

# Japanese Translation and Commentary on the Mādhyamika Prāsaṅgika Chapter of *Legs bśad sñiñ po*

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This paper presents a Japanese translation and commentary on the Mādhyamika Prāsaṅgika Chapter of Tsong kha pha's *Dran ba dan nes pa'i don rnam par phye ba'i bstan bcos* " *Legs bśad sñiñ po* " *zes bya ba*. The initial portion of this text has been translated in an earlier article published in *Otani Gakuho* 67-1(1987). The present study is a continuation of this earlier work.

As the *Legs bśad sñiñ po* shows, Tsong kha pa upheld the superiority of the Mādhyamika Prāsaṅgika position. But he also held that to understand the Prāsaṅgika position, it is necessary to have thorough knowledge of the Mādhyamika Svātantrika position, and, moreover, to understand the Svātantrika position it is necessary to comprehend the position of the Yogacāra consciousness-only school. Thus, in treating the Prāsaṅgika philosophy, he also discussed these other schools.

Tibetan Buddhists are in the habit of saying that the *Legs bśad sñiñ po* is a "bow and arrow made of iron." As this saying reveals, this text is an important outline of Mahāyāna Buddhism. Monks of the Ge lugs pa sect of Tibetan Buddhism also claim that he who recites and comprehends this

work is a valuable defender of the Buddhist Dharma who is always protected by the guardian deity Chos rgyal every morning, noon and evening. This shows how highly Tibetan Buddhists venerate this text.

Chinese and English translations of the *Legs bśad sñin po* already exist. However, in view of the importance of this work in the history of Buddhist thought, I have decided to publish its Japanese translation here. In closing, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Professor Katano Michio, who generously aided me in my translation.