

A Study of the *Shasekishū* 沙石集
—Its Framework and the
Problem of Narrative 說話—

Literary position of each of the Buddhist stories written in the mediaeval ages of our country can not be made clear, till the characteristic of each of them is not thoroughly investigated. For a primary and fundamental attempt, I have, in this article, taken the *Shasekishū* and considered its characteristic.

The *Shasekishū* is a collection of two topics, Buddhist doctrines and narratives. The narratives constitute stories and illustrations concerning the Buddhist doctrines elucidated in it, which play the leading role in a sense. Thus the narratives of the *Shasekishū*, deeply connected with the Buddhist doctrines expounded, are more general than any other narratives in the Buddhist stories.

By these facts, in conclusion, the *Shasekishū* can be said to be a work with extremely instructive and advocative nature.

Osamu Kataoka