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A Textual Study of the *Lakṣaṇaṭīkā

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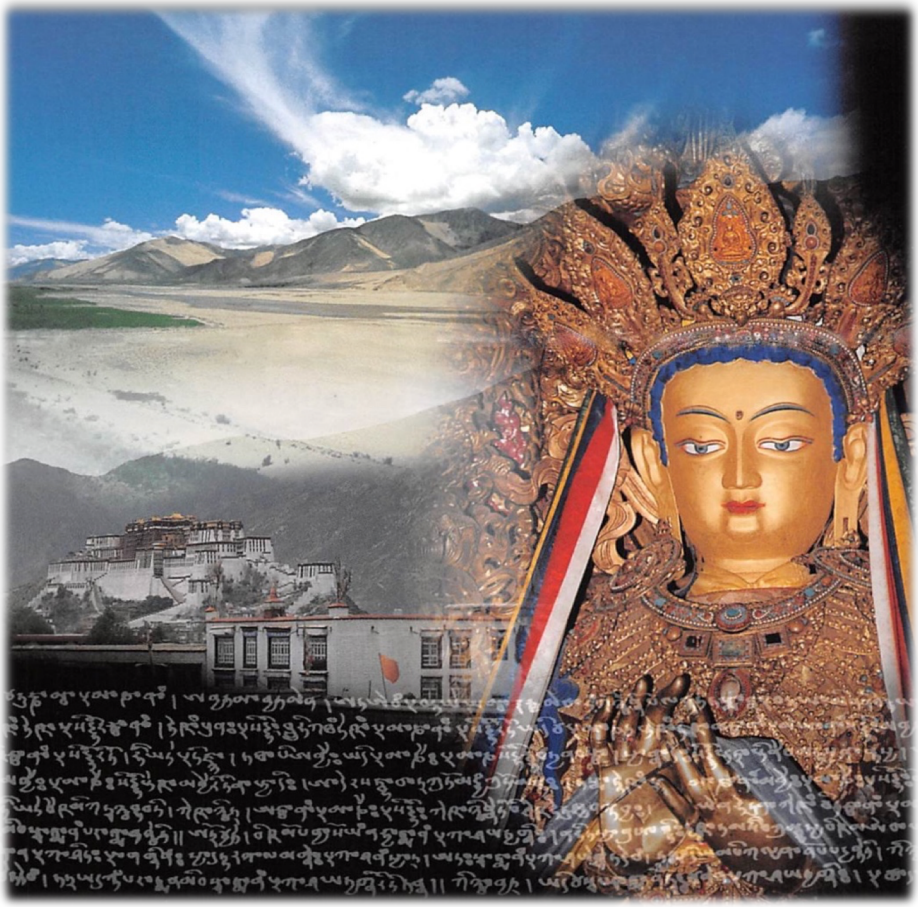

Yoshiyasu Yonezawa

A Textual Study of the **Lakṣaṇaṭīkā*

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I arrived in Leiden in 1992 to study Buddhism under the late Prof. Tilmann Vetter. My plan at the time was to investigate the *Vigrahavyāvartanī* attributed to Nāgārjuna. This was my first experience living abroad and my research lost focus and I was unable to complete my thesis.

In 1997 I returned to Japan where I joined the Institute for Comprehensive Studies of Buddhism at Taisho University. At that time the institute, in cooperation with relevant organizations in the People's Republic of China, was engaged in several projects focused on the publication of Sanskrit manuscripts held in Tibet. I was fortunate to be able to participate in a number of these projects. In July 1997, the institute organized a study tour to Lhasa and Beijing. While in Beijing I was able to visit the National Library of China located within the Cultural Palace of Nationalities. It was there that I noticed the existence of the MS that is the focus of the present study. In March of 1998, I visited the library again and began a project to produce a facsimile edition of the *dBu med* MSS. This project was realized in 1999. I saw a printed copy of the facsimile edition for the first time at a hotel in Lhasa during the second visit of the institute's delegation team. While on this visit, I was also able to see important Sanskrit MSS of the *Vimalakīrtinirdeśa*, the *Prasannapadā*, the *Madhyamakāvatārabhāṣya*, and so on preserved in Potala Palace.

For almost two decades, I have struggled with the texts included in the *dBu med* MSS. In this thesis I provide diplomatic and critical editions for a portion of these works. However, the result has not always been satisfactory. For instance, I have to admit that I have not yet been able to provide full translations of the texts in the present study.

I owe many people a debt of gratitude for their help in the present work. I obtained much important information and advice from Prof. Dr. Ernst Steinkellner, Prof. Dr. Christina Scherrer-Schaub, Prof. Dr. Saitō Akira, Prof. Dr. Yoshimizu Chizuko, Prof. Dr. Tanemura Ryūgen, and Prof. Dr. Kanō Kazuo.

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Itabashi, Tokyo
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Abstract

The present thesis is composed of an introduction to and a critical edition of a twelfth century collection of notes largely on the Madhyamaka treatises of Candrakīrti. This collection of notes is here provisionally called the *_Lakṣaṇaṭīkā_ (*_LṬ_). The first part of the thesis introduces the *_LṬ_, addressing six basic questions: (1) What are the contents of the text? (2) who compiled it? (3) when was it compiled? (4) where was it compiled? (5) how was it compiled? and (6) for what purpose was it compiled? I have elsewhere provided the following tentative answers to a few of these questions: A Tibetan scholar named Dharmakīrti compiled the *_LṬ_ at Vikramaśīla monastery in India, around the beginning of 12th century CE.

The first part of the thesis not only gives further information on the compiler and his associates, but it also looks at the remaining questions, namely, (1) what are the contents of the text? (5) how was it compiled? and (6) for what purpose was it compiled? In the Introduction, the contents of the *_LṬ_ are summarized. The rest of the questions are addressed in Part I.

The first chapter of Part I looks at who compiled these notes and when and where they were compiled. The second chapter seeks answers to how and for what purpose the text was compiled. In addition, the chapter looks at why this particular set of notes was copied and brought to Tibet. In the course of discussion I point out that the *_LṬ_ is as an important twelfth century textual source for Madhyamaka studies centered on Candrakīrti. Hence, Part I offers a general yet fairly detailed introduction to the *_LṬ_.

Part II, the main body of the thesis, is a critical edition of the *_LṬ_, in which the words and phrases occurring in the *mūla* treatises are identified. Although no translation of the text is given, I hope this edition will provide groundwork for future research into the 12th century Madhyamaka school.

Furthermore, the present thesis contains collation tables of the *_LṬ_, the diphlomatic transliteration, and the photo images of the *_LṬ_ MS as appendices.

Much of the present thesis consists of revised and expanded versions of papers previously published by the present author.

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