីអ្នកលេងគប់ប្រុស ញ៉ាំង
នទូកៈឲ្យស្នេហាក្នុងលោតិយ ដោយប្រការផ្សង់ក្
ឯឧន្ទកៈ បែរទៅឃើញនារាយណ៍នារីតួដោទីស្នេហៈ
នោះ ក៏ពុំដឹងជានារាយណ៍តាឡា និកស្មានថានារីពួក
រប៉ាជាប្រាកដ ខេបកើតកូចចិត្តប្រដៃព័ទ្ធ សេឡា ញ
ទាំងក្នុងរូបនារាយណ៍តាឡានោះ ហើយក៏ច្រើកវិយា
ញាញឹមរីករាយនិយាយប្រលាមល្ងងលោម ដោយ
ពាញាំមរីករាយនិយាយប្រលាមល្ងងលោម ដោយ
ពាញាំមរីករាយនិយាយប្រលាមល្ងងលោម ដោយ

### —നറി -

 ភិត្តមមិនឲ្យខុស បំណាច់តាច្រប់មានបញ្ជា រឿន មកពីគ្រុមស់តម្រា អញ្ចើញកល្យាណ៍រំលៅមើយ"។ ឯក្រទោលយណ៍កាឡា បានព្នន់ខ្ទុកៈខខ្ទួលរ៉ា តាមដូច្នោះ ក៏កោយរាយក្បាច់ចាក់លាត ហើយកូច ចន្ទួលដៃស្ដាច់ន្ទួលចុះចំត្រង់ដើមក្ដៅនៃអាត្មា ។

ឯ៩ខ្លក់:ក៏វ៉ាតាម បង្គល់តាម និមិត្តតែបង្គល់ដៃ ពេជ្រនោះត្រវិបិភ្លៅកាល់ណា ភ្លៅនខ្លក់:ក៏បាក់ដួល ព្យក់ចុះក្នុងទីនោះមួយរំពេច ។

ឯព្រះខារាយណ៍ ក៏ប្រែកាយជាខារាយណ៍រឿង រិទ្ធិបតុករ គឺមានហត្ថា៤កាន់បក្រ ស្ទុះទៅចាប់ក្បាល ឧន្ទក:សង្កត់ចុះ នាបក្រឡើងប្រហារឧន្ទក:នោះឯន៉ ឯឧន្ទក:បែរទៅឃើញព្រះខារាយណ៍ដូច្នោះ ក៏ពេម-

### - m & -

ឧស្សត្ចបចិត្តគិតថា អាត្មាញញ៉ូព្រះនាកយណ៍បញ្ចុក បញ្ចោតថ្ងៃ ជាប្រស្រើឲ្យអាត្មាលុះលន់បន់គំនិត ។ ឧន្ទកៈ រិជនាំ មាត់បែរពោលទៅថា "យើរៈយើងខុស ស្នៀតសត្រូវចូលបៀតបាន «ព្រះអង្គីអើយ ហ្លើយ ចុះ ធ្វើម្ដេចឯងមានដៃតែពីរ នឹងទៅតស៊ូនឹងត្រះអង្គ ៤ ព្រះកង្គេណាបាន បើប្រសិនជាដៃពីរដុចគ្នាខ្ញុំមិន ទទួលបាញ់ព្រះអង្គីទេ" ។

ឯព្រះនាក្យណ៍ទាន់ទីពាក្យន់នូកៈដូច្នោះ ក៏គ្រាស់ ថា "ជាតិនេះយើងដៃ៤ ទៅដៅតេពី ខេបចាញ់យើង បើដូច្នេះ ទៅឯងទៅកើតទាស្ថានមនុស្សលោកនាយ ឲ្យមានមុខ ១០ ដៃ២០ ចុះ យើងចុះទៅកើតជាមនុស្ស មាន់ដៅតេពីវិញ នឹងតស៊ិត្នាទៅខាន់មុខរៀត" ។ ព្រះនាពយណ៍ត្រាស់ហើយ ក៏ប្រហារដ្ឋិត ខែនទូកៈនោៈដោយក បក្រៅសេសហោជ ។

ដោយព្នំថា ននូកៈ ខោះមកកើតជាក្រុងិរាពណាសូរ ជាស្ដេចយក្ខនៅកោះលង្កា ព្រះនារាយណ៍
បែងិតាតបាករួចបាសនៅធ្មេរមហាសានរ មកកើត
ជាអង្គីព្រះពមា បានធ្វើសឹកនឹងិត្តាជាអធិកខ្លាំងក្រែ

ខាន់សេចក្ដីពីស្ដារនៅក្នុងសាស្ដ្រារឿងរាមក្ដេងណោះ
អញ្ជើញទៅមើលចុះ ។

រុំចានជាញារឿងដើមតែ ពុំណ្ណេះនេះ េដម្បីទិ្យ ឃើញជាគតិថា ននូក: នោះស្លាប់ដោយបន្តិសាដ របស់ទូន បានគតិដូចបុគ្គលអ្នកប្រាជព្រោកនិយាយ អ្នកតែទូនឯង បង្គិលតែទូនឯង សរសើរតែទួនឯង

-69-

បុគ្គលណាអូតសរសើរតែទូនឯឪហើយ បុគ្គលនោះ នឹងសុះសេចក្តីនិទ្ធាអ្នកដទៃ បានសេចក្តិវិនាសដូច ឧន្ទក:នោះឯង ប្រាដ្ឋមានបញ្ហាគួរគិតទៀតចុះ ៗ

 -66-

# នាកយណ៍កំក្មែង កំក្បាច់ដ្កាផ្តួល ចង្គួលគ្រៅឯង ដួលជាក់ច្រទៃន៍ ចៅឯងក្បិណត្ស័យ ។

ប្រជុំពស្លាប់ដោយស្រមផៃឯង ជាគនិទី ៦៨ ។

#### NOTES

- This story, translated from the Khmer, is one of a collection of tales composed by Suttantaprijā In, 1959.
   Gatilok ou L'art de bien se conduire (Ed. de l'Inst. Bouddhique). Phnom Penh: Inst. Bouddhique, 10 vols., 10, 29-42.
- The untranslatable names of Khmer country dances are left in transliteration.
- 3. This word, which forms part of the title (*Gatilok*) of the whole work, means 'line of thought, trend, behavioural tendency'. It may refer either to the moral of the story or to the behaviour of a character.
- 4. This second poem (which runs to the end of the story) contains some inconsistencies. In the narrative above there is no mention of 'dipping' the finger and Śiva did not directly tell Nārāyaṇa to kill Nandaka. The use of the name Kosi with Sūlī in the Khmer text (translated 'Śiva') is odd since, although Sūlī is a regular name for Śiva in Khmer poetry, Kosi is a regular name for Indra.