

Rules framed and issued by His Majesty King Ram Shah

(King of Gorkha since 1666 B.S-1693B.S.)

First Rule: His Majesty appointed Mr. Nanda Mishra as his *Guru* and developed a system of appointing *Guru* to the successors of Mr. Mishra and not appoint others as *Guru* by the successors of His Majesty.

Second Rule: In the past, general public used to use the bamboo materials like *Dhungra*, *Dala*, *Aarhi* or similar articles to measure, exchange or transact commodities. Such system of exchanging goods or commodities was not fair enough. Therefore, His Majesty developed a system for measurement. Hereafter, the measurement shall be done as Ten *Muthi* equal to one *Manu*, Eight *Manu* equal to one *Pathi* and Twenty *Pathi* equal to one *Muri*. His Majesty has also put seal in the *Manu* and *Pathi* and issued an order to use the system of measurement accordingly.

Third Rule: There was not an appropriate weighing system of *Tulo* (Balance) and *Dhak* (Measure of weight) in the past; therefore, His Majesty developed a weighing system. The weighing system shall be Ten *Lal* equal to one

Masa, Ten *Masa* equal to one *Tola*, Eighteen *Lal* equal to one *Pal*, Twenty Seven *Tota* equal to one *Bodi*, One Hundred and Eight *Tola* equal to one *Bisauli*, and Two *Bisauli* equal to one *Dhami*. His Majesty has put figures in the *Tulo* and seal in the *Dhak* and has issued an order to use it accordingly.

Fourth Rule: In the past, an *Aasami* (borrower) of the food grain could not pay back such *Karja* (commodity borrowing) to the *Sahu* (Lender); borrowers were unable to pay back the debt because lender used to charge the *per anum* interest to a unlimited period of years until the debt is paid back; payment of principal including the accumulated interest for each and every year for a long period of time made the borrowers impossible to payback the borrowings; because of this many people in the country became *Rinagrahi* (insolvent). Therefore, His Majesty has developed a system of interest in food grain (commodity) transaction; the interest *per anum* shall be *pachaud* which will be up to Triple including the principal in Ten years. Hereafter, lenders shall not charge interest more the triple including the principal at any cost. If the borrower could not pay even after Ten years, do not charge the interest more than Triple of the principal; this is the Rule issued by His Majesty.

Fifth Rule: In the past, an *Asami* (borrower) of the cash could not pay back such *Karja* (cash loan) to the lender, borrowers were unable to pay back the debt because lender use to charge *per anum* interest to a unlimited period of years until the debt is paid back; payment of principal amount and accumulated interest for each and every year for a long period of time made the borrowers impossible to pay back the borrowings; because of this many people in the country became *Rinagrahi* (insolvent). Therefore, His Majesty has developed a system of interest for a cash transaction; the interest for a cash transaction shall be Ten percent *per anum*, which will be up to the Double including the principal amount in Ten years. If a borrower could not pay the principal and interest, lenders will not charge the interest more than the double including the principal amount at any cost. This is a Rule issued by His Majesty.

Sixth Rule: His Majesty has ordered not to hear a petty case resulted from *Pandhara* (place from where people fetch water). Because, mostly ladies and helping people go there to fetch the water and water is an essential commodity for each and all. Therefore, develop a 'first come first serve system' in fetching the water. Never break the queue. Fetch water only in an

orderly manner. Never bring such a petty case into the *Kachahari* (court). This is the Rule what His Majesty has issued.

Seventh Rule: His Majesty has ordered not to hear a petty case resulted from the *Kol* (a wooden local equipment from which one can produce oil from mustard). That is because, *Kol* is a common equipment of many people, produce oil turn by turn, never say I have to do it earlier. Here also mostly ladies and helping people are being engaged in this activity. If there arises a minor dispute do not bring it to the *Kachahari*, this is the Rule issued by His Majesty.

Eighth Rule: His Majesty has ordered not to hear a petty case relating to the *Kulo* (a small canal to irrigate the field). That is because mostly the helping people are engaged in the irrigation of the land. Therefore, use your portion of water only in your turn. Do not use water except in your turn and never use it more than your portion. If there arises a minor dispute - do not bring it to the *Kachahari*; this is the Rule issued by His Majesty.

