The Nepalese Quinquennial Missions Of 1792 And 1795 To China

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The system of sending Nepalese complimentary quinquennial missions to China had its origin in the peace agreement of September 1792 between Nepalese and Chinese officials following the end of the Sino-Nepalese war of 1791-1792. There were several instances of Nepalese missions visiting China in the past, but the new arrangement in accordance with the peace agreement of 1792 made it obligatory for Nepal to send a complimentary diplomatic mission with presents to the "Son of Heaven" (the Chinese Emperor) every five years. Thus it is a known fact that Nepal sent her five-yearly missions to China as an obligation due to the outcome of the peace agreement of September of 1792. In this brief paper an attempt is made to discuss about the first two Nepalese quinquennial missions of 1792 and 1795 to China.

The 1792 Nepalese Quinquennial Mission to China

In accordance with the peace agreement between Nepal and China in September 1792, Nepal soon sent her first five-yearly mission to the Ch'ing court in October 1792 under the leadership of Kazi Dev Dutta Thapa. The other members of the mission were Subba Pratiman Rana, deputy leader of the mission, Jayanta Sahi (Gurung), son of Jetha Budha Narsingh (Gurung) Taksari, and Balbhadra, son of Khardar Vishnu Shankar. There were some Jamadars (junior military personnel), and two Kashmiri interpreters in the mission. The delegates carried an arji (a special letter), a letter and huge gifts from the Nepalese King Ran Bahadur Shah to the Ch'ing Emperor Ch'ien Lung. On 6 October, 1792, along with Chinese Commander Fu K'ang-an, the Nepalese mission left

1. Arji to the Emperor, dated 1849 B.S. Ashwin Sukla 1 Roj 2 (1792), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kathmandu (hereafter mentioned as MFA), Poka No.Pa. 64. See Appendix A.
4. Arji to the Chinese Emperor, dated 1849 B.S. Ashwin Sukla 1 Roj 2 (1792), MFA, Poka No. Pa 64. See Appendix A.
5. Nepalese King to Chinese Emperor, dated 1849 B.S., Ashwin Sudi Roj 3 (1792), MFA, Poka No. Pa 64, See Appendix B.
Dhaibung for Lhasa en route to Peking. The mission took nearly a year to make a round-trip from Nepal to China and back. This Nepalese mission remained in Peking for about five months. Like the earlier special Nepalese mission of 1789, the first Nepalese complimentary quinquennial mission of 1792 carried some elephants and horses from Nepal's Tarai area as presents for the Ch'ing Emperor Ch'ien Lung. However, due to certain difficulties on the way to Lhasa, the elephants had to be returned from Kuti to Nepal. The Chinese sources also indicate that an orchestra was also included in the first Nepalese complimentary quinquennial mission of 1792. The orchestra was composed of two female dancers, five singers and six musicians (instrument players). Those two female dancers wore red and green silk clothes. They also wore red hats made of wool. Their shoes were made of red silk. The dancers had tied Ghungaroo (ringing bells) around both of their legs with red cords. As for the singers, they wore red and green clothes and red shoes. This orchestra had left a book entitled "Gorkha Ko Geet (Songs of Gorkha)" in China. This delegation of 1792 brought a letter and various valuable presents from the Ch'ing Emperor Ch'ien Lung to the Nepalese King Ran Bahadur Shah and Regent Bahadur Shah.

