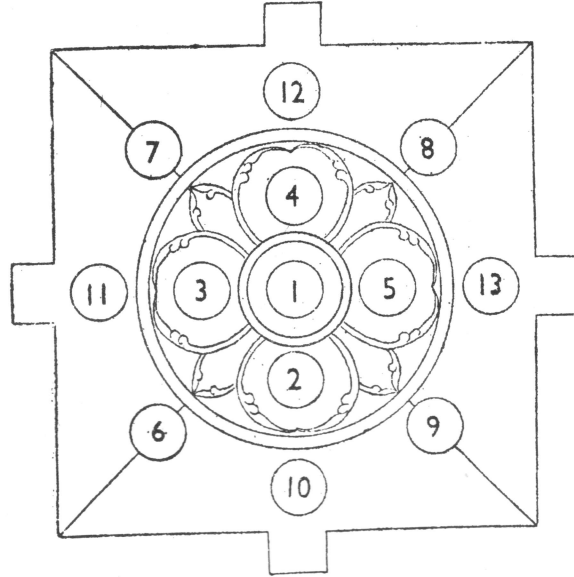


18. Maṅḍala of Pañcarakṣā (Bsruñ ba lña)



The central deity in this maṅḍala of the five (*pañca*) protective (*rakṣā*) deities is Mahāpratisarā (So sor ḥbrañ ma chen mo¹). The other four goddesses surround her: Mahāsahasrapramardinī (Stoñ chen mo rab ḥjoms ma²), Mahāmantrānusāriṇī (Gsañ snags rjes su ḥdzin ma chen mo³), Mahāśītavatī (Bsil baḥi tshal chen mo⁴) and Mahāmāyūrī (Rma bya chen mo⁵).

The second circle (*dvitiya-puṭa*) is constituted by four goddesses in the corners (*koṇa*): Kālī (Nag mo⁶), Kālarātrī (Dus mtshan mo⁷), Kālakāṅṭhī (Rna ba nag mo^{*}=Kālakarṇī⁸), and Mahāyāsā (Dkar mo=Sitā⁹).

The gates are guarded by Vajrāṅkuśī (Rdo rje lcags kyu ma¹⁰), Vajrapāśī (Rdo rje zhags pa ma¹¹), Vajrasphoṭā (Rdo rje lcags sgrog ma¹²), and Vajrāveśī (Rdo rje dril bu ma¹³).

References: Niṣpannayogāvalī introd. p. 53, Skt. p. 42, Tib. 144a6, Vajrāvalī 38a3, 500 Gods R 16b-17c (the five deities are depicted separately), Samuccaya 183b3, 300 Gods nos. 175-179, 360 Gods nos. 201-205, IBI. p. 302.

* Bhattacharyya has the reading कालकण्ठी and महायशा in the text. The manuscript B has कर्णि and सिता which correspond to the Tibetan. On the whole, ms. B seems to preserve more ancient readings and it should be compared with Tibetan to get a better text.