

PLATE XXVI  
PAINTINGS FROM BEZEKLIK

Bez. x. A, B

THIS comes from the east side of the base of the cult figure placed near the south end of the cella. As this is an almost exact replica of the right-hand end of the picture Bez. x. D-F, I, J, plate xxv, a brief description only need be given here, and the fuller note on plate xxv may be referred to for more details.

A considerable amount of discoloration, probably due to the use of lead white, has marred much of the painting, more especially the flesh colours; and abrasion has caused further deterioration.

On the left, a Vajrapāṇi sits cross-legged, waving a yak-tail *chaurī* above his head with his right hand while the left rests on the top of a *vajra* in his lap. His forearms are covered with sleeves figured with the curious plaiting already described in connexion with the *dākinīs* on plates xx and xxi. Indications of the green downs, more clearly seen in the version on plate xxv, appear on the left. The other three figures are Bodhisattvas with hands folded in *añjali-mudrā*; two seated cross-legged and the end one with the right knee raised supporting the right elbow. He seems to be conversing with the next Bodhisattva, whose head is turned towards him.

Bez. ix. A

This is from the south-east wall of the cella of this shrine. It is a fragment from a *pranidhi* scene of which one side of vesica and nimbus of a standing figure of the Buddha and three adorants remain, all very badly oxidized and discoloured.

The central figure was evidently turned towards the right, as the upraised left hand is extended in *vitarka-mudrā* in that direction. Part of the robe covers the upper arm and shoulder and a floral garland hangs over it. Nimbus and vesica show many-coloured vertical zigzags surrounded by bands, once red, now blackish-brown, on which are traces of rosettes; and outer zones, probably green, with a discoloured scroll pattern.

The kneeling figure, of decidedly Mongol type, is dressed as a Bodhisattva and presents to the Buddha an object, one end of which hangs over the left wrist, looking like an animal's skin, yellow with dark tiger-like stripes. The loin-cloth of the donor is yellow shaded with dull red, and has a red-brown border. His skirt