

BDK ENGLISH TRIPITAKA SERIES: A Progress Report

In 2004, three new titles comprising the Tenth Set of the BDK English Tripitaka Series will be published (see below for list of forthcoming volumes).

The following volumes of the Taisho Tripitaka Series have been published to date, for a total of fifty texts in twenty-eight volumes:

The Summary of the Great Vehicle [Taisho 1593] (Revised Second Edition, 2003)

The Biographical Scripture of King Asoka [Taisho 2043] (1993)

The Lotus Sutra [Taisho 262] (1994)

The Sutra on Upasaka Precepts [Taisho 1488] (1994)

The Essentials of the Eight Traditions [extracanonical] and The Candle of the Latter Dharma [extracanonical] (1994)

The Storehouse of Sundry Valuables [Taisho 203] (1994)

A Biography of the Tripitaka Master of the Great Ci'en Monastery of the Great Tang Dynasty [Taisho 2053] (1995)

The Three Pure Land Sutras: The Larger Sutra on Amitayus [Taisho 360]; The Sutra on Contemplation of Amitayus [Taisho 365]; The Smaller Sutra on Amitayus [Taisho 366] (Revised Second Edition, 2003)

The Essentials of the Vinaya Tradition [Taisho 2348] and The Collected Teachings of the Tendai Lotus School [Taisho 2366] (1995)

Tannisho: Passages Deploring Deviations of Faith [Taisho 2661] and Rennyō Shonin Ofumi: The Letters of Rennyō [Taisho 2668] (1996)

The Great Tang Dynasty Record of the Western Regions [Taisho 2087] (1996)

Senchaku Hongan Nembutsu Shū (A Collection of Passages on the Nembutsu Chosen in the Original Vow) [Taisho 2608] (1997)

The Pratyutpanna Samadhi Sutra [Taisho 418] and The Surangama Samadhi Sutra [Taisho 642] (1998)

The Blue Cliff Record [Taisho 2003] (1999)

Three Chan Classics: The Recorded Sayings of Linji [Taisho 1985]; Women's Gate [Taisho 2005]; The Faith-Mind Maxim [Taisho 2010] (1999)

Three Texts on Consciousness Only: Demonstration of Consciousness Only [Taisho 1585]; The Thirty Verses on Consciousness Only [Taisho 1586]; The Treatise in Twenty Verses on Consciousness Only [Taisho 1590] (1999)

The Scriptural Text: Verses of the Doctrine, with Parables [Taisho 211] (2000)

Buddhist Monastic Traditions of Southern Asia [Taisho 2125] (2000)

The Scripture on the Explication of Underlying Meaning [Taisho 676] (2000)

Kaimokusho or Liberation from Blindness [Taisho 2689] (2000)

The Platform Sutra of the Sixth Patriarch [Taisho 2008] (2000)

A Comprehensive Commentary on the Heart Sutra [Taisho 1710] (2001)

Two Esoteric Sutras: The Adamantine Pinnacle Sutra [Taisho 865]; The Susiddhikara Sutra [Taisho 893] (2002)

Lives of Great Monks and Nuns: The Life of Asvaghosa Bodhisattva [Taisho 2046]; The Life of Nagarjuna Bodhisattva [Taisho 2047]; Biography of Dharma Master Vasubandhu [Taisho 2049]; Biographies of Buddhist Nuns [Taisho 2063]; The Journey of the Eminent Monk Faxian [Taisho 2085] (2002)

The Interpretation of the Buddha Land [Taisho 1530] (2002)

Kyogyoshinsho: On Teaching, Practice, Faith, and Enlightenment [Taisho 2646] (2003)

Two Nichiren Texts: Risshoankokuron [Taisho 2688]; Kanjinhonzonsho [Taisho 2692] (2003)

