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Two Gandhari Manuscripts of the "Songs of Lake Anavatapta" (Anavatapta-gatha): British Library Kharosthi Fragment 1 and Senior Scroll 14 (Gandharan Buddhist Texts) (Volume 5)

Richard Salomon

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the "Songs of Lake Anavatapta" (Anavatapta-gatha): British Library Kharosthi Fragment 1 and Senior Scroll 14 (Gandharan Buddhist Texts) (Volume 5):

This fifth volume in the Gandharan Buddhist Texts series (GBT) presents two fragmentary manuscripts of the poem "Songs of Lake Anavatapta." Previously known from versions in Sanskrit, Pali, Tibetan, and Chinese, the two recently discovered Gandhari-language versions confirm the poem's popularity in the ancient Buddhist world. The "Songs of Lake Anavatapta" consists of a series of narrations by the Buddha's foremost disciples (and finally by the Buddha himself) in which each reveals his own complex karmic history over many past lives and explains how, as a result of good deeds, he has come to be an enlightened disciple of the Buddha. An important theme is the complexity of karma, whereby not only the enlightened beings but even the Buddha himself suffer the effects of remnants of bad karma from evil deeds long-ago.

There is hardly any aspect of the Anavataptagatha that is not carefully considered in all possible aspects, to be then interpreted with cautious but penetrating judgment. Whoever wants to learn how to handle really difficult fragmentary Buddhist or other texts with outstanding success should first carefully study and absorb this book. (Journal of the American Oriental Society) About the Author Richard Salomon is professor of Sanskrit in the Department of Asian Languages and Literature at the University of Washington and director of the University of Washington Early Buddhist Manuscripts Project. He is the author of Ancient Buddhist Scrolls from Gandhara and A Gandhari Version of the Rhinoceros Sutra.