



**The harmful demons  
in the Tibetan folk religion**



# *Introduction*

- According the Buddhist world-view all gods and demons are illusion of the mind, or creatures of the our mind.
- In the folk religions the spiritual beings are objective beings

# *The classifications of Tibetan deities and demons*

- *Lama Klong-rdol „Bstan-srung dam-can rgya-mtsho'i rnying-gi grang bzhugs-so” In this listing of the „Names of the Dharmapalas, as endless as the sea”*
- *Protective deities, who are liberated from this wordly existence - ‘Jig-rten-las ‘das-pa’i srung-ma*
- *Protective deities who work within the powers of world - ‘Jig-rten-pa’i srung-ma*

## *The bad spirits, demons and their residence*

- The bad spirits, demons and their residence
- The cosmic demons and the elements
- astral demons - fire element
- weather demons: wind element
- earth demons: earth element
- klu demons: water element

## *Sa-bdag, Zhi-bdag*

- The land the inhabitants of deep are the „earth-lord”, in Tibetan *sa-bdag*, or *zhi-bdag* – **lords of land** - the important local deities
- anthropomorphic and zooantropomorf figures

# *Bdud – Devils*



*Bdud (Farkas - Szabó p. 55.)*



*Bdud nag-po (Farkas - Szabó p. 59)*





# *The four Bdud*



*'Chi-bdag*



*Nyon-mongs*



*Phung-po*



*Lha'i bdud*

# *Gnod-sbyin*

- They belong to the ancestral groups of Tibetan demons.
- But if they become enraged they can be very dangerous for human beings
- They are the Indian mythology Yaksha-demons, dragons.



*gnod sbyin ser po*, the yellow Yaksha



The *gnod sbyin* are known to be of great stature, some of them are very rich and most of them even-tempered. But if they become enraged they can be very dangerous for human beings. They belong to the retinue of Jambhala. (See Fig. 19.)



## *The'u-rang demons*

- The deities living between the sky and the earth have a group belonging to the lower layers of the intermediate space
- The the'u rang are supernatural beings originating in the pre-Buddhist era in Tibet.



*Klu – nāgā*

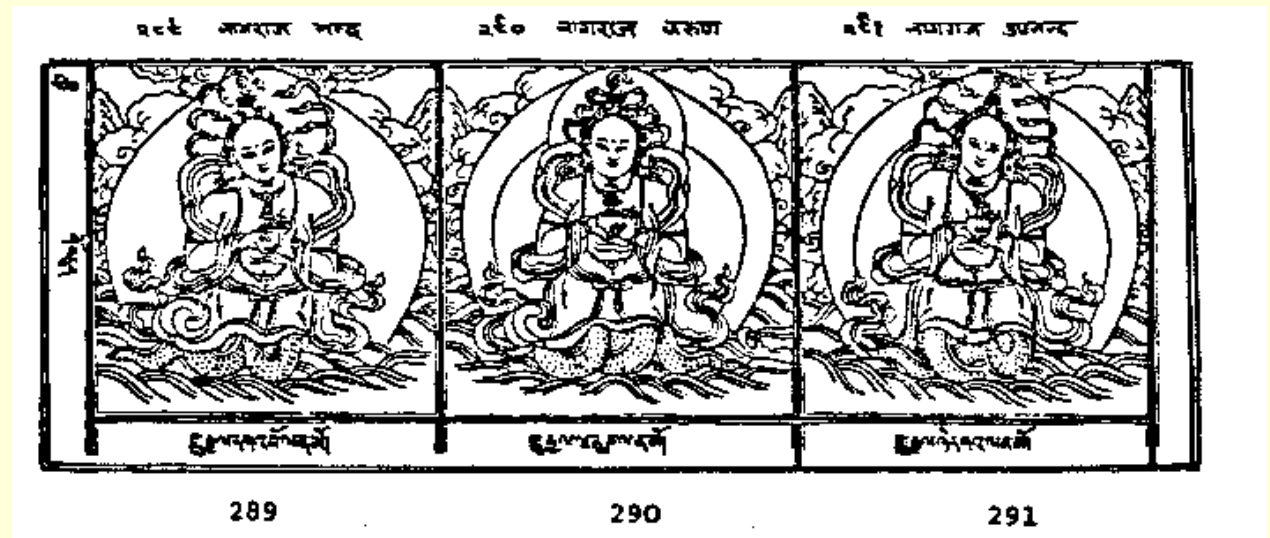
*snake demons*



## *Klu – snake demons*



### *Klu - nāgā*



289. Naṇḍa Nāgarāja /kLu-rGyal dGa'-bo/.  
 290. Varuna Nāgarāja /kLu-rGyal Va-ru-na/.  
 291. Upanaṇḍa Nāgarāja /kLu-rGyal Nē-dGa'/.



