

not only academically but personally from Prof. Takasaki Jikidō, who embodied for us the very qualities of optimism and confidence that embody the spirit of Tathāgatagarbha thought.

Kenneth K. Tanaka

Itō Emyō (1932–2013)

Professor Itō Emyō passed away on 12 October 2013, closing a life that spanned eighty-three years. His name became widely known after the first volume of *Tannishō no sekai* (The World of the *Tannishō*; Kyoto: Bun'eidō) was published in 1967. In the same year I entered the graduate school at Otani University and started attending his class. Prof. Itō—recently appointed as an assistant professor—placed a cloth-wrapped *Shinshū seiten* on the table beside him, and without ever opening it, casually delivered the lecture, reciting extensive passages from the *Tannishō* from memory. His appearance at that time, in the dim atmosphere of that classroom in the old Jingenkan, vividly comes to my mind even now.

During the 1960s, Prof. Itō also held an important administrative post as dean of academic affairs, and was charged with assisting the president of the university, Soga Ryōjin. In those days, however, Otani was troubled by a variety of internal conflicts, and much to everyone's regret, Prof. Itō left the university in 1970, taking responsibility for those difficulties.

Around that time Prof. Itō came forward to participate, as a staff member at the Eastern Buddhist Society (EBS), in the editing and publication of the English translation of the *Kyōgyōshinshō*—a work left behind unpublished by Suzuki Daisetsu at his passing. It was then that I became personally acquainted with Prof. Itō. At the EBS office I had the privilege of listening, together with international students, to his lectures on the *Kyōgyōshinshō*.

Throughout his life, Prof. Itō looked up to Soga Ryōjin as a revered mentor. His discussion of Soga in volume 15 of *Jōdo bukkyō no shisō* (Tokyo: Kōdansha, 1993) remains a standard account that continues to lead the way in research on that important figure in modern Shin Buddhist thought.

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