ONE of the most popular and at the same time the most important canonical books adopted by the Far Eastern Buddhists is the *Prajnā-pāramitā-hridaya-sūtra*, in which the doctrine of Śūnyatā (Emptiness) is most concisely stated. As we see below, the whole text does not exceed two printed pages in Sanskrit, and in Chinese it (the shorter one) consists of two hundred and sixty-two characters. This brevity must have helped its wide circulation among the Mahāyānists all over the East. It is recited by them almost on all occasions.

We do not know when the compendious literature belonging to the Prājāā-pāramitā class was reduced to this abridged form, for as such the present Sutra is to be regarded. When Nāgārjuna laid the foundation of his Madhyamika philosophy on the doctrine of Sunvata as expounded in the Prajnapāramitā and executed his work in such a masterly and consummate manner as to silence his more conservative brethren in faith, the Sutra must have become the central object of attention and veneration among his followers. But the original Sutra is a great bulky literature supposed to be consisting of 200,000 ślokas in Sanskrit and 600 fasciculi in Chinese, and it is no easy task to peruse the whole work, and it was quite natural that some pious soul would rise and try to reduce it to a far less formidable size. In fact the conception of the Sunyata is not a very complicated one to explain, a series of denials in regard to the main theses of Mahāyāna philosophy will suffice. The Hridaya was the rational outcome of this movement; the term means "gist", "kernel", or "essence".

^{*} In the preparation of this article, especially in the editing of the Sanskrit and the Tibetan texts the writer is indebted to Professors Idzumi and Teramoto.

There is however another interpretation concerning the purport of this epitomised Sutra, which is made by the followers of the Shingon Sect. Seeing what a weighty position is occupied by the Dhārani or Mantra, they would regard the whole Sutra as a Shingon text in which the power of the mystic formula is exalted.

At present we have two Sanskrit texts of the Prajnapiramita-hridaya-sūtra, shorter and fuller, both of which were recovered in Japan. The original palm-leaves are said to have been brought to Japan, the shorter one in A.D. 609 and the fuller one in A.D. 850. The earlier ones are the oldest palm-leaf manuscripts still in existence anywhere, in which, according to Max Müller and G. Bühler, we find the earliest specimens of a Sanskrit alphabet for literary purposes. (Cf. Buddhist Texts from Japan, edited by Max Müller, Oxford, 1881.) The difference between the fuller and the shorter Hridaya is that the first has a usual opening passage as in other Sutras as well as concluding remarks after the Mantra while the shorter Sutra opens abruptly and ends with the Mantra, the main text alone being preserved intact. The following Sanskrit text which is the fuller one is chiefly based upon Max Müller's recovery of the ancient palm-leaf manuscript found at Horyuji, Nara, Japan; but in two or three places his reconstruction has been revised since his reading is not in accordance with the spirit of the Prajna-paramita philosophy. The Tibetan text that follows the Sanskrit is also the fuller Sutra. Prof. Teramoto through whose kindness the present writer is able to reproduce the Tibetan version has not yet recovered the shorter one.

The English translation below is made from the Chinese shorter Shingyo (心經, Hridaya Sūtra) which was translated by Kumārajīva in A.D. 400. To understand the Sutra fully requires some knowledge of Mahayana Buddhism especially as presented by Nāgārjuna in his Mādhyamika-Sutra, but

in the present article such technical terms only as are referred to in the text will be briefly explained, leaving a systematic exposition of the Sūnyatā philosophy to one of the coming issues of the present magazine. (The superior figures below refer to the explanations and remarks to be found later.)

THE TEXT OF THE HRIDAYA SUTRA

When the Bodhisattva Ayalokitesvara was engaged in the practice of the deep Prajna-paramita, he perceived that the five skandhas were all ampty, and he was saved from all misery and suffering?. "O Sariputra," said he, "form is no other than emptiness, and emptiness is no other than form; what is form that is emptiness, and what is emptiness that is form. The same can be said of sensation, thought, confection, and consciousness. O Sariputra, all things are characterised by emptiness: they are not born, they are not annihilated; they are not tainted, they are not immaculate; they do not increase, they do not decrease; therefore, in emptiness there is no form, no sensation, no thought, confection, consciousness; no eye, ear, nose, body, and mind4; no form, sound, odour, taste, touch, and objects'; no element of vision, etc., till we come to no element of consciousness'; there is no ignorance, nor is there the extinction of ignorance, etc., till we come to there is no old age and death; nor is there the extinction of old age and death⁷; there is no suffering, accumulation, annihilation, path⁸; there is no knowledge, nor is there any obtaining, because there is nothing to be obtained. The Bodhisattva, depending on the Prajūā-pāramitā, has no obstacles in his mind¹⁰; and because he has no obstacles, he has no fear, and, going beyond all perverted and unreal views, reaches final Nirvana. All Buddhas of past, present, and future, depending on the Prajna-paramita, attain to the highest perfect wisdom. Therefore, we know that the Prajna-paramita is a great divine mantra, a mantra of great intelligence, the