## *'Dre – evil spirits*

- there is a demon — male or female — causing damage with a knife

### *'dre, Evil Spirits*

What was said above about the *gdon* applies equally to the *'dre*, the evil spirits. Analysing the inscriptions of our series of illustrations, it is clear that various demons are classified in this group by the addition of the word *'dre*. For example, in each of the series except one there is a demon — male or female — causing damage with a knife. Because of the complexity and the manifold overlappings in the classification of the demons it is almost impossible to attempt to gauge the size of the *'dre* group. They are known to belong to the *dregs pa* demons.



## *Gnyan demons*

- The gnyan dwell on different places, they are local deities. We know it the elements and their categorisation according to compass points.



# *Ma-mo*

- *Most of ma-mo are depicted as ugly and ferocious female figures of a black colour, half-naked, with emaciated breast and clotted hair*





# *Srin-po demons (Rakshasa)* *cannibal monsters*

The *srin po* are said to have a world of their own somewhere in the direction south-west of Bodhgaya, at what may be an enormous distance. Their capital is called Lanka puri, and the great Padmasambhava is thought to dwell there.



## *Dangers caused by demons*

- the poisons of klu
- the brandishing of the snares of the bdud
- the shooting-off of the arrows of the btsan demons
- the "ki-kang illness of the gza" demons
- the opening of the "sack of disease" belonging to the gnod-sbyin
- the sending of the "notched disease (stick) (khram-nad) of the ma-mo
- the mirrages caused by the 'byung demons
- the khram-kha of the gshin-rje demons
- the stealing of the life by the 'u-rang
- the sending of disease and epidemics by the dri-zaharm caused to children by the bdud



