

A Brief Introduction to Virulent Infectious Disease (*Nyen-rim*) in the Tibetan Medical Canon: Etiology, Diagnosis and Treatment

श्वा पॅट्गी'गर्रे'प्रतेग्यल्ट्य्या विट्याय्य प्रतेग्यल्य स्वर्यः म्यायः प्रते प्रते

श्चव रम्भारा सिव रम्य मु अर्के

Dr. Khenrab Gyamtso (Menrampa Degree)
Tibetan Traditional Herbal Centre, Toronto • Canada

(Former Senior Lecturer and Vice Principal of Men-Tsee-Khang Tibetan Medical and Astro-science College, Dharamsala • India)

Webinar Dialogue Series: Encountering COVID-19: Perspectives from Tibetan Medicine Part I: Multidimensional Perspectives: Understanding COVID-19 in Tibetan medicine Translation by Dr. Tawni Tidwell, Center for Healthy Minds, Madison, WI

Sponsored by Kunde Institute • Global Health Research Foundation • American Tibetan Medical Association www.facebook.com/kundewellness

I. Is it suitable to identify COVID-19 as a type of nyen-rim?

(nyen-rim = classical virulent infectious disease category)

In 8th century CE, Tibetan physician Yutok Yönten Gönpo composed the canonical Tibetan medical text known as the *Four Medical Treatises* (*Gyüzhi*).

In this text, among the 1,002 illness categories enumerated, since it has all the characteristics, one can consider epidemic infectious disease as a type of "nyen-rim."

Based on etiology, inciting conditions, modes of entrance, and affected body regions described in *nyen-rim* section of *Four Medical Treatises*, general and specific particularities of these conditions delineate into 4 chapters dedicated solely to infectious disease (*rim*) and 18 chapters of virulent infectious disease (*nyen-rim*)—a total of 22 chapters.

A few *rim* conditions, though occur only very rarely, because they have no specific treatment, have the capacity to ruthlessly eliminate a quarter of living beings on earth.

Based on modes of transmission, symptomology, and resultant fatalities of the currently spreading virus causing COVID-19, this would qualify as one of these few ruthless *rim*.

त्यः स्थायह्यं योषटा सूरी देशः स्थायह्यं योषटा सूरी त्यः स्थायह्यं योषटा स्थायह्या सूर्या स्थायह्या सुर्या स्थायह्या स्थायह्या स्थायह्या सुर्या स्थायह्या सुर्या सुर्य सुर्या सु



II. Causal factors and inciting conditions for epidemic infectious disease (*né-yam*) in Tibetan medicine

One can describe these via two critical dimensions:

- Resultant from poor behaviors contrary to Buddhist philosophical view and realization
- Dietary and lifestyle behaviors contrary to the conditions of the time and seasons

ग्रियाया पॅट्रग्रियार्थं रेग्राययात्र प्यययाग्री कुम्रेत्रायाञ्चा



- न्रास् व्यापित्रम्यान्यायायित्रम् क्ष्मियायम्
- ग्रेशरा वयर्षागुर्देव मेव न्या च्या क्षेत्र खूंय वेषा पर्वा



- II. Causal factors and inciting conditions for epidemic infectious disease (*né-yam*) in Tibetan medicine
- 1. Results of poor behavior contrary to Buddhist philosophical view and realization

From the Gyüzhi:

"The causes and conditions that originated the disease called *rim* occurred at the beginning of the final cycle of the ten five-hundred year cycles, whereby the desires of humankind led to much transgressive behavior; rampant murders of one's own vajra siblings spread amongst *ngakpa* communities; monastics engaged in bitter quarrels within their sangha; extremists committing harm to others; and groups taking vows to war and slaughter many. At that time, the *mamos* and [wrathful and deceptive] dakinis were enraged and the breath of disease manifested immense variegated clouds and gave rise to epidemic infectious disease, dysenteric conditions, pulmonary infections, contagious ulcerative illnesses, smallpox and other pustule-forming diseases."