highest mantra, the peerless mantra, which is capable of putting aside all suffering, it is truth and not falsehood. Therefore, I proclaim the mantra of Prajňā-pāramitā¹¹. The mantra to be proclaimed then is: "Gate, gate, pāragate, pārasamgate, bodhi, svāha!" (O wisdom, gone, gone, gone to the other shore, landed at the other shore, Svāha!)

NOTES

The opening passage in the fuller text in Sanskrit and Tibetan which is missing in the shorter one is: "Adoration to the All-wise! * Thus I heard. At one time the Worldhonoured One dwelt at Rājagriha, on the Mount of Vulture, together with a large number of Bhikshus and a large number of Bodhisattvas. At that time the World-honoured One was absorbed in a samādhi (Meditation) known as Deep Enlightenment. And at the same moment the Great Bodhisattva Āryāvalokitesvara was practising himself in the deep Prajñāpāramitā."

The concluding passage runs as follows:

"O Sāriputra, thus should the Bodhisattva practise himself in the deep Prajnāpāramitā. At that moment the Worldhonoured One rose from the samādhi and gave approval to the Great Bodhisattva Āryāvalokitesvara, saying: Well done, well done, a noble son! so it is! so should the practise of the deep Prajnāpāramitā be carried on. As it has been preached by you, it is applauded by Tathāgatas and Arhats. Thus spoke the World-honoured One with joyful heart. The venerable Sāriputra and the Great Bodhisattva Āryāvalokitesvara together with the whole assemblage, and the world of gods, men,

^{*} The Tibetan has: "Adoration to the Prajnaparamita, which is beyond words, thought, and praise, whose self-nature is, like unto space, neither created nor destroyed, which is a state of wisdom and morality evident to our inner consciousness, and which is the mother of all Excellent Ones of the past, present and future."

asuras, and gandharvas all praised the speech of the Worldhonoured One."

- 1. The five skandhās (aggregates or elements) are form $(r\bar{u}pa)$, sensation or sense-perception $(vedan\bar{u})$, thought $(samjn\bar{u})$, confection or conformation $(samsk\bar{u}r\bar{u})$, and consciousness $(vij\bar{n}\bar{u}na)$. The first skandha is the material world or the materiality of things while the remaining four skandhas belong to the mind. $Vedan\bar{u}$ is what we get through our senses; $samjn\bar{u}$ corresponds to thought in its broadest sense or that which mind elaborates; $samsk\bar{u}r\bar{u}$ is a very difficult term and there is no exact English equivalent, it means something that gives form; and $vij\bar{u}\bar{u}na$ is consciousness, of which six kinds are ordinarily distinguished by scholars: eyeconsciousness, ear-consciousness, nose-consciousness, tongueconsciousness, body-consciousness, and mind-consciousness.
- 2. This last sentence is missing in all the Sanskrit and Tibetan texts.
- "Empty" (sūnya) or "Emptiness" (sūnyatā) is one of the most important notions in Mahayana philosophy and at the same time most puzzling for non-Buddhist readers to comprehend. Emptiness does not always mean relativity or phenomenality, but often means absoluteness or transcendentality. When Buddhists declare all things to be empty, they are not advocating a nihilistic view; on the contrary they are assuming an ultimate reality which cannot be subsumed in the categories of logic. With them, to proclaim the conditionality of things is to assert the existence of something altogether unconditioned and transcendent of all determination. Sunyata may thus often be most appropriately rendered by the Absolute. When the Sutra says that the five skandhas have the character of emptiness, or that in emptiness there is neither creation nor destruction, neither defilement nor immaculacy, etc., the sense is: no limiting qualities are

to be attributed to the Absolute; while it is immanent in all concrete and particular objects, it is itself not at all definable. Universal negation, therefore, in the philosophy of Prajñā is an inevitable outcome.