*Illustrations of some other harmful demons*  
*The Gza' demons*





*Btsan demons*



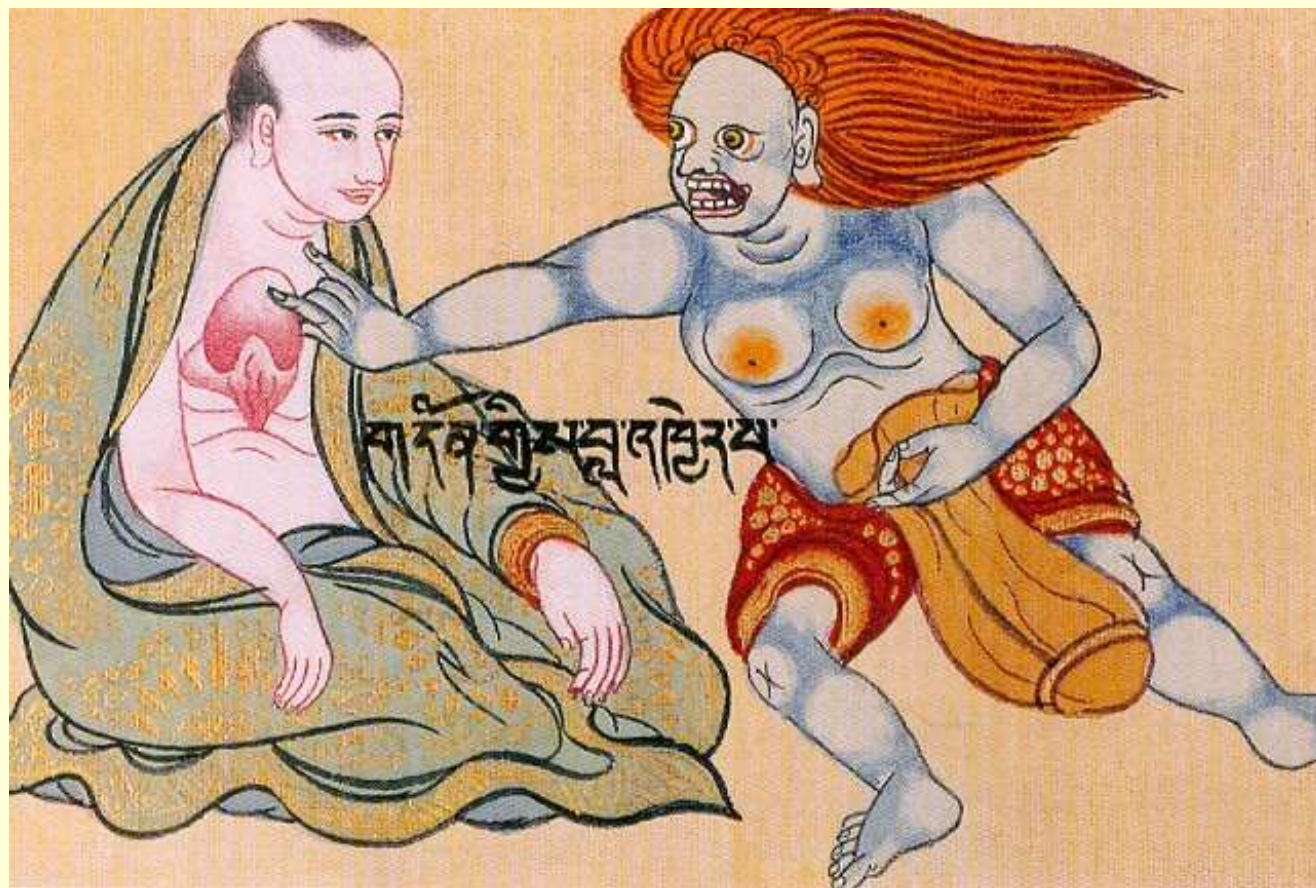
## *Illnesses and demons*



*Gnon-drag-po dsras-  
la bzhi-mig*

*An demon caused  
illnesses*





*the demon  
symbolize the  
attack of the  
illness*



# *demons causing illnesses*



*aquatic ghosts -nagas, a local earthly god  
armament of who symbolize his belligerent  
nature.*



