



Translating Saraha's Alphabet Doha and its Commentary *ka kha'i do hA, ka kha'i do hA'i bshad pa bris pa*

Subhashita Translation Group

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The famous Indian mahāsiddha Saraha is venerated in the Tibetan traditions as one of the founding fathers of the Great Seal (Mahāmudrā) tradition and is widely known for his songs of realization, or *dohā*. His *Alphabet Dohā (kakhasyadohā)* and its accompanying commentary (*kakhasya-dohāṭippaṇa*) are two of some twenty-four works attributed to Saraha in the Tibetan Tengyur and among the fourteen of his *dohā* songs recorded there. The verses describe tantric consort practices in more or less explicit terms as a means to attain co-emergent bliss and the realization of the great seal, mahāmudrā.



This *dohā* and its commentary present some unique challenges to translation for several reasons. Translated into Tibetan by the 12th century Indian master Vairocanavajra, their abecedarian form, cryptic language, presence of Indic words, and content all bring up interesting questions for the translator.

The Subhashita Translation Group has translated this *dohā* and its commentary for the 84000 Project. The group will discuss Saraha's life and works, Indian tantric Buddhism, and their experiences of translating this unique form.

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| 19:00 NPT (Kathmandu)

To access the Zoom link, please see accompanying post for details or visit www.ryi.org for details at the bottom of the home page.

Free of charge – all are welcome