- 4. No eye, no ear, etc., refer to the six senses. In Buddhist philosophy, mind (manovijnāna) is the special organ or sense for the apprehension of dharma, or objects of thought.
- 5. No form, no sound, etc., are the six qualities of the external world, which become objects of the six senses.
- 6. "Element of vision, etc., till we come to, no element of consciousness" is a reference to the eighteen *dhatu* or elements of existence, which include six senses, six qualities, and six consciousnesses. "Till we come to" (yāvat in Sarskrit, and 乃至 in Chinese) is quite frequently met with in Buddhist literature to avoid repetition of well-known subjects. These classifications may seem somewhat confusing and overslapping.
- 7. "There is no ignorance," etc., is the wholesale denial of the Twelve Chains of Causation (Nidāna), which are ignorance (avidyā), confection (samskāra) consciousness (vijīāna), name and form (nāmarūpa), six sense-organs (shadāyadana), contact (sparsa), sense-perception (vedanā), desire (trishna), attachment (upūdāna), being (bhava), birth (jāti), and old age and death (jarāmarana). These Chains have been a subject of much discussion even among Buddhist scholars. Pratītyasamutpāda is the technical term in Sanskrit for the Chain of Causation.
- 8. The allusion is of course to the Fourfold Noble Truth (satya): 1. Life is suffering; 2. Because of the accumulation (Samulaya) of evil karma; 3. The cause of suffering can be annihilated (nirodha); 4. And for this there is the path (marga).
- 9. Āsritya is rendered by Max Müller as ""approaching," which in the Chinese translation is 依...故, "depend-

ing upon," or "relying on," or more correctly "because of one's dependence." Therefore, in this case as well as in the following passage, the context assumes quite a different signification from that given by Max Müller.

- 10. Max Müller here has: "A man who has approached the Prajūā-pāramitā of the Bodhisattva dwells enveloped in consciousness." But this is evidently not the reading generally adopted by the Mahayanists, his reconstruction of the palm-leaf manuscripts is against the spirit of the Šūnyatā philosophy; besides, as was pointed out by Prof. Ryōsaburo Sakaki, of the Kyoto Imperial University, the original text does not necessarily warrant the reading of Max Müller, who as we know was more of a philologist than a Buddhist philosopher. Our Sanskrit text in the following pages gives our own reading.
- 11. The question is whether we regard Prajnā-pāramitā as the title of the Sutra or as designating the prefect realisation of Prajnā. When we adopt the first interpretation, the mantra itself is the realisation or that which leads us to the final goal. The Tibetan version, according to Prof. Yenga Teramoto, has *Prajnā* in the genitive as in one of the Japanese Sanskrit MSS. and not in the locative as Max Müller and our own text here have.

In the following pages we reproduce the Sanskrit and the Tibetan text of the fuller *Hridaya Sūtra*. For the setting of the Sanskrit and the Tibetan type, acknowledgment is due to Mr Kiyoshi Kato, who, together with Mr Genjo Adachi, is working on the *Lankāvatāra Sūtra*, now speedily approaching completion.

SHAKU HANNYA

॥ ननः सर्वज्ञाय ॥

एवं मया श्रुतम्। एकस्मिन्समये भगवानाजगृहे विहरित स्म गृप्रकूटे पर्वते महता भिक्षुसंघेन सार्ध महता च बोधिस इसमें मेन । तेन खलु समयेन भग= वानाम्भीरावसंबोधं नाम समाधिं समापनः । तेन च समयेनार्यावलोकितेष्यो बोधिसस्त्रो महासस्त्रो गम्भी= रायां प्रज्ञापारिमतायां चर्या चरमाण एवं व्यवलोकय= ति सा। पच स्तन्धाः। तांश्व स्वभावशून्यान्यवलोताः यति । अषायुष्माञ्छारिपुत्रो बुडानुभावेनार्यावलोकिते= यरं नोधिस इसेतदवोचत्। यः कश्चित्कुलपुचो गम्भी= रायां प्रज्ञापारिमतायां चर्या चतुंकामः कथं शिक्षित= यः। एवमुक्त आर्यावलोकितेषरो वोधिसस्वो महासस्व आयुष्मनां भारिपुत्रमेतदवोचत् । यः कश्विच्छारिपुत्र कुलपुचो वा कुलदुहिता वा गम्भीरायां प्रज्ञापारिम= तायां चर्या चर्त्तकामस्तिनैवं व्यवलोकायतव्यम्। पञ्च स्तन्धाः। तांश्व स्त्रभावश्रत्यान्समनुपश्यति स्म । रूपं शून्य= ता शून्यतेव रूपम् । रूपान पृथक् शून्यता शून्यताया न पृथयूपम्। यदूपं सा शून्यता या शून्यता तदूपम्। एवं वेदनासंज्ञासंस्कारविज्ञानानि च भून्यता । एवं भारि-पुच सर्वधर्माः भूत्यतालक्षणा अनुत्पना अनिरुदा अ= मला न विमला अनूना असंपूर्णाः । तस्मातर्हि शा= रिपुच शून्यतायां न रूपं न वेदना न संज्ञा न संस्कारा न विज्ञानम्। न चधुर्न श्रोबं न प्राणं न जिहा न कायो न मनो न रूपं न शब्दो न गन्धो न रसो न