The importance of this mission of 1792 lies in the fact that it inaugurated the system of complimentary quinquennial missions to China, thereby regularising Nepal's direct contact with the Peking government. With this, Nepal's relations with China entered into a new phase. This quinquennial mission system continued till 1906. Moreover, the mission of 1792 was the first ever five-yearly mission which completed the round-trip journey from Nepal to China in the shortest period, that is, within one year. Afterwards from 1795 to 1852, the journey of the each Nepalese quinquennial mission to China was completed in less than two years. Later on with the involvement of Nepalese quinquennial missions in trading activities, their journey became quite longer. Lastly, while discussing the mission of 1792, D.R. Regmi and Shakabpa have mentioned that through this very mission of 1792 the Ch'ing Emperor conferred the title of 'Wang' and plumes for their crowns on King Ran Bahadur Shah and Regent Bahadur Shah. This is, however, far from the truth. In fact, it was through the special mission of 1789 that King Ran Bahadur Shah and Regent Bahadur Shah received the Ch'ing Emperor's titles of 'Wang' and 'Kung' (Ghung) respectively in 1790.

The 1795 Nepalese Quinquennial Mission to China

According to the new arrangement of the mission system, Nepal was to send the next five-yearly mission in 1797, but Nepal dispatched the second mission in 1795, two years before the scheduled period. It was due to the abdication of Ch'ing Emperor Ch'ien Lung in 1795 in favour of his son Chia Ch'ing that Nepal sent her second mission in 1795. It was reported that the Chinese authorities

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insisted on Nepal's sending a special mission to pay respect to the new Emperor with special presents, whereas Nepal requested to send a single mission with presents to the new Chinese Emperor along with the usual five-yearly presents. With the acceptance of the Nepalese request by the Chinese authorities, the second Nepalese mission, consisting forty-five members, led by Kazi Narsingh Gurung, left for China in 1795. The other members of the mission were Jetha Budha Madho Sahi, the deputy leader of the mission, interpreters Satar Miya, Mani Ram Lama and Narayan Tewari, letter writer Khadananda Padhya, Omraj Kashi Gurung, Talbadar Mahamad Ali, Dhakre (unemployed) Kishun Karki and Narendra Karki, and twenty soldiers. Here it should be mentioned that by 1795, King Ran Bahadur Shah had already assumed full power himself and had dismissed Regent Bahadur Shah from all offices. In order to impress upon the Ch'ing Emperor that he had assumed full power himself from Regent Bahadur Shah, King Ran Bahadur Shah collected several things to present to the new Ch'ing Emperor Chia Ch'ing from various parts of Nepal as well as from different parts of India such as Patna, Banaras and Calcutta. The mission of 1795, which carried five-yearly presents and special presents to the new Ch'ing Emperor Chia Ch'ing on the occasion of his ascent to the throne, left for Peking bearing various types of presents, including different types of palanquins, such as Khadkhadiya, Myana and Palaki, of extraordinary fineness. Four elephants and four horses from Nepal's Tarai area were also sent to Lhasa via Bhutan en route to Peking.

Kazi Narsingh Gurung reached Lhasa on Bhadra Sudi 6, 1852 B.S. (1795) and the Nepalese mission left Lhasa for Peking on Bhadra Sudi 15, 1852 B.S. (1795). The Nepalese mission, which handed over an arji and presents to the new Ch'ing Emperor, remained at Peking for thirty-five days. The 1795 Nepalese mission had carried nineteen items as ordinary presents and thirty one items as special presents to the new Ch'ing Emperor. It was given a very warm welcome in Peking. The mission members were entertained through the Chinese plays and dances. Being happy with the Nepalese mission, the Ch'ing Emperor awarded Tog (Crown) of the first rank and a Parwana to King Rana Bahadur Shah. The Ch'ing Emperor also awarded red Tog (Crown) of the second rank and plume of peacock feathers to Kazi Narsingh Gurung. Besides that the Nepalese Kazi received five pieces of Khaki, five pieces of Sijyapurima, five pieces of Shashi, five pieces of Nusi, 100 taks of silver, four pieces of glass utensils, four pieces of porcelain utensils and eight thermos flasks. Along

