

The Fellowship of the Program for Evolving Humanities and Sociology, Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology, The University of Tokyo

## **A Brief Research Report**

**September 18, 2012**

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### **1. Title**

A Study of the *Ajātaśatrukaukṛtyavinodanasūtra*: An Investigation of its Position in the History of Indian Buddhism and its Textual Research

### **2. Host Institution and Adviser**

Ho Center for Buddhist Studies at Stanford (Stanford University, California, U.S.A.),  
Professor Paul Harrison

### **3. Research Period**

From September 20, 2011 to March 19, 2012 (181 days)

### **4. Plans and Outcome**

#### **(a) Initial Research Plans**

I will continue with my research on the *Ajātaśatrukaukṛtyavinodana* (*AjKV*) examined in my doctoral thesis. I will first improve and expand textual research of the *AjKV*. I will produce a critical edition of the Tibetan version by collating the materials of the Tibetan Kanjurs and will compare some Chinese Buddhist translations with the Taisho Tripitaka edition. In particular, I will revise Chapters V through X of the *AjKV*, which have been presented in my doctoral thesis, and newly edit Chapters I through IV and XI through XIII of the sutra.

And in order to clarify the position of the *AjKV* within Indian Buddhist philosophical history, I will investigate the features and characteristics of thoughts that surface in the *AjKV* by comparing them with other Buddhist literature. Specifically I will focus on the relationship between the *AjKV* and Prajñāpāramitā literature.

#### **(b) Outcome**

I achieved the following in my textual research of the *AjKV*: at the beginning of the autumn quarter, I consulted Prof. Harrison about the principle of producing a critical edition of the Tibetan version of the *AjKV*. By the end of the quarter, I had revised the Tibetan version of Chapter VI of the *AjKV* and translated it into English. In the winter quarter, I prepared the Tibetan version and three Chinese versions of Chapters V and XI

of the *AjKV* for Prof. Harrison's seminar. Reading the two older Chinese versions in class gave me the chance to learn how such Chinese texts could be approached. Before reading the texts, I gave a presentation on the compilation process of the *AjKV* as an introduction to the class, and discussed the topic with Prof. Harrison and the graduate students. To summarize, in the autumn and winter quarters I reexamined and improved the two chapters of the *AjKV* (i.e. Chapters V and VI) and newly edited Chapter XI.

I did not have enough time to investigate properly the relation between the *AjKV* and Prajñāpāramitā literature because I started preparing to publish a part of my doctoral thesis. This book, titled "A Study of the *Ajātaśatrukaukṛtyavinodana*: Focusing on the Compilation Process" (阿闍世王経の研究—その編纂過程の解明を中心として), was published by Sankibo Press in August 2012.

### **(c) Research Prospects**

I will proceed with my textual study of the *AjKV* with the goal of completing a critical text of its Tibetan version collated with the three Chinese versions and the Sanskrit fragments, and making an annotated translation based on the Tibetan text. My revision of a part of the Tibetan and Chinese texts during my visit revealed a problem with the edition I presented in my thesis; therefore, I need to review and refine the edition in my thesis overall. I will pursue my research of Buddhist thoughts in *AjKV* with the ultimate aim of explicating its position within Buddhist thought history. Specifically, I will examine how the *AjKV* is related to the other Mahāyāna sutras, such as Prajñāpāramitā literature, the Lotus Sutra, the *Avantamsaka* Sutras, the *Vimalakīrtinideśa*, and the *Śūraṅgamasamādhi*. I then plan to continue my research at Stanford.