From the Oral Instructions Supplement:

"The causes [ultimately] arise from the three [mental] poisons [and are specifically] the intensely afflictive environmental influences (dön)—the eight classes of beings and others [that inflict suffering of mental and environmental origin]." Also, "Ill-directed, unwholesome and inappropriate behaviors have angered the hearts of our protectors and caused even deities to become demons."

मुन्त्राया त्र्राया व्यास्त्राया व्यास्त्राया व्यास्त्राया व्यास्त्राया व्यास्त्राया व्यास्त्राया व्यास्त्राया

र्टात्री बटारायु.क्षे.बीयार्ट्टायवीमार्यपु.ट्य.ब्रैह्टाङ्गमायद्यकामाक्षे.यी

प्रचित्रः सूर्याका प्रचित्तः । । विद्या यशित्या ।

क्री. प्रच्याका प्रचित्तः । । विद्या यशित्या ।

चित्रः प्रच्याका प्रचित्तः । चित्रः वित्रः चित्रः यो वाः क्ष्या ।

चित्रः प्रच्यः क्ष्याका चुर्तः । विद्या या व्या प्रच्या क्ष्या चुर्तः । विद्या । विद्या



- II. Causal factors and inciting conditions for epidemic infectious disease (*né-yam*) in Tibetan medicine
- 2. Dietary and lifestyle behaviors contrary to the conditions of the time and seasons

From the Gyüzhi:

"Other causes also comprise changes in the seasons that are in excess, deficiency or adversity to the norm; exhaustion due to excess physical exertion; contagious transmission of illness; contact with toxins and poisons; extreme rage and fear; severe mental distress; and excess attachment and greed. It also includes consumption of unsuitable or contaminated foods that cause infectious disease (rim)."

From the Gyüzhi:

"The mamo and wrathful dakinis strike down with epidemics of vicious disease. Ill-intended extremists create compounded chemicals and substances. At this time, it is critical to protect oneself and others." मुत्रेषाय। तॅन्गीयार्षेर्यायषात्रन्यायषात्रीः मुत्रेषाया तॅन्गीयार्षेर्यायषात्रन्याय

गित्रेषाया वयानुषाग्री देवा मुन्दा सम्बाधित प्रमेव र्स्या स्वापा

च्या आर्श्रें स्रयाता त्राया द्रश्या शी. त्र श्रीता | वेया विश्वात शित्या | व्या विश्वात श्रीत्या श्रीत्य श्रीत | वेया विश्वात श्रीत्य श्रीत्

विश्वप्रम्भा म्यान्य स्था विश्वप्रम्था विश्वप्रम्यम विश्वप्रम्था विश्वप्रम्यम विश्वप्रम्यम विश्वप्रम्यम विश्वप्रम्यम विश्वप्रम्यम विश्वप्रम्यम्यम्यम विश्वप्रम्यम विश्वप्रम्यम विश्वप्यम विश्वप्रम्यम विश्वप्रम्यम विश्वप्रम्यम विश्वप्रम्यम विश्वप्यम विश्वप



III. Modes of infection for epidemic disease (né-yam) in Tibetan medicine

गशुकाया वित्रिंगुःगर्रास्यायम् वत् प्रकारम् वित्राम्यास्या



III. Modes of infection for epidemic disease (*né-yam*) in Tibetan medicine

From the Oral Instructions Treatise, Chap 23 on infectious diseases (rim né): (Gyüzhi):

"The causes and conditions [of rim né] provoke tripa's metabolic fire, inciting heat to pervade the body, activate perspiration [and vital pathways such as lymph, blood and interstitial spaces], and sequentially provoking béken, tripa and lüng [organs, fluid, pathway systems].

"By sequentially entering the body's six modes of entry—[superficial layers, penetrating muscle tissue, circulating through vessels, penetrating vital organs, descending into vessel organs, invading bone], or from contacting contaminant infects, it epidemically transmits.

"For this reason, it is called "rim"—named for its sequential transmission.