*Naga, as swelling of the foot is  
brought about*

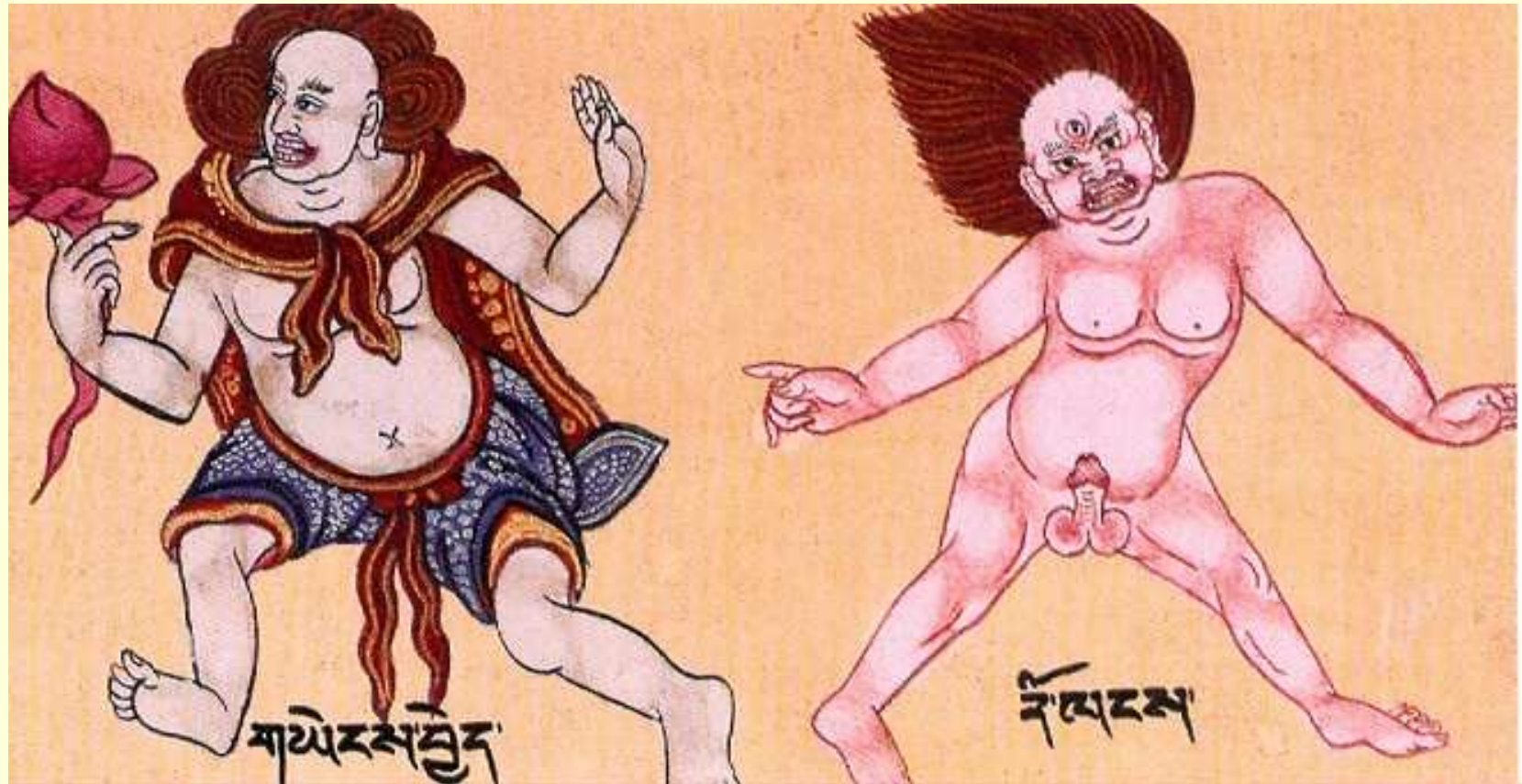


*dog-headed demon the agent of  
the tremble, preta-headed demon*



*bird-headed demon woman*





*The demons open a door in our ghost the subconscious for strengths, even the physical energies, the characteristics dwelling in our consciousness are symbolize even.*



## *Superstitions referred to the evil spirits*

- Infectious places
- Children, babies
- Nagas, klus
- Illnesses, demonic influences