स्प्रष्टयं न धर्माः । न चक्षुधीतुर्यावन मनोधातुर्न धर्म-धातुर्न मनोविज्ञानधातुः ॥

न विद्या नाविद्या न द्ययो यावन जरामरणं न जरामरणद्ययः । न दुःखसमुदयनिरोधमार्गा न द्यानं न प्राप्तिनीप्राप्तिः । तस्मान्द्यारिपुत्र अप्राप्तिनेन बोधि-सत्त्वानां प्रद्यापारिमतामाश्रित्य विहरत्यिन्तवावरणः । चित्तावरणनास्तित्वादत्रस्तो विषयीसातिक्रान्तो निष्ठनिः वीणः । त्र्यव्यवस्थिताः सर्वबुद्धाः प्रद्यापारिमतामाश्रिः त्यानुत्तरां सम्यक्तंबोधिमिभसंबुद्धाः । तस्मान्द्रातव्यः प्रद्यापारिमतामहामन्त्रो महाविद्यामन्त्रो ऽनृत्तरमन्त्रो ऽसमसममन्तः सर्वदुःखप्रशमनमन्तः सत्यमिष्यत्वात् प्रः द्यापारिमतायासुक्तो मन्तः । तद्यथा । गते गते पार्गते पारसंगते बोधि स्वाहा ॥

एवं पारिपुच गम्भीरायां प्रज्ञापारिमतायां चर्याः यां पिष्ठितव्यं नोधिसस्त्रेन । अय खलु भगनानास्माः समाधेर्युत्यायार्यावलोकितेष्यस्य नोधिसस्त्रस्य साधु- कारमदात् । साधु साधु कुलपुच एनमेतक्कलपुच । एनमेतक्रम्भीरायां प्रज्ञापारिमतायां चर्यं चर्तव्यं यथा त्या निर्दिष्टमनुमोद्यते तथागतेर्हिद्धः । इदमनोचहः गनानानन्दमना आयुष्माञ्छारिपुच आर्यावलोकितेषः स्य नोधिसस्तः सा च सर्वावती पर्धस्रदेनमानुषासुः रगन्धर्वश्व लोको भगवतो भाषितमभ्यनन्दन् ।

॥ इति प्रज्ञापारिमताहृदयसूचं लमाप्तम् ॥

स्थान् क्षेत्र, त्रित्यान् स्ट्रीन् स्थान् स्यान् स्थान् स्यान् स्थान् स्यान् स्थान् स्थान्य

ङुहार्झिहा्ह्य । प्रचाहाणु:यु:बाद:ता:ता:भृहा:र्य:गु:स:रूप:पृ:पु:वे:या:बदः ब्रिट्रे हिर तर हिर्देश मारे हा है . से रायहीय तर हो। हे से रा हे हा ह्मस.त.रटा चिट.क्य.सुमस.रतर.सुमस.रतर.क्य.त्य.पनगंश.त. श्चिष, रश्चा चा चे चा शा र पर सिवा, चो शा कू. रर . र्जिश ता . र्जे . प्रप्ते . प्राप्ते . स्रोते . કુક્ષઃક્રીંકા.ક્ર્યા 1ર્ત્યું પ્રતે.કુતાંકા.ગુે.વે.વે જ્ઞા.કૃતાંકા.ગુે.વે.સૂ.ઘોંદાળા.પોકા. र्यः गुःसर्र्यः रु: धुर्यः अवः स्रितः श्चरः यः श्चरः यरः दर्दरः य देश दरेः देर. इस. तर. दे. तर. ते. ही दीर. त्. ति. त्. दे. रे चे. वीर. र र वे वे र ती स र्बूर.तर.लर.रेच.तर.हुश.ब.चहुर्। विडिचश.बूर.तर्रा र्बूर.त.३२. मिट.चांडेचांबा्बा चांडेचांबाजामा.मिट.क्र्रेट.चांबेच.भालुच.ब्रा क्र्रेट. त.केर.जन.वीचे वाचावविष.मालेष.च्री ट्रे.चेवेष.च.यूर.च.र.। पर्ने ने सार्या विकास मार्थित मार्थित विकास मार्थित र्त. दुरु. य. दे. से. तमा व. क्रमा समन व. दुरा ता हुरा ता हुरा हो। सक् व. हुरा से द ता भः श्रुवाया सः द्वावावाया द्वे सः सेदः या द्वे सः द्वायः व भेर्या द्वाराभेर्या ग्रायाभेर्यो । पृत्रेदे सुरे सुरवस्या हूर.त.३२.ज.चंडचन.सरी कूर.च.सरी ४२.चन.सरी ४२. मुन्भन। इसायर विद्याय सेन। सेना सेन। इ.च.सेन। इ.सेन। છું એના લયએના ખેન એના નારાનયએના સું એના કે होता रू. होता हेवा दी. होता हु होता हो होवा वी विश्व होते.

