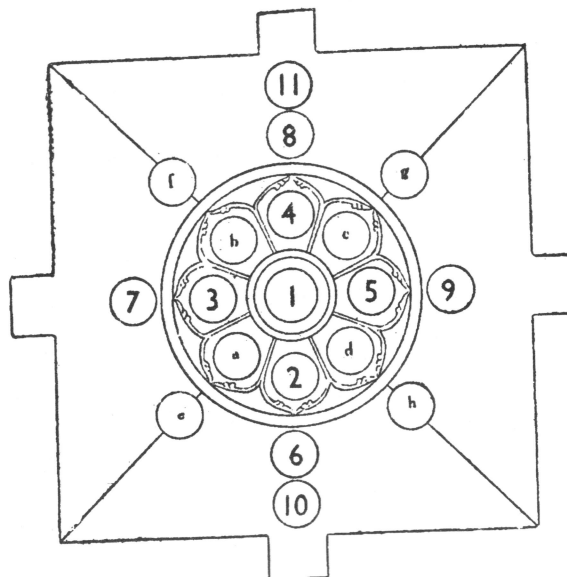


16. Maṅḍala of Vajratārā



The central deity of the maṅḍala is the eight-armed Vajratārā (Rdo rje sgrol ma¹) surrounded by ten goddesses emanating from the ten syllables of her hṛdaya-mantra ॐ तारे तुत्तारे तुरे स्वाहा। In the first circle are the eight petals of the lotus occupied by Puṣpatārā (Me tog sgrol ma²), Dhūpatārā (Bdug spos sgrol ma³), Dipatārā (Mar meḥi sgrol ma⁴), Gandhatārā (Driḥi sgrol ma⁵). The remaining petals bear the cakṛa (ḥkhor lo^a), vajra (rdo rje^b), padma (padma^c), khadḡa (ral gri^d).

In the second circle (*dvitīyaputa*) are six goddesses (*ṣaḍ devyaḥ*) in the four directions, above and below: Vajraṅkuṣī (Rdo rje lcags kyu ma⁶), Vajrapāśī (Rdo rje zhags pa ma⁷), Vajrasphoṭā (Rdo rje lcags sgrog ma⁸), Vajraghaṅṭā (Rdo rje dril bu ma⁹), Uṣṇiṣavijayā (Gtsug tor rnam par rgyal ma¹⁰), and Sumbhā (Gnod mdzes ma¹¹). In the intermediate corners (*koṇa*) we find the bodhicitta ghaṭa (byañ sems kyi bum pa^e), meru (ri rab^f), vahnikuṅḍa (me thabs^g), and mahādhvaja (rgyal mtshan chen po^h).

References: Niṣpannayogāvali introd. p. 51, Skt. p. 38, Tib. 142a5, Vajraḥvali 38a1, 500 Gods R 5a, Samuccaya 183b1, 360 Gods no. 228 (two-armed Vajrapañjara-bhāṣita Vajratārā), 500 Gods 50c, Pao Hsiang Lou Pantheon 6B14, Tanjur 1324-27, 3197, 3198, 3374, 3486-90, TPS. p. 388, IBI. p. 240-245.