

## **Dharmapala's Epistemo-Logical Concepts of the image(ākara) and the knowledge (vijñāna)**

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I am currently at the stage of writing my Ph.D. dissertation on Dharmapala's Epistemo-Logical Concepts of the image(ākara) and the knowledge (vijñāna), and planned to come to Kyoto University in order to establish more solid academic ground for my research on Buddhist philosophy since the Philosophy department of Kyoto University has a long history of integrating the western and eastern philosophical traditions, beginning with the famous Nishida Kitaro, and still now many collaborated works on the western philosophical ideas and the eastern philosophies including Indian philosophies and the Sino-asian Buddhism and Confucianism, especially led by Prof. Yasuo Deguchi. First of all, I was so impressed and grateful for the warmhearted welcome and cooperation of Prof. Yasuo Deguchi and other staffs in the philosophy department and also KUASU. They voluntarily helped me to find accommodation and prepare the life in Kyoto from the very beginning and I think I couldn't have a better experience without their support. The weather was a little cold and unpredictable but the people in Kyoto were always very kind, friendly and supportive. That is one of the best experiences in Kyoto, of course including the tour of Kiyomitsutera, Philosopher's Path, Gingakuji and Kingakuji, Royal palace, and also walking along the river. I also had a great time of studying in the library which is well organized and full of very precious collection for the study of Indo-Tibetan Buddhist studies.

I spend much time in library to read materials in relation with my dissertation, and found a lot of insightful ideas from the texts, including Alabanapariksavrtti, Cheng weishi lun, Fodi jing lun, Vimsatika and Trimsikabhasya, and so on. But the seminars with Prof. Deguchi definitely promoted my readings and instigated new ideas. Prof. Deguchi has led a group of seminar on Nothingness in the Asian Philosophy, which provided me a good chance to learn about the modern philosophical interpretation on the concept of sunyata (emptiness) in the Buddhist philosophy.

In addition, I had frequent opportunities to participate in the symposium held by the department, including the Buddhist Metaphysics, Catuskoti, and Modern Motic, which had an extensive discussion of distinguished scholars such as Katsura Shyuru, Jay Garfield, Graham Priest, Funayama Toru, and Yasuo Deguchi among others. The second session of this series of symposium was about the Contradiction in Asian Philosophy, which met with the study on Nishida Kitaro's concept of Absolute nothingness and his logic. In February, I had another great opportunity to attend the lectures by Jay Garfield on the philosophy of Alabanapariksavrtti by Dignaga, 6<sup>th</sup> Century. This lecture was directed related with the issues in my dissertation.

Professor Deguchi's lectures and talks about modern philosophies, for example, modern analytic philosophies and logic, Kantian logic and phenomenological implication, Nishida's philosophical ideas, and even the logic of Buddhism gave me a lot of insights and motivations for further study. It's been a great opportunity and also a very rare luck for me to have this time to work with Deguchi sensei.

I'd like to come back to study with colleagues here and learn more about many things from the great scholars in Kyoto.