

A Study of the *Abhidharmāvatāra*

Part I Introduction.

Having been wrongly regarded by L. de la Valée Poussin as a commentary to the *Abhidharmakośa*, the *Abhidharmāvatāra* is an independent work comprising the whole system of the Sarvāstivādin philosophy in a condensed form. It is of unidentified authorship, because (1) the Chinese traditions ascribing it to Sai-chien-ti-lo is not supported by the Tibetan traditions; (2) of the transliterated name Sai-chien-ti-lo, the original Sanskrit form is not exactly known; and (3) mentions of the life and works of him in the two Chinese commentaries to the *Abhidharmakośa* are rather unreliable. Whomsoever the *Abhidharmāvatāra* is ascribed to, it is considered that the work is contemporary with or a little earlier than Vasubandhu's *Abhidharmakośa*. The 8-padārtha theory appearing in this work is never found in any of the other śāstra of the Sarvāstivādin except a brief mention in the *Vibhāṣāprabhāvṛtti*, a commentary to the *Abhidharmadīpa*. A conspicuous analogy is between the *Abhidharmāvatāra* and Candrakīrti's *Pañcaskandhakaparakaraṇa*, especially in regard to the explanation of caitaṣika-dharma.

Part II Translation into Japanese from Tibetan Version with Annotation.

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