11 Chinese Amban to King Ran Bahadur Shah, 1852 B.S. Jestha Sudi (1795), MFA, Poka No. Pa 64.
14 The details of the 1795 Nepalese mission have been recorded in MFA, Poka No. Pa 64. See also Jnanmani Nepal, Nepal-Bhot Chin Sambandha Ka Kehi Sanskritik Paksha (Some Cultural Aspect of Nepal-Tibet China Relations), Kathmandu : Royal Nepal Academy, 2045 B.S., pp. 66-68, and Jagman Gurung, Nepalko Ekikaranma Gurunghanrko Bhumika (Role of The Gurungs in the Unification of Nepal), Pokhara: Sri Bauddha Arghaun Sadana, 2041 B.S., pp. 70-72.
15 The records deposited in the Royal Nepal Army Head-quarters mention the names of the leading members of the Nepalese quinquennial missions to China as well as the detailed list of the presents sent along with the Nepalese missions to China from 1795 to 1852. See Royal Nepal Army Head-quarter (hereafter mentioned as RNAH) Part 3, Serial No. 63 (53).
16 Nepal, f.n.no. 14, pp. 67-68.
17 Gurung, f.n. no. 14, p. 70.
18 RNAH, Part 3, Serial No. 63 (53), See Appendix C.
19 Gurung, f.n. no. 14, p. 71.
with the other members of Nepalese mission, Kazi Narsingh had also received tea as presents from the Ch'ing Emperor. While returning from Peking, Kazi Narsingh Gurung halted at Tarchindeo due to illness. He halted at Lhasa for one week only and seemed to have reached Kerung by Bhadra, 1853 B.S. (1796). The Chinese and Tibetan officials escorting the Nepalese delegation returned from Kerung, and they were given some presents by the Nepalese mission. Interestingly the Chinese Ambans had stated King Rana Bahadur Shah to be kind enough towards Kazi Narsingh Gurung for he had worked hard for the promotion of Nepal-China relations. Kazi Narsingh had maintained good rapport with the Chinese Ambans at Tibet even in future. He seemed to have made great efforts at Peking for promoting and strengthening Nepal-China relations. Kazi Narsingh had played an important role in the signing of the peace agreement between Nepal and China in 1792. As such he was duly recognized by King Rana Bahadur Shah as well as by the Chinese Commander Fu-k'ang-an.

According to the Royal Nepal Army Headquarters' documents, it seems that the total cost of the mission of 1795 was Rupees 39,220 and not 29,220.2 as was mentioned by Manandhar and Mishra, and the regular five-yearly presents were valued at Rs. 4,829 while the value of special presents was fixed at Rs. 14,902. At the time of sending 1795 quinquennial mission to China, Nepal also sent presents to the Chinese and Tibetan authorities, such as the Chinese Ambans, the Potala (Dalai) Lama, Lama of Digarcha (Shigatse), Chuii of Digarcha, Talloye (Chinese officials) of Tingari, Dhowas (Tibetan officials) of Kuti, Chundu (Governor or Viceroy) of Sinthaya (Sindafu?), the four Kajis of Lhasa, Lama of Sakya, Chundu of Chindafu. Interestingly, in spite of his dismissal from all offices, through this mission of 1795 ex-Regent Bahadur Shah sent presents to the Ch'ing Emperor, perhaps with the hope of gaining the Emperor's sympathy. The Ch'ing Emperor did not accept Bahadur Shah's presents though, on the grounds that it was against the Ch'ing court's custom to receive presents from persons not holding any government posts. Although the Ch'ing Emperor returned the presents sent by Bahadur Shah with thanks, in the meantime, he sent presents to ex-Regent Bahadur Shah and King Rana Bahadur Shah through this mission of 1795. Besides other items as presents, the Ch'ing Emperor had also sent eight and four jars of tea to King Rana Bahadur Shah and ex-Regent Bahadur Shah respectively.

The importance of the mission of 1795 lies in the fact that it was not only the first Nepalese quinquennial mission to go to Peking two years before the scheduled time, but also that it was the first Nepalese mission to carry at one time the usual five-yearly presents as well as special presents on the occasion of the Ch'ing Emperor's ascent to the throne.

