

On the Significance of the Passage of “Kodai
Gengoku” in the *Meditation Sutra*

At the beginning of the *Meditation Sutra*, there is a passage, in which Sakyamuni reveals, for the sake of Queen Vaidehi, the chief-listner to his sermon, the buddhalands of the ten directions in the calyx of a lotus flower resplendent in gold, and he has the Queen choose the Amida's Pure Land from among them. This event at first sight may appear to be somewhat unusual, but this passage is considered by the author as most important as it symbolically implies the real religious spirit couched deep in this Sutra.

This is the reason why this passage has been watched with utmost care by Shan-tao of the T'ang China and his brilliant successors of the Pure Land teaching like Shoku and Shinran, who appeared in Japan in the Kamakura Period. All of them respectively have elicited from this passage the inner religious significance contained in the *Meditation Sutra*.

In this thesis, the author tries to clarify the religious meaning implied in this passage on the basis of Shan-tao's views on it, and especially by means of Shoku's and Shinran's interpretations of it.

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