

Lecture

The Hastikakṣyasūtra:

Some Reflections on an Early Mahāyāna Text

Prof. Dr. Zhen LIU
(Fudan University, Shanghai)

November 7, 2018, 4.15-5.45 pm

Universität Hamburg, Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1, ESA-Ost, Room 120

The lecture attempts to investigate a Sanskrit fragment of a Mahāyānasūtra, the *Hastikakṣyasūtra*, and compares it to its corresponding Chinese and Tibetan translations.

Through a comparison of all extant titles of this text found in both the Chinese and Tibetan versions and their reconstructions in Sanskrit, this work further throws light on the question why some titles use the metaphor of the effort or power of an elephant.

In conclusion it will become clear that by analysing the Chinese and Tibetan versions, the content and structure of this text can shed some important light on the early development of Mahāyānasūtras.



Prof. Dr. Zhen LIU studied Indology and Tibetology at the Institute for Indology and Tibetology at Munich University (2001-2008). In 2005 he attained an M.A. degree with the thesis *The Maitreya-vyākaraṇa - A Comparison of the Different Versions with a Translation of the Sanskrit Text*. In 2008 he got his Ph.D. degree with a dissertation titled *Meditation and Asceticism - A New Sanskrit Source for the Buddha Legend*. LIU is now professor at the National Institute for Advanced Humanistic Studies, and director of the Centre for Gandhian and Indian Studies at Fudan University, Shanghai. His research specialties are the comparison between Chinese and Indian literature, Indian Mahāyāna and Hīnayāna Buddhism, Sanskrit manuscripts, the Veda and Vedic literature.