20 Nepal, f.n. no. 14, p. 111.
21 Gurung, f.n. no. 14, pp. 71-72.
22 Kazi Narsingh's letter to Kazi Damodar Pande dated 1853 B.S. Bhadra Badi 9 Roj 7, MFA, Poka no. Pa 64.
23 RNAH, Part 3, Serial No. 63 (53), See Appendix D.
24 Gurung, f.n. no. 14, p. 72.
25 Ibid., p. 65.
26 RNAH, Part 3, Serial No. 63 (53), See Appendix C.
27 Manandhar and Mishra, f.n. no. 12, p. 73.
28 RNAH, Part 3, Serial No. 63 (53), See Appendix C.
29 Ibid.
30 Chinese Emperor's Parawana (letter) dated 1853 B.S. (1796), MFA, Poka No. Pa 64.
31 Nepal, f.n. no. 14, p. 111.
Significantly enough, the members of 1795 mission had an audience with the Ch'ing Emperor Chia Ch'ing twenty five times\(^{32}\), the highest number of such audiences ever granted to any Nepalese complimentary five-yearly mission. It was also the last Nepalese mission to carry elephants and horses as presents to the Ch'ing Emperor. Afterwards Nepal stopped sending elephants and horses as presents to the Ch'ing Emperor as per the Chinese Ambans’ instructions of not sending those animals as presents to the Ch'ing Emperor realizing the difficulty of sending them to China.

Appendix A*

काजी देवदत्त थापा (मामुल सौगाद लि चीन) जादाको लेखी गयाको

स्यामरपाले गर्दा भोटमा लस्कर गयाको हो - दीर्घता लुटी कर्किना 1000/1200 नोक्सान भएको - तुड्का खाड़ीको आक्रमण ३४ हज्जार फोज हाम्रो नेपालको नोक्सान भएको - स्यामरपाले हाड खोड़, स्वास्नी दीर्घता को माल पठाएको . हिजो पत्र भोटसंग मिलेको. अभ्यर्था भएका हुनन। म बालक र काका वावा मुलुकको काम काज गर्न हुनाले दर्शन गर्न आउन पाठलाई सकिन। काजी देवदत्त थापा सुव्या प्रतिमाको लाई पठाएको छ। प्रति वर्ष दर्शन गर्न पठाउन भत्त्या जाहाँदेखि चीन टाढा छ। पत्रमा ससोगाद दिइ काजीलाई पठाउनलाई भत्त्या १८४९ साल आश्विन शुक्ल १ रोजे २ श्री ५ चीन वादशाहको हर्जमा लेखी पठाउनलाई लेखी गयाको अर्जी

(In this Arji to the Chinese Emperor, King Ran Bahadur Shah has mentioned the sending of the Nepalese mission to China under the leadership of Kazi Dev Dutta Thapa).

* Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Kathmandu, Poka No. Pa. 64.

Appendix B**

काजी देवदत्त थापा जादाको लेखी गयाको

१८४९ साल आश्विन सुदी रोज २, श्री ५ चीन वादसहार्ताई पठाएको चीखिमा - स्यामर्या ले गर्दा भएका भएका हो। ल्हासामा पोटो टक र चोथो टक बारावर चलेको छ। पोटो चलन नगूँ चोथो मात्र चलन गर्नुभन्दा ल्हासालाई हुदू हुन पर्ने हो आदि कुरा चीन वादशाह गर्न भन्नी काजी देवदत्त थापालाई निर्देशन दिने चीखिमा तयार भएको

(In this letter to the Chinese Emperor, King Ran Bahadur Shah has mentioned Symarpa Lama as the main cause of the conflict and requested the circulation of pure coins in Tibet).