From the Blue Baidurya:

"[Out of the major] entry orifices for disease—eyes, ears, nose, mouth, urethra and anus—it is said that the universal and most predominant is merely the entrance through the nose. Whether it is the actual diseased contaminant or an area in which the disease is present, aerosolized particles, air currents and so forth can cause infection by contact with the contaminant and then sequentially further the contagious transmission.

ययश्चरायन्। गाव् अस्ति स्याः स्ट्रिन्। । मुं मुव् ने प्यायायायायः स्ट्रिन्। ।

त्रथा.श्रु.र्थया.ग्रीयायबूयातपुरात्रिम् । पर्द्या.श्रु.र्थया.ग्रीयायबूयातपुरात्रपुर्या

योशीट्या प्रथम व्याचित्र कि. अक्ष्य श्राप्त निया

द्याः वश्यः प्रश्नावः क्ष्यः वश्यः वश्यः

IV. Characteristics of virulent illnesses (nyen illnesses)

पविषा गत्रवावराग्रेष्ठिरार्क्ष्यायाञ्चा



IV. Characteristics of virulent illnesses (nyen illnesses)

- Nature of the condition: nyen influence, heat influence and wind influence
- Difficult to diagnosis (esp. by traditional means such as observation, palpation and inquiry)
- 3. If not treated in time, quickly endangers life
- 4. Due to rate of rapid transmission vis-à-vis individual's bodily fluids and waste products, capacity to eliminate a quarter of living beings on earth through suffering caused by the illness
- Although similar to other contagious illnesses, since it has no specific treatment, it destroys life
- The result of past actions bears the fruit of illness

चवे'च। गवव'वर'ग्रे'छ्र-केंबायाक्ष'च।

१ वर्गीः देर्गानव्यः कर्नि सुराग्रुया २ ह्र रेग री मुख्य मुरा बर रे रेंब पत्र र प्राय र द पर्ट्यास्ट अट पर तस्य ट र्स्या पर मैंया या व्रिट्टिं र्च्या ग्रीषा तर्गेषा र्व्य श्रुमा प्रशादिं साम्नीमा निवः क्षें मानि निवः विवासी ५ नेमबान् ही नियम प्राप्त विषय के के के श्रेया पर्रेया पा ८ स्याञ्चेत्रत्य्यात्यत्र्रात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्या



V. The nature of virulent pathogens (nyen sin)

श्राया गतवाश्रीवाश्रीयः मान्यविवायहूराया



V. The nature of virulent pathogens (nyen srin)

श्रपा गतवारीवारी प्रमानविवारम्

Terminology

- Tré tré ho, or barbata
- हेर्ने देवस्य न सम् लेखान हें न

Form & structure শ্র্শ্শ-দ্রীন্ম্

- Lizard head-shaped; or like a gaping snake mouth স্ক্রেম্মেরি মর্যান্ট্রিন্মান্ত্রা বিক্রেম্মের্যুর্
- Comet tail- or centipede-like; or in blood, round appendageless forms অচুবাইনেদ্বার্থনের্বা ব্রিবার্কনের্বার্কার্বার্থনের্বার্কার্কার্বার্থনের্বার্থা

