



Gnam ri srong bstan gyi lo rgyus go gnas (Namri Songtsan's Position in Tibetan History)

Lumbumjie

1. Based on the standard Tibetan history books, *Lde'u chos byung*, *Lha brag chos byung*, *Deb ther sngon po*, and *Deb ther dmar po*, I shall discuss how these scholars ignored Namri Songtsan's achievements and deeds owing to sectarian beliefs.
2.
 - 1). During the early 6th century when sTag ri gnyan gzigs was in power, Sumpa had unified all the kingdoms around Lhasa River and the other four sides. In terms of military and economy, Sumpa was much more powerful than the Spu-rgyal, which was located in the Yarlung area. Since it was difficult to conquer Sumpa by force, Namri Songtsan used the conflict between the King and ministers (*blon-po*) of Sumpa that manifested during the time of his father, to pave the way for the unification of Tibet.
 - 2) Besides conquering most of the petty kingdoms into Spu-rgyal, Namri Songtsan paid close attention to the economic development of Tibet. Even Drugu, in the north-west of his sphere of influence, respected him as their own king.
 - 3) In addition to recognising the loyalty and achievements of his own ministers, Namri Songtan also showed respect towards ministers from neighbouring principalities who sought refuge in his realm. This enabled him to acquire many excellent ministers such as the Myang, Dba's and Mnon clans, who were instrumental in unifying the country.
 - 4). While there was little discord among the ministers such as Khyung po spung sad and Myang Dba's, the king also brought an end to entrenched rivalries between his old ministers. This made it possible to divert all his energy into the construction of the kingdom.
3. The unification of Tibet must be considered one of the most important achievements of Namri Songtsan, and he should be seen as the founder of the ruling dynasty.