** Source: MFA, Poka No. Pa. 64.

Appendix C***

५२ साल

चीन श्री वादसहार्ताई सौगात गयाको गादि ममार्ष स्मृति माफ्त काजी नरसिंह जेताबुद्ध माध्य नागिक, मिति आवराविद ४ रोज.................. ३९४२४२ श्री वादसहारके............................. ७९४५७९ नौगाट ......................................... ४८२९३
मुगा माला ........................................ 1 के ोला २६४। के १९८ ल
स्नोला तास धान .................................... 2 के तोला के १४३।े
किसान धान ........................................ 20 के १३४।।
सुनतानिन बनात तातता ................................ 7 के १०५।।
बुटेदार अलस धान .................................. 4 के ३६
सदुकी बन्दुक ........................................ 1 के २००
हाती दाल ........................................ ५ के १६०
लबा धानि ........................................ ६ के २६४
जायफल गोटा ........................................ १००० के १२०
घाग गोटा ........................................ २ के १०
दालचिनी संदस ...................................... १ के धानि के ३२१।।
बनात ताता ........................................ ५ के ५५५
तरोवार ........................................ ४ के १२०
कटार ........................................ २ के ३५
दक्षि्णा सुपारी धानि ................................ ६ के ९५
सुपारी धानि ........................................ ८० के ९२।।
पुडा ........................................ २ के २०
पुडुरी ........................................ २ के १४
तोडेवाल बन्दुक ................................... २ के ९०

गादि समारसका ........................................ १४९।२।।।
मुगामाला १ के तोला ................................ २७ के २०२।।
धुनकुंडी स्मेट मोहिना माला १ के ............ ५००
स्नोला तास धान .................................. १ के ७३।३
ढ़ो मुगा दाना ..................................... ५ के तोला ७३।६ के २१०
सुनीला तास धान .................................. २ के १०८५
किसान धान ........................................ २० के १३५०
दोला १ सुनतानी ७ जमा बनात था ८ के .. २९००

मैसराजाम स्मेल पालिक ................................ १ के १५००
मैसराजाम स्मेल म्याना ................................ १ के २५०
काउपी पृथ्वी .................................... १ के ५००
चार नालया संदुकी बन्दुक .......................... १ के ३००
संदुकी पेस्टबल जोडा ................................ १ के ९००
दोलाया संदुकी बन्दुक ................................ १ के २५०
हाती दाल ........................................ ९० के ४००
तोडेवाल बन्दुक ................................... २ के १०
तरोवार ........................................ ४ के ९००
कटार ........................................ २ के ३४
नुकुरी ........................................ २ के १४
पेस्टबुज ........................................ २ के ६५
दुवेन ........................................ २ के १८०
हाती ........................................ ५ के ३५००
घोडा ........................................ ५ के १५००
लबा धानि ........................................ १२ के ५२८
केसर तोला ........................................ १०० के ९२।।
जायफल गोटा .................................... ५०० के ६०
घाग गोटा ........................................ २ के १०
अटर तोला ........................................ ७५ के १९।।।
बदाम धानि ........................................ ६ के १२
नरेल गोटा ........................................ १०० के २०१
बुटेदार चिवुली धान ................................ ४ के ६६
लपनी छीट धान .................................. ६ के ६६

घाट धाङ के .................................. ४८१
सुनतानी बनात तातता ................................ १ के ९९१
किसान धान ........................................ २ के १६०
तरोवार ........................................ २ के ३०
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मुगाको माला ........................................... 1 के ५६
हातिदात ........................................... 2 के ८०
लवाग धानि (धानि?) ........................................... 1 के ४४

ल्युतीरीन के ........................................... ५६६
बनात तोषा ........................................... 1 के ९९१
किंसाप धान ........................................... 1 के ५५

चुँडु ताजीन के किंसाप धान ........................................... ५५ के ५५
हैकाका खोरा के, किंसाप धान ........................................... ५० के ५०
ढिंधांकुका चुँडु ........................................... ४२१ के ४२१.
किंसाप धान ........................................... ४० के ४०
सुपारि धानि(धानि?) ........................................... २ के २१

