

## Studies in the Ti-shih of Yüan

For the study of the history of Buddhism during the Yüan Dynasty, it is of primary importance for us to clarify the character of the "Ti-shih," who was held in great respect as a *guru* by successive Emperors, endowed with an overwhelming power.

Most of the Ti-shihis in successive generations were chosen from among the high priests of the Tibetan *Sa skya* School. Accordingly, this thesis begins, in the preliminary part, with an enquiry into the origin of the *Sa skya* School, which is followed by the life of *Sa skya paṇḍita*, in which is described how he laid the foundation for *Hphags pa* to ascend the throne of the first *Ti-shih*.

In the main body of the thesis, detailed considerations have been given to the dates of birth, demise and accession to the throne of Ti-shihis of all generations. The list of the successive Ti-shihis can be seen in the *Shih lao chuan* Chapter (Vol. 202) of the *Yüan shih* (History of the Yüan Dynasty). There have been a number of discrepancies and conflicts of data not only among the records in the *Yüan shih* itself, but among those in the *Yüan shih* and in other sources. For this reason, it was not an easy task to reconcile those conflicting data with each other. In recent years, however, two Tibetan historical documents: the *Hu lan deb ther* and the *Rgya bod yig tshan* were discovered. Through the study of these documents, the present writer came to resolve most of those conflicts, thus having been able to make a number of corrections and additions to the list recorded in the *Shih lao chuan* Chapter.

At the same time the blood-relations among the Ti-shihis have been revealed so clearly as to be shown in genealogical tables. It was discovered further that the four Ti-shihis, among others, that is, from the fourth to the seventh, though belonging to the *Sa skya* School, are related in blood to *Hphags pa*'s disciples, and not, therefore, to *Hphags*

*pa* himself.

In the concluding part, tables are shown as to the dates of birth, demise, accession to the throne, retirement, as well as to the places of death of all the Ti-shihs of successive generations. (Cf. p. 154)

Shōjū Inaba