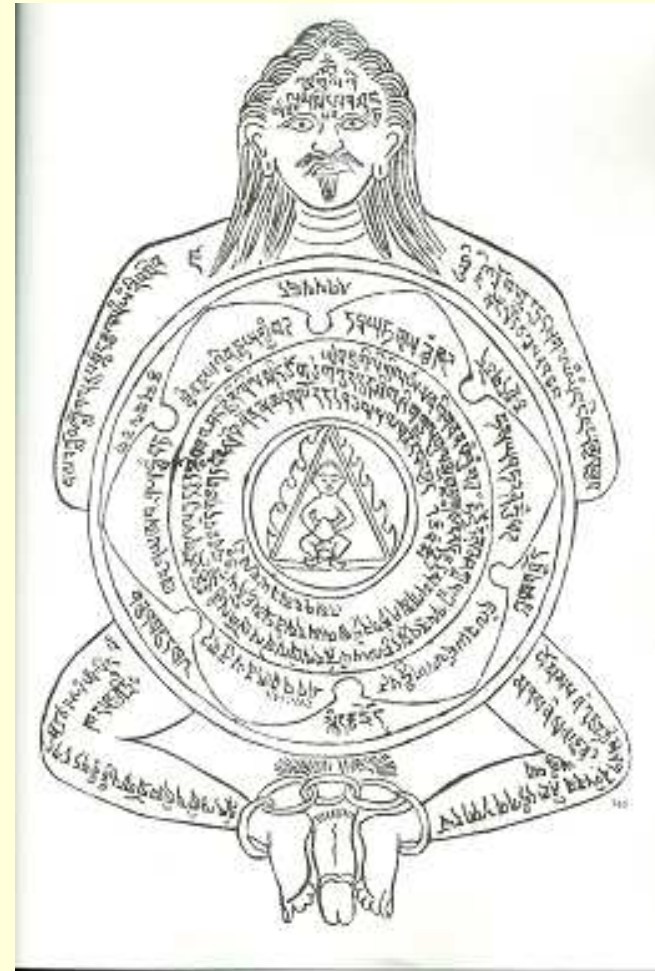
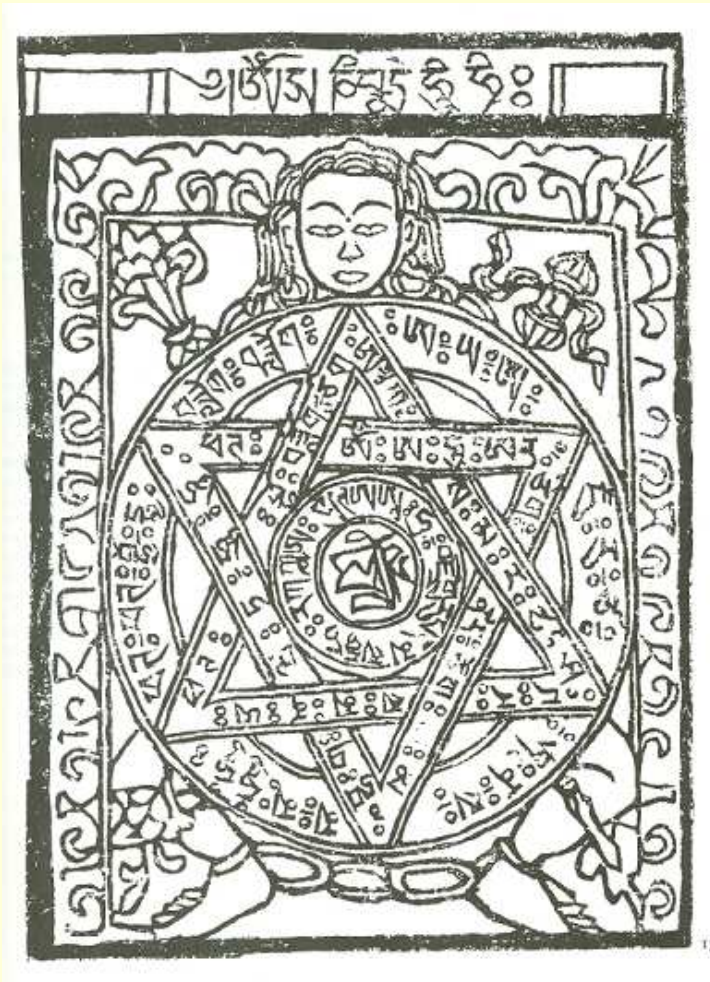
## *Amulates against the demonic influences*



The text is intended to effect a purification. It says: May all diseases, harm, enemies, disturbances both human and non-human, losses, other harm, defamation of character and legal persecution be annihilated.



*Two amulets figuring the human body and its elements*







*a tantric amulet  
against disease-  
binding*

*a bon-po  
amulet*

# Magic diagrams protecting against various kinds of evil (Nebesky-Wojkowitz)

## Magic diagrams protecting against various kinds of evil

Rows 1 - 7 from left to right:

1. All kinds of evil caused by the eight classes of supernatural beings, the *lha*, *srin po* etc.  
Injury caused by the *'dre*.  
Epidemics and illnesses.  
Injury caused by weapons such as arrows, lances, swords, etc.
2. Wrath of the *lha*.  
Evil caused by the *kla*.  
Evil caused by the *sa bdag*.  
Sufferings caused by leprosy.
3. Evil caused by the *gnod shyin*.  
Evil caused by the *ma mo*.  
Evil caused by the *srin po*.  
Evil caused by the *gshin rje*.
4. Evil caused by the *the'u rang*.  
Evil caused by the female *'dre*.  
Influence of the *sri*.  
ITe bsgyur(?)
5. The female *'dre* who cause injury to health.  
The male *'dre* who cause injury to health.  
The female demons of death.  
The male demons of death.
6. Evil caused by the *'dre* who dwell on mountains.  
The spirits who cause leprosy.  
Evil caused by the *'dre*.  
Evil caused by the *gza'*.
7. All evil caused by the *'byung po*.  
Protection against *rgyal* and *'gong*.  
Protection against the *trin mo*.  
Protection against the *'dre* who cause hunger.



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- [http://www.berzinarchives.com/web/en/archives/sutra/level4\\_deepening\\_understanding\\_path/interferences/four\\_maras\\_four\\_demonic\\_forces.html](http://www.berzinarchives.com/web/en/archives/sutra/level4_deepening_understanding_path/interferences/four_maras_four_demonic_forces.html)



# *Appendix*

## *Dangers caused by demons:*

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