- Unperceivable to the naked eye শ্লু-ব্যান্থনার প্রকাশীমান্ত্র প্রাথানির বা



VI. Virulent infectious disease enumeration (*nyen-rim* types)

नुगाया गत्रवारेसस्यागुः इस्याग्राम्यायाः स्राम्



VI. Virulent infectious disease enumeration (nyen-rim types)

र्गाया गतुन्र रेस्राग्री स्याग्री स्याग्री रा

Affected region এক'ন'ব্বক্ষ'বাক্ষা	Condition name ਕ੍ਰਾਡੀਵਾ	Affected region শুঝ'ম'ব্যব্যথ'যাক্ষা	Condition name ਕੁਨ੍ਹ ਕੇਟਾ।
Brain শুদ্ৰেশ্	Viral encephalitis মুদ্ৰেম্	Calf muscle কু'বাৰ্ব্	Viral myositis নুর্শ্ব্
Throat मुप	Pharyngitis, laryngitis ব্যাস্থ	Muscle tissue 🎮	Ulcerated sores ৰূপ্য
Upper body 美賓	Upper respiratory inflammation ज्लेरखूटा	Muscle, bone, vessels, interstices প্রগস্থার	Viral-driven cancer & neoplasms বারুব্'বের্মা
Stomach শ্ব্	Viral gastroenteritis স্ব্ৰুম্	Medulla oblongata 夏드학기	Viral meningitis/ encephalitis বের্মন্ত প্রণাদ্যী
Small intestine कुः आ	Dysentery & severe diarrheal conditions স্থ্যুবাইন্	Gallbladder (and liver) ৰ্কুন্মন্ত্ৰিমা	Viral biliary tract & duct infections, hepatitis; tre-tre-ho, etc
Skin প্রবাধানা	Méwel (ulcerative skin conditions) ঐ'ব্ধনা		वया.श्रया.सून। वया.स्.श्रेश.पंचीशा
Bone joints ক্রমান্তবামা	Lymphadenitis ह्रेव्स्	Central nervous system, vital & vessel organs ৰ্য্যাস্কৰ্ণব্যাস্কৰ্	Internal ulcerative conditions বৃদ্ধুবাৰ্শবাৰ্শ্

VII. Prevention of virulent infectious disease (nyen-rim disease prevention)

पर्वापा पावव सेस्रा गुः क्षेत्र तर्गेषा या सुः पा



VII. Prevention of virulent infectious disease (nyen-rim)

1. External Protection

From the Gyüzhi:

"Specific to protection from infectious disease (rim), there are general and specific methods.

General method include rituals and substances."

From the Oral Instructions Supplement:

"Mantras in diagrams (Skt. yantra) (i.e., talismans and amulets) are advised for external protection; and diet and behavioral conduct are important for internal protection."

From the Gyüzhi:

"Without protection, infectious disease (rim) recklessly develops as if raising its sword wearing the bare face of war."

पर्वापा पान्न रेसरागी क्रिंव तर्षेषाया सुप्

ग्रेब्रि:बयाश्रुट:घतया

यट्रा बट्यी.ब्रैट.च्यम.ब्री.ब्र्य.ब्रैट.योज.कु. इंबे.च्यम.जया ब्री.ब्यम.ब्रैट.च्यम.ब्री.ब्रेट.प्र्य.

VII. Prevention of virulent infectious disease (nyen-rim) ন্ব্'ন্ৰ' যা গ্ৰেৰ'ইমম'ট্টু ইৰ্'নেৰ্থ্যা'ম'ষ্ট্'ন্

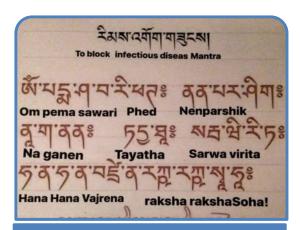
A. Special protection measures for physicians, nurses and others
শা পূৰ্'ৰ্ম' ইন' মানু ব্যাহান বিশ্ব বিশ্ব



Protection substances



Protection mantra, rituals, and objects



य|र्वेट्य'श्<u>र</u>ूट'|

Protection *dhāraṇī* ("that which holds", methods of remembering dharma and virtue)

VII. Prevention of virulent infectious disease

B. Common dietary and behavioral measures for cultivating resistance

1. Distance methods of resistance

During the section on inciting conditions that give rise to virulent infectious disease (*nyen-rim*), it is described that everyone should be vigilantly refrain from improper behavior of body, speech and mind; and must engage "methods of resting" [such as contemplative techniques and mind training].

2. Close methods of resistance

From the Gyüzhi: "Protect the nostrils from aerosolized particulates, and body fluid pores from contact; protecting from both vapors and sun rays is critical."

Similarly, "Aerosolized particles and vapors can infect the nose with the infection. Thus, protect the victorious pathways from all.

