

# 梵文第六十課

## SANSKRIT LESSON #60

恆賢師 文 BY BHIKSHUNI HENG HSIEN

恆懿師 / 恆田師中譯 CHINESE TRANSLATION BY BHIKSHUNIS HENG YI / HENG TYAN

तासु च पुष्करिणीषु समन्तच्चतुर्दिशं चत्वारि  
सोपानानि चित्राणि दर्शनीयानि चतुर्णां रत्नानां ।

*tāsu ca puṣkarīṇīṣu samantaccaturdiśaṃ catvāri  
sopānāni citrāṇi darśanīyāni caturṇām ratnānām*

And in those lotus pools, in all the four directions,  
are four varicolored, beautiful stairways, made of the four jewels.

四邊階道，金、銀、琉璃、玻璃合成。

極樂世界的蓮花池 *puṣkarīṇyaḥ* 的目前是處格、複數、陰性名詞：*puṣkarīṇīṣu* 經指示形容詞 *tāsu* 「那些」修飾，亦是處格、複數、陰性。注意 *ca* 「和」與平常一樣，譯於 *tāsu* 之前。處格在梵文的意義和其他語文相同，是「在裏面 / 在某處 / 在……上」。在此其位置更進一步由方位複合副詞指定：*samantaccaturdiśaṃ* 「周遍四方」。*samanta* 是形容詞，意思是「遍、處處、到處」，在這詞組是「全部、各方」。*catur* 是「四」，*diśaṃ* 是「方向、方位、方處」。它是不變格式，用於陰性名詞 *diś* 「方位」的複合詞之後，由字根  $\sqrt{dis}$ -「指示顯示」而來。在此是指

The *puṣkarīṇyaḥ* lotus pools of the Land of Ultimate Bliss now turn up in the locative plural feminine: *puṣkarīṇīṣu*, modified by the demonstrative adjective *tāsu* those, also locative plural feminine. Note that *ca* and is translated before *tāsu*, as is normal. The meaning of the locative case in Sanskrit as in other languages is **in/at/on**. The location here is further specified by the compound adverb of place: *samantaccaturdiśaṃ* **in all four directions**. *Samanta* is an adjective meaning **everywhere**, which in this expression amounts to **all**. *Catur* means **four**, and *diśaṃ* **direction** is the indeclinable form used at the end of compounds of the feminine noun *diś* **direction**, based on the root  $\sqrt{dis}$ -**point out/show**. It refers to the four cardinal points: North, South, East and West. Note the doubling of the *c* of



四基本方位：東、南、西、北。 *catur* 在此由於 *c* 位於兩個母音之間所以成爲兩個 *c*, *cc*。

蓮花池的四邊，各有 *catur* 「四個」 *sopānāni* 「階道」。中性名詞 *sopāna* 是「階道」的意思。因有四個所以是複數，主格、複數、中性。成爲 *sopānāni* 而 *catvāri* 「四」與其配合，也是主格複數中性，接下來是兩個形容詞， *citrāṇi* 「雜色的」和 *darśanīyāni* 「美麗的」也都是主格複數中性。形容詞 *citrāṇi* 「雜色的」也是「美麗的、光輝的、璀璨的」意思。 *darśanīya* 「美麗的」是字根  $\sqrt{drś}$ -「見、觀」的動名詞，直譯是「好看的」於是譯成「美麗的」。

蓮花池四邊的階道還有些什麼特質呢？它們是 *caturṇām ratnānām* 「四寶所成」 *ratnānām* 是名詞 *ratna* 「珠寶」的屬格、複數、中性詞。配合 *caturṇām* 是「四」的屬格複數中性詞，這個屬格的體是表示四邊階道的質料是純珠寶所成。

*catur* as it finds itself between two vowels.

Altogether the four sides of the lotus pools, one to each direction, have *catvāri* **four** *sopānāni* **stairways**. The neuter noun *sopāna* means **staircase** or **stairway**. With four of them, the plural is used, here nominative plural neuter *sopānāni*, and the word *catvāri* **four** which agrees with it is also nominative plural neuter. So are its two further adjectives *citrāṇi* **varicolored**, and *darśanīyāni* **beautiful** both nominative plural neuter too. The adjective *citra* **varicolored** can also mean **splendid**, and *darśanīya* **beautiful** is the gerundive of the root  $\sqrt{drś}$ -**see**, and literally means **see-able**, hence **beautiful**.

What else is there about the four stairways, found one in each of the four sides of the lotus pools? They are *caturṇām ratnānām* **made of the four jewels**. *Ratnānām* is genitive plural neuter of the noun *ratna* **jewel**, which has *caturṇām*, genitive plural neuter of the word *catur* **four**, in agreement. This is a genitive of substance, expressing the material from which the stairways are made: solid jewels!