

THE SIXTH VOLUME OF THE *KYOGYOSHINSHO*  
PRESERVED IN GANNENJI TEMPLE

The *Kyōgyōshinshō* in six volumes is the fundamental text of Shin Buddhism. It was written by Shinran Shōnin (1173-1262), the founder of that Buddhism, and a manuscript by his own hand, which is commonly called the Bando-Manuscript and which is generally considered to be the draught of the work, has been transmitted to this day.

Now, in this Bando-Manuscript, there are traces showing various stages of development of the work. We have in it so many corrections and improvements; and, these, together with other conditions of the manuscript, tell us that it took a long time of effort for Shiran Shōnin to complete this work. Some scholar, therefore, embraces a supposition that there might be some ealier draught written before this Bando-Manuscript.

While this is so, an old manuscript has been lately found out in Gannenji Temple in the prefecture of Shiga. This manuscript is nothing more than a fragment consisting of fourteen sheets. But its old style and its content make us believe that it has some relation to an earlier draught written before the Bando-Manuscript. Might it not be considered, then, that this newly-found manuscript of Gannenji Temple is something nearest the original form of the *Kyōgyōshinshō*? Can we not offer a hypothesis that the Bando-Manuscript has come out of such an original form into its present state? It is the purpose of the present writer to examine into this matter.

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