Likewise, "It is particularly important to protect from infection when hunger and depression manifest. The protection of a satisfied full stomach will embolden you with courage when the time comes."

य विष्यं स्था में विष्यं स्था में प्राप्त में प्राप्त स्था में स्या में स्था मे स्था में स्थ

विश्वास्त्रम् ।

प्रिचाम्याः स्त्रमाश्चीम् ।

प्रिचाम्याः स्त्रमाश्चीम् ।

प्रिचाम्याः स्त्रमाश्चीम् ।

प्रिचाम्याः स्त्रमाश्चीम् ।

प्रिचान्याः स्त्रमाश्चीम्याः स्त्रमाश्चीम् ।

प्रिचान्याः स्त्रमाश्चीम् स्त्रमाश्चीम् ।

प्रिचान्याः स्त्रमाश्चीम् स्त्रमाश्चीम् ।

प्रिचान्याः स्त्रमाश्चीम् स्त्रमाश्चीम् ।

प्रिचान्याः स्त्रमाश्चीम्च

VII. Prevention of virulent infectious disease (nyen-rim)

2. Internal Protection thru Diet and Medicine

As described in the *Gyüzhi*, if you take daily medicine formulations of a few ingredients, it will protection you well.

From the Oral Instructions Supplement, "From the Great Treatise, 'The Superior Mangjor pill is auspicious.'"

From the Gyüzhi, "For all rim conditions, take up fasting and hot water."

Taking düdtsi, mendrub, etc. protection and blessing pills, and integrating diets of balanced potency and nutritional content. Mindfully attending to methods caring for your mind and nourishing your wind system (neuroendocrine pathways) is critical.

पर्वापा गत्रव रेसरा गुः र्वेव पर्वेषा या सुरा

र्वात्रुटावान्यान्टाञ्चन्त्रुन्वयाश्रुटाव्यया

कुंट्रगी'ट्रॉट्रापाक्षरावात्र्राक्ष्राचार्या विव सूर पहट व लेग्ना पर ग्रास्ट्र पार्टि । टे.यबुव.र्सेव.घयश्रातश्री यावव.त्तरःक्रेट.क्रुव. शटार्झें र क्रिव से भी विद्यान्ता कुन तथा र्मस्यावदःग्वावायाञ्चादःद्वः भ्रायाच्येव। वेषा पर्राक्षिः भ्रमः भ्रम् । स्मानः स क्रें पर्टि क्रिंशया राष्ट्र प्रचल प्रमेट । बिट प्रथा क्षेंब्रयाच्ययायादें व्यवायवटाट्वेंबारा सेंग्रया 정도.

VIII. Diagnostic signs of virulent infectious disease (nyen-rim)

नकुन्या गत्रव सेस्रया ग्री ही हिग्राया भारता



VIII. Diagnostic signs of virulent infectious disease (*nyen-rim*)

1. General Signs

From the Oral Instructions Supplement:

"The first general symptom to occur is a few days before [the full manifestation], greater irritability and anger. When the urge to rage or cry arises, loose bowels and vomiting occurs; and any preexisting illnesses and conditions worsen and aggravate."

"General symptoms include coughing, sneezing, sore throat and hoarseness, raw nose and mouth, burning up with fever, obstructed respiratory pathways, and runny nose."

2. Specific Signs

The 18 chapters of virulent infectious diseases (nyen-rim) elucidate numerous specific signs and symptoms for each type and subclasses. These are not presented here so as to minimize complexity.