Shingon Texts: On the Differences between the Exoteric and Esoteric Teachings [Taisho 2427]; The Meaning of Becoming a Buddha in This Very Body [Taisho 2428]; The Meanings of Sound, Sign, and Reality [Taisho 2429]; The Meanings of the Word Hum [Taisho 2430]; The Precious Key to the Secret Treasury [Taisho 2426]; The Mitsugonin Confession [Taisho 2527]; The Illuminating Secret Commentary on the Five Cakras and the Nine Syllables [Taisho 2514] (2003)

The following volumes are scheduled for publication in 2004–2005 (publication not necessarily in the order listed):

THE TREATISE ON THE ELUCIDATION OF THE KNOWABLE [Taisho 1645] and THE CYCLE OF THE FORMATION OF THE SCHISMATIC DOCTRINES [Taisho 2031]

The Treatise on the Elucidation of the Knowable is a translation by Ses-rab dpal (1259–1314) (Ch.: Shaluoba) of a text by the Tibetan 'Phags-pa (1235–1280) written as a primer of Buddhism for the Mongolian crown prince Cinggim (Ch.: Zhenjin) (1243–1285). Drawing on Abhidharma teachings from the viewpoint of the Sarvastivada tradition and from Vasubandhu's important treatise, the *Abhidharmakosa*, to provide an outline of fundamental Buddhist concepts, the text begins with a description of the animate and inanimate worlds according to Buddhist cosmology and discusses key elements of the Buddhist path and teachings. Translated by Charles Willemen. *The Cycle of the Formation of the Schismatic Doctrines (Samayabhedoparacanacakra)*, by the Sarvastivadin scholar-monk Vasumitra (ca. first century B.C.E.) is an account of the unorthodox and schismatic doctrines within the Buddhist sangha that began to arise soon after the Buddha's lifetime, and which led to the formation of several different schools. The text concisely enumerates the differing points of doctrine held by these various schools. Translated by Keisho Tsukamoto.

APOCRYPHAL SCRIPTURES: The Bequeathed Teaching Sutra [Taisho 389]; The Ullambana Sutra [Taisho 685]; The Sutra of Forty-two Sections [Taisho 784]; The Sutra of Perfect Enlightenment [Taisho 842]; The Sutra on the Profundity of Filial Love [Taisho 2887]

This volume contains five brief yet important scriptural texts of the Chinese Buddhist canon. The *Bequeathed Teaching Sutra (Yijiaojing)* is presented as the Buddha's last teaching, in which he instructs the monks that after his *parinirvana* they should rely on the monastic discipline, or *pratimoksa* ("liberation in all respects"), to remain free from potential entanglements and develop good qualities. In the *Ullambana Sutra (Yulanpenjing)*, the disciple Maudgalyayana petitions the Buddha for a means to liberate his mother from a lower realm of rebirth; the Buddha teaches that making food offerings to the sangha at the completion of the summer retreat generates merit sufficient to liberate one's ancestors for seven generations. This text is the doctrinal basis of the Japanese *Obon* ceremony. The *Sutra of Forty-two Sections (Sishierzhangjing)* is a compilation from various sutras of brief,

independent sections on ethical teachings intended for practice by Buddhist followers. The *Sutra of Perfect Enlightenment* (*Yuanjuejing*) presents the teaching of intrinsic enlightenment, which became the basis of the development of uniquely East Asian forms of Buddhist belief and practice. The *Sutra on the Profundity of Filial Love* (*Fumuenzhongjing*) is considered the Buddhist book of filial piety, to be based on the aspiration to attain enlightenment; the text describes how one should honor and help one's parents in order to repay one's indebtedness for their support and care.