Ninth Rule: In the past lands were given to the *Brahmin* as *Birta* (one of the systems of handing over land) indicating its boundaries as so and so mound, so and so river, so and so *paharo* (rock) and so and so *kanlo* (small hill) and

there was not a system of mentioning measurement like this much *Muri*, this much *Ropani* of the field; His Majesty has revealed that there were lacking of specific *Sandh Killa* (four side boundaries and sign posts for it) to the land given to the *Brahmin* as *Birta* and other *Raikar* (taxable) land. Therefore, His Majesty has ordered that while making a *Sankalpa* (religious promise to hand over anything including land) as a *Birta* to the *Brahmin*, there should be a system. In this system it shall be the land of the His Majesty, *Jhari* of the *Chautara*, *Binti* (Plea/Approach) of *Kazi*, hand (request) of the *Brahmin* and boundaries of *Panch Bhaladmi* (ladies and gentlemen from the neighbourhood). Hereafter, one has to make or cause to make *Sankalpa* (religious promise) and accept or transfer *Birta* upon specifically mentioning the measurement of the land-to mean this much land or this much *Muri* or this much *Ropani* in the course of *Dan* (religious process of transfer ownership). Now therefore, His Majesty has made a Rule that Five *Thar Ghar* will go to the land, fix boundary and put signpost of it upon showing the measurement of the land to mean this much land in *Ropani* exactly as His Majesty has also made promise for the same.

Tenth Rule: The reason for saying *Jhari* of *Chautaria* in the course of Trust for God and *Dharmasala*, *Birta* and *Sankalpa* to the Brahmin is- *Chautaria* are the brothers of the King and they are the main organ; and if *Dan* is made by completing full organs one can receive the *Phal* (fruit/result) to the extent possible (*Yathokta*); this is the reason for saying the *Jhari* of the *Chautaria*. The meaning of saying the *Binti* (plea/approach) of a *Kazi* is - *Kazi* should always make request (before the king) without any partiality but taking into consideration of the quality; this is the meaning for saying the approach of a *Kazi*. The meaning of saying boundaries by the *Panch* (five people) is- the boundary of land should be fixed upon with specifying the measurement and nature of the land like-this much field, this much *Ropani*, this much *Muri*, this much *Ghadari* (site of a building) or this much *Pakho* (un-irrigated land), it also should be taken care of whether there is *Nikas*, *Pasar* and *Sandhi Sarpan* (access roads to move in and from the land and problems due to any adjoining land) on the land or not, the boundary has to be maintained in all four sides of the land and signposts in all sides has also to be erected; and all these land specification activities are to be maintained by the *Tharghar* including the *Panch* and people adjoining the land.

This is the reason for saying boundaries by the *Panch* (Five people); now this is the reason for framing this Rule; abide by it.

Eleventh Rule: His Majesty has decided to frame a Rule to the successor of those who have had helped His Majesty Drabaya Shah to be the King of Gorkha, now hereinafter, you-Pandey, *Pantha*, *Arjyal*, *Khanal*, *Rana* and *Bohara* (different castes) are the integral part of the Throne as the *Chha Thar* (Six Castes) the reason for saying you all as six castes is-when *Chautaria*, *Kazi Sardar* including others will be involved in injustice or illegal activities and damage the credibility of the Throne (crown), you all, without any *Mohavata* (love) or partiality (*Molahija*) will approach and request for all the truth to me; and this is the Rule of Six Castes. Until you people will help to protect the Throne, our successors will protect and engage your successors in the job; this is a rule now framed by His Majesty.

Twelfth Rule: It is a command of His Majesty to keep pasture land for cow (*Gauchar*). The responsibility of protecting the cows and *Brahmins* is on the King. If you could not keep pasture land, cows and *Brahmins* will not get food for their survival, and it becomes blameworthy to the King. Therefore, His Majesty has made Rule-"Keep

pasture land for the cows and access roads to such land."

Thirteenth Rule: It is the command of His Majesty to maintain the trees along with the roadside. It is because tired poor people, people carrying loads and any other passersby, when feel hot they always seek the shadow of the trees; maintain trees; one who cuts the trees along with the roadside shall be fined Rupees Five; this is a Rule made by His Majesty.

Fourteenth Rule: Develop forest around the *Pandhara* (water source from where people fetch water for their domestic use); if trees are not there water shall not be available for all the times when we really seek for it, water shall disappear from there. Deforestation shall cause *Ugharo* and it shall cause landslide. Excessive landslide shall cause *Upadhaha*. *Upadhaha* shall destroy the paddy field. Without forest house holding activities shall not really run properly. Therefore, grow forest, one who cuts the forest around the *Pandhara* he/she shall be fined Rupees Five; this is the Rule issued by His Majesty the King.

Fifteenth Rule: If the *Chautaria*, brothers and *Gotia* commit a heinous crime against the human body, expel them from the country upon razing their hairs on the head;

if the *Sanyasi*, *Bairagi* and *Bhat* commit similar crime banish them accordingly. The meaning of banishment to the brothers, *Chautaria* and *Gotia* is- if such person commits a crime for which death penalty is prescribed, you do not execute rather banish them, if you do accordingly-in one hand you shall not be blamed for *Gotrahatya* (murder of the close relatives) and on the other hand nobody will raise finger against you for not punishing your close relatives-such a statement is found in the *Sastra* (Religious books) also. Hence, banishment is equal to the death penalty.