यान्या भेर गुः। तमस्यान् भेर गुः हस्य यर नेयाये । तसस्युः पर रु.लट. सेर.ट्री स.इ.च.च.स.सेरी स.इ.च.च.च.च.च.च. वि.भर। म.चे.बर.तद्र.वर.र. भर.भर्ट्रा रे.चलेब.र.ड्या.चह्य. त.रटा ग्रीब.एडीट.च.रटा उर्ज्ञान.रटा तभाष्ट्री ल.पेश्न. भेरा ह्म-माभेरा सह्म-माभर भेराही म् देदे सु दे न् न न विट.क्व.ब्रम्ब.रेनठ.रेभब.ह्व.त.मुर्न.तु.वुर्ने प्रेब.रच.ग्री.त.रूज. नु सुन्यायाय हेन हिरामन्याने। श्रेमसाया श्रीयाया सेनाया भरे.हो ही बे.इ.ज्याना.पेर. हे.परेश रेश शिर र जना परेश ता करे. त्तुं प्रवर स्रिव त्युं । दिश्य बिश्य दे . क्षेत्र स्य प्रविष्य श्राय दे स्वर सामिशः ममन.कर.विरा वेन.स्य.की.स.स्य.वे.होबे.स.प.यमेव.वेना ये.वे. भुर.त.लट.रेच.तर्र्ह्चश.तप्रु.चेट.र्छ्च.र्ये.अट्यं.तर्र्ह्चश.तर.श्टश. क्यां । दि. भै. पत्राच पदे वे. पर प्रेश्व. पर. वेश्व. प्रेश. प्रेश. प्राचित्र प्रेश. प्राचित्र प्राची. ऱ्य. रे. द्वेर. तप्. क्वामा द्रवा. ता. क्वर. त्यं. क्वामा ये. राप्र. तप्. र्ज्ञेचा भ्र.भ्रभ.त.२८.भ्रथ.त्रु.र्ज्ञेचा ईंचे.चर्ज्ञित.व्यम्ब.१८. र्यः नुः ले परः मुनः स्वैरः स्वस् । के यह न्यः परः परेनः स्वः मुसः मुसः मु प्रसाम् के स्वाप्त के स णाने युष्या ।। युष्ये प्राप्ता हिं हे बुष्ता ।। युष्ये प्राप्ता हिं हे बुष्ता हामसार्यार हामसार्यार केव स्वा दे हिर छेब रच ग्री सार्ट्या दे ही व

न. वय. म्र.ज. पश्चित हे. वेश पड्सा र्वेश प्रवेश की शहेर हे. प्रहेर पर्वापित्राने। चिराक्तास्त्रस्य रायास्त्रस्य स्थान्य क्रिन्य स्थान्य स्थान र्श्वेय.मश्चामुच्याबार्चन स्थापायमश्चा । विश्वामुन्याची विमान र्धाः यम्बार्स्य। देनाबागुः सु-दे-देनविदान्ति। दे-दे-दिवदाने। दे-दे-द हिंद्राण्चेशमञ्चर्यादे मलेदार्। विश्वास्याणे सम्मान्ये स्वास्यान्य स्वास श्चिर.तर.चेश्चे। र्.चबुर.चेनुविश्वास.स्थल.वीर.हश.श्व.सर.ट्रा चर्ष्रभार्त्र पर्वा के सार् भिरा हवा चर्मा के भारती के भा इपु.च.२८.चेर.क्य.म्भन्य.४५८.म्भन्य.४५५.क्य.स्वाश.स.मिर. रश्योत्रेगश्चरपर सुनार्टा वस्र ४५ र्राट्य स्वरं दिर्दे रे र्टा हरा अर्टा हे अप्येन र्टा है बर दर्शन्ते. पहना हेर.ल. मर.हे। नहुश.र्दर तर वाग्नीवान बीर वाता जा सर्व तर नर्हेर् द्।। नर्ह्म स्व प्रमास्य स्व मान्य में स्व मुर्दे स्व प्रमास्य में स्व त्रिन्यन्य प्रमान्य केन्द्रिन्यन् स्वा 11