

## The Qianlong Emperor and *šun be jetere de hūlara nomun* in the *Tripitaka in Manchu*

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### Abstract

*Manwen Dazang jing* (*Tripitaka in Manchu*) was one of the most important cultural enterprises of the Qianlong emperor. The entire text is in Manchu, and only twelve sets were printed at the time, with few circulating down to the present day. In principle, *Tripitaka in Manchu* is a translation based on Chinese texts, but for some translations, it is uncertain which Chinese text served as the basis. The number of texts and the record in the table of contents also differ. As a result, there is little consensus on the recorded number, and even the page numbering cannot be determined with certainty. Consequently, modern scholars only have a quite limited understanding of the process behind the translation and engraving of this Tripitaka along with its sutra contents. Fortunately, in 2002, *Tripitaka in Manchu* was reprinted in Beijing, giving scholars an opportunity to gain a comprehensive and overall understanding of the Tripitaka. The National Palace Museum also has in its collection 32 cases of the Tripitaka and purchased two copies of the reprint to provide scholars with a convenient setting for conducting research.

This study examines one of the texts in the Tripitaka, *šun be jetere de hūlara nomun* (*Jiuhu rishi jing* 救護日食經 [Sutra of the Solar Eclipse for Salvation and Protection]), for which no corresponding Chinese sutra has been found. The author has discovered that in addition to this sutra, there is another *šun be jetere de hūlara nomun* that is not found in the table of contents, hence the impetus for the study of this text. With further research, the author has discovered that the sutra was translated on 16 December 1775, in which year there appeared two solar eclipses. The Qianlong emperor not only ordered the translation of this sutra into Manchu, he also rearranged its location in the Tibetan Tripitaka. This matter concretely reflects the high level of his participation in the formation of the Manchu Tripitaka. A review of salvation ceremonies and imperial decrees at the time also further testifies to how solar eclipses had a major influence on the Qianlong emperor.

**Keywords:** Qianlong, *Tripitaka in Manchu*, Qing translation of the Tripitaka, *Rishi jing*, *Yueshi jing*, solar eclipse for salvation and protection

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