To execute a *Brahmin* may be blameworthy to *Brahmanhatya* (murder of a *Brahmin*), and if you do not execute them the others may blame you for impunity, therefore, *Mudnu* (razing hairs from someone's head) is equal to the death penalty, therefore banishment after razing the hair on head is the appropriate punishment. *Bairagi*, *Sanyasi* and *Bhat* are un-executable; therefore, the appropriate punishment for them is banishment. For the same reason, His Majesty has made this Rule.

Sixteenth Rule: In case a *Khas*, *Magar*, *Newar* and others commit a crime which is punishable by death penalty, execute only the person who commits the crime. Do

not torture to the family members of the culprit. His Majesty has made a Rule of -"Punish only them who commit the crime;" abide by the Rule accordingly.

Seventeenth Rule: Only the formally married queen is permitted to put on the golden ornaments on her feet. That is because both the gold and king are the part of lord *Narayan*. Formally married queen is also - a part of Goddess *Laxmi*, therefore she is permitted to put on the golden ornaments/jewels on her feet. *Chautarni* (wife of *Chautaria*) may put on golden ornaments/jewels on her feet if she is permitted by His Majesty the King or Her Majesty the Queen, but she can put on golden ornaments in other parts of her body even without the permission. *Rautala* and *Rautali* (male and female kids) of the brothers and *Chautaria* are permitted to use golden ornaments in their feet only for the childhood. *Brahmin, Khas, Magar* and other castes may put on golden ornaments/jewels on their hands if His Majesty so permits. They will not put on without such permission. His Majesty has made this Rule, abide by it.

Eighteenth Rule[⊗]: Do not promote to file a case against bitchcraft. Even then someone files a case and wins it give him *Pagari* (recognition) and Five Rupees and if looses the case Fine Rupee One and banish such person.

Nineteenth Rule: For His Royal Palace, His Majesty has appointed four *Purohits* (preists). Amongst them -*Bagale Arjyal* will be the Chief Preist, *Bihare Arjyal* will be the *Acharya*, *Khanal* will be the *Brahama* and *Bhattarai* will be the *Ganesh*.

Twentieth Rule: When, the then His Majesty Drabaya Shah was entering into Gorkha, the throne at that time was in *Talla Kot* (place), therefore, *Panday* of the *Brahmin* caste was made a preist there, therefore till the date *Panday Brahmins* are serving as a preist over there.

Twenty First Rule: Firstly, establish *Shree Devata* (God) in the *Talla Kot* and make sacrifice over there and make a system of establishing the God and sacrifice in the upper Palace thereafter.

Twenty Second Rule: *Granja Thapa* has received the decoration of *Dada. Ale* of *Turkshaya*, *Granja Thapa* and

[⊗] This Rule is not available in the Schedule of the Muluki Ain issued in the time of His Majesty Surendra Bir Bickram Shahdev. It has been noted as "unavailable" in many publications also. But in a Book edited by Baburam Acharya, *Itihas Siromani* and Yogi Naraharinath, this Rule has been mentioned. (Translator)

Gyami Rana (particular castes) these three castes shall receive *Kapardari* (specific job) turn by turn. *Panday, Panta* and *Arjyal*, these three castes shall get the job of *Khajana* (keeping of wealth/treasury) turn by turn. *Arjyals* shall get the job of *Dharmadhikar* (Judge), cook and *Sardar* (specific job). This is the Rule issued by His Majesty the King.

Twenty Third Rule: Permit to take all the crops of *Birauta* (newly cultivated land) for three consecutive years from the first crop. After fourth year give *dhani-boti* (crop of the owner) to the *Talsing* (owner of the land), give *bani-boti* (crop of the tenant) to the tenant. This is the Rule made by His Majesty the King.

Twenty-Fourth Rule: His Majesty the King made Rule of Twelve Castes (*Thars*) and Eighteen Castes (*Thars*).

Twenty-Fifth Rule: His Majesty the King entered into an agreement with *Siddhinarhinga Malla*, King of *Patan* to exchange the successors in case they do not have their own successors and invited *Chaubis-Kothi Mahajan* (Twenty-Four Houses of the traders) and pre-pardoned (declared not to punish) them from seven offences.

Twenty Sixth Rule: Everybody, bigger or smaller, all the subjects- Four *Barna* and Thirty Six Castes whosoever violates the Rule mentioned here above, shall be punished according to the degree of the criminality by myself and by my successors, upon touching the stone (taking oath to do justice).

The meaning of "touching the stone" is - 'a stone represents the feet of Lord Laxmi Narayan, worship it with *Pan* (*betel leaf*), flower and money. This is a measure to relieve oneself from any sin for doing any injustice unknowingly.

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