पक्षप्ता यात्रव सेस्रवा ग्री ही म्याब त्या है पा

१ हैं किया

बिश्वान्यस्य। पर्वटा । ज्ञान्यः अर्थ्यान्यः अर्थः प्रचावायः श्रीः कः पर्ह्चा बिश्वान्यः अर्थः प्रचावायः श्रीः म्यान्यः अत्वायः वाच्याः विश्वान्यः अर्थः प्रचावः श्रीः प्रचावः वाच्याः प्रमान्यः अर्थः प्रचावः श्रीः म्यायः वाव्यः वाच्यः वी । विवाः प्रचावः भूमायः अर्थः प्रचावायः श्रीः म्यायः प्रचावः वाच्यः । विदः श्रीः विवाः प्रचावः भूमायः अर्थः प्रचावायः श्रीः म्यायः प्रचावः । विदः ।

यान्नव्यायो म्वाया यान्नव्य देशका पर्के प्रमुद्द स्थेत स्थित स्थि IX. Diet and behavior related to virulent conditions (nyen illnesses)

न्गु'च। गत्रव'वन्'ग्रे'चर्षा श्रुंन्'य'क्ष्र'न।



IX. Diet and behavior related to virulent conditions (*nyen* illnesses)

From the Oral Instructions Supplement:

"Like pernicious poison, abandon diets rich in whites (i.e., dairy—milk, yogurt and butter), reds (i.e., meats), sweets, sours."

"In a remote, secluded, dark location where one can remain undistracted, lay out a clean mat of goat fur and recline on a cushion. Avoid vow violators, widows (or similar in mourning), haunts, and visitors. Physicians and nurses should wear wild boar tusks [around the neck]. Avoid carrying around objects and one's belongings (excess exertion) and instruments that make sound. Exert yourself in accumulating merit (e.g., offering tsok), conducting ransoming rituals and similar ceremonial offerings. It said those activities will completely paralyze virulent conditions."

न्गु'या गलन न्न'ग्री'चर्रा हुँन'ल'हु'या

X. Treatment methods for virulent contagious disease (nyen-rim conditions)

परुषा गतुन् सेस्रागुण्यार्भे विषया भाषा सुष्या



X. Treatment methods for virulent contagious disease (nyen-rim)

परुषा गतुन् मेरामारी गाँ विषय । मारी परिष्य

Number	Treatment method ঘার্ম্য প্রবস্থা	Types क्राम्ह	Number 떠드기	Treatment method গ্ৰম্প্ৰব্যথ	Types क्राम्य
1 1	Mantra বাৰুদ্ৰম'শ্ৰুবামা	20	5 4	Pill formulations	16 16
2	Mantras in diagrams (Skt. yantra)	5 4	6	Powder formulations	45
3	Protection formulations	8	7 2)	Cleansing formulations	10
4	Decoction formulations	16 16	8	External ointments	20 3 °

XI. My perspective on the current epidemic



XI. Personal perspective on the current epidemic

- COVID-19 appears to be a Nyen-né Tö-zer (classical category of severe upper respiratory viral infection)
- 2. First, take hot boiled water and hot medicinal decoctions to perspire and break the fever. (Although there is not a specific decoction, Manu 4 Tang, Norbu 7 Tang, Tsowo 8, Trul Tang and so forth are good; also Gurkhyung Chakdor, Bangtsey 12, Logyonma pill formulas and so forth.)
- For the actual treatment phase, it is important to investigate the nature of the condition and the root etiology. For respiratory inflammation, Jukang 25, Tsowo 25, Solo 4 Tang, Bangkhyung, Lotsé Kunsel, Lukmur 7, Tsokhyung, and Gitsen as best suitable to the time and progression.
- For preventing relapse, as described in the Gyüzhi, "Finally, Gurgum 13, Déjé ché, Gabur 25, and so forth limit relapse. Dashel and Nyugu formulations are beyond perfect—they are auspicious.

चकुःग्रेव ८ स्ते व८ प्रमाया स्टाने ५ मी स्वा

- १। १५०१-८ वित्रमान्य स्थान्य वित्रमान्य वित्
- अयायायहर्ष्याः श्रेया अरायदेवाता वाङ्ग्रिता द्यां द्वां स्वायाः स्वायाः स्वायाः वाङ्ग्रित्यां वाङ्ग्रित्यां स्वायाः स्वायाः स्वायाः स्वायाः वाङ्ग्रित्यां वाङ्ग्रित्याः स्वायाः स्व

Thank you