ZEN TEXTS: Essentials of the Transmission of Mind [Taisho 2012-A]; A Treatise on Letting Zen Flourish to Protect the State [Taisho 2543]; A Universal Recommendation of True Zazen [Taisho 2580]; Advice on the Practice of Zazen [Taisho 2586]

This volume contains four texts of the Chan/Zen tradition. *Essentials of the Transmission of Mind* (*Chuanxinfayao*), translated by John R. McRae, is based on the teachings of the ninth-century Chinese Chan master Huangbo Xiyun (Duanji) on the nature of the enlightened mind. *A Treatise on Letting Zen Flourish to Protect the State* (*Kozengokokuron*), translated by Gishin Tokiwa, was written by the Japanese Tendai priest Myoan Eisai (1141–1215) to advocate the establishment of Zen as an independent school; the text draws from one hundred Buddhist sources to offer a comprehensive exposition of the Zen teachings. *A Universal Recommendation of True Zazen* (*Fukanzazengi*), translated by Osamu Yoshida, is a brief but important text by Eihei Dogen (1200–1253), founder of the Japanese Soto Zen school, on the foundations, meaning, and practice of *shikantaza* (“pure sitting”). Translated by Steven Heine, *Advice on the Practice of Zazen* (*Zazenyojinki*), by the Fourth Patriarch of the Soto lineage, Keizan Jokin (1268–1325), draws from a variety of key philosophical doctrines and practical recommendations from Dogen's teachings on *zazen* (seated meditation) practice.

THE SUTRA OF QUEEN SRIMALA OF THE LION'S ROAR [Taisho 353] and THE VIMALAKIRTI SUTRA [Taisho 475]

This volume contains two important texts from the Indian Mahayana tradition. *The Sutra of Queen Srimala of the Lion's Roar* (*Srimaladevisimhanada-sutra*), translated by Diana M. Paul, concerns the story of Queen Srimala, a lay bodhisattva who possesses the “lion's roar” of great eloquence. In the form of teachings delivered by Srimala in the Buddha's presence, the text discusses the doctrines of the *tathagatagarbha* (“womb of the Buddha”) and

the One Vehicle (*ekayana*). *The Vimalakirti Sutra* (*Vimalakirtinirdesa-sutra*), translated by John R. McRae, also features an accomplished lay bodhisattva. Engaging in lively dialogue with the great bodhisattva Manjusri, the householder Vimalakirti displays the depth of his knowledge of the core Buddhist principles of nonduality and emptiness, culminating in his “thunderous silence”—understanding beyond verbal/conceptual frameworks.

THE BAIZHANG ZEN MONASTIC REGULATIONS [Taisho 2025]

Translated by Shohei Ichimura, this text (*Chixiubaizhangqinggui*) is a comprehensive account of the rules and regulations, offices, rituals and practices, and daily-life requirements established as the standard for Chan/Zen monastic life by Baizhang Huaihui (720–814). Though Baizhang’s original *Regulations* are extant only in fragments in works of later periods, this Yuan period revised text, compiled by Chan Masters Dehui and Dasu, represents a unified code of monastic regulations for the Chan/Zen community.

THE ALL-PLEASING: A COMMENTARY ON THE RULES OF DISCIPLINE [Taisho 1462]

This text (*Shanjianlüpiposha*) is a commentarial work dealing with the monastic rules of the Theravada Buddhist tradition, based on the *Samantapasidika*, a Pali commentary on the *Vinaya-pitaka* ascribed to the fifth-century monk Buddhaghosa. Translated by Sodo Mori and Toshiichi Endo.

THE AWAKENING OF FAITH [Taisho 1666]

This text, the *Mahayanasraddhotpada-sastra* (*Dachengqixinlun*), composed by Asvaghosa (ca. 1st–2nd centuries), presents a concise synopsis of both the theoretical and practical aspects of the central ideas of Mahayana Buddhism. Though brief, this work has been of considerable influence on various schools of East Asian Buddhism, including the Huayan, Tiantai, Chan, and Pure Land traditions. Translated by Yoshito S. Hakeda.

These volumes can be purchased through most bookstores, online at Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble’s BN.net or directly from the Numata Center for Buddhist Translation and Research.

The Numata Center for Buddhist Translation and Research and the Editorial Committee of the BDK English Tripitaka Project look forward to continuing to publish volumes of the English Tripitaka Series. Through this work we hope to help to fulfill the dream of our founder, Reverend Dr. Yehan Numata, to make the Buddhist teachings available to the English-speaking world. *Gassho.*

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