सिंध्या चुँडुके ........................................... ५७५५४१
बनात वस्ता ........................................... २ के २२२
तरोबार ........................................... २ के ३०
तोडेडाल वन्दुक ........................................... २ के ९०
हाति दात ........................................... २ के ५०
पुकुरि ........................................... २ के १४
किंसाप धान ........................................... २ के ९९०
सुपारि धानि ........................................... ४ के ४१
द्विस्वरा सुपारि धानि ........................................... २ के ५
दालचिनिन धानि ........................................... १ के ५
बदाम धानि ........................................... २ के ४
गारि गोटा ........................................... ३० के ६११
खोहारा धानि ........................................... ४ के ५

टिगरिका का तालोखे ........................................... १०१२
बुढेदार अतलस धान ........................................... ९ के ९११
सुपारि धानि ........................................... ९ के १२

"कूटिका झेघा २ के अतलस धान" ........................................... २ के ९६१।
मिठारका लामाज्यू ........................................... २५८ के २५८
बनात वस्ता ........................................... ९ के ९९१
किंसाप धान ........................................... ९ के ५२०

पोतला लामाज्यू के ........................................... १८५१
बनात वस्ता ........................................... ९ के ९९१
किंसाप धान ........................................... ९ के ५०
सहन धान ........................................... २ के ७
ह.तास तोला ५१.।.............................................. ९ के ३॥
पाषाणक रमान.............................................. १ के ३॥.

जेठा बुढा माधी साहिब के........................................................................ १३१॥४।
नगद मानिस सजा ४ समेत के......................................................... २०००।
जिन्सी....................................................... ११६॥
चिरा पगरल २ के २॥ किषाप धान २ के........................................ ११०।
साल जोडा १ के १३० मालदी धान........................................ १ के ११।
चौविसा धान १ के ३॥ सालका रमान ................................. १ के ५४।
पिटका रमान.................................................. १ के १।

दोभास्य सतार मिजा................................................. के ५५॥४।
तलब मैन्हा ................................................. २४ के ६॥
जिन्सी.......................................................... २२॥६।
२५ जाली पगरल......................................................... १ के २॥॥
किषाप धान......................................................... १ के ५॥
साल फर्द................................................................. १ के ४०।
कासिवालहा......................................................... ६ के ९।
चौविसा धान......................................................... १ के २॥॥
पिटका रमान.................................................. १ के १।

अद का साथमा जान्या जना................................................. २ के ४३॥६।
तलब रु. ................................................................. २००।
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पुदु काफलया......................................................... १२॥६।
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कासि गुरु उपार्थ ढाक्का समेत जना 3 के नगद 300
किसन काफ़िर ढाक्का समेत जना 3 के नगद 300
महमद अलित तलवदार

के वर्ष 9 के नगद 540
ज्ञरेद काफ़िर ढाक्का समेत जना 3 के नगद रु. 300
महमद अलिता साथका मानीस .. के नगद रु 100
काजिन नरसिंका साथका सिपाही जना

20 के नगद 3600
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The Nepalese quinquennial mission to China under the leadership of Kazi Narsingh Gurung.)

Appendix D

The detailed list of ordinary and special presents sent along with the 1795 Nepalese quinquennial mission to China under the leadership of Kazi Narsingh Gurung.)

***Source: MRA, Poka No. Pa. 64.***

**53 साल**

नरसिंह काजी चीनबाट आउन द आउन चिनिया जना २ के मेजमानी भाट सुदी ५५ रोज...... ४९४ तौ कुती तिरका चिनिया के २०८ नगाद...... १९४ रक्सी कुपुरा गैह पैड हे २७ वॉल्या ४१...... ८४ पुकूर १ का कोवी के ३

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The detailed expenses and list of the presents given to the Chinese officials escorting the Nepalese mission of 1795 up to Kerung.

**Source:** RNAH, Part 3, Serial NO. 63 (53)