

Establishing the Sanskrit text
of the First Chapter of Sthiramati's *Madhyāntavibhāgaṭīkā*

Sthiramati's *Madhyāntavibhāgaṭīkā* (MAVṬ) is a philosophical sub-commentary on Vasubandhu's *bhāṣya* on the *Madhyāntavibhāga* ascribed by a later Indo-Tibetan tradition to Maitreyañātha. These works are some of the most important primary texts of Yogācāra, and parts of both the *kārikās* and *bhāṣya* are quoted in Sthiramati's sub-commentary. Belonging to an extensive Yogācāra textual corpus, extant, mostly in Tibetan and/or Chinese translations, the MAVṬ is one of the very few texts available in the Sanskrit original. The only available Sanskrit manuscript was, according to Tucci, discovered in Nepal by Śrī Hemarāja Śarmā. Unfortunately it is badly damaged: the right-hand portion is lost, and some leaves are missing.

In 1930 Tucci announced an edition, by himself and Vidhuśekhara Bhaṭṭācārya, with a complete restoration of all missing passages on the basis of the Tibetan translation. He published an edition of only the first chapter in 1932. In 1934 Yamaguchi published an edition of the complete text in which the lacunae were filled on the basis of the Tibetan translations. Scholars like Nagao (1978:16), de Jong (1977:113) and Kim (2006:42) have already suggested a number of corrections, as Yamaguchi's restorations are, despite his careful study of the Sanskrit text of the *ṭīkā* and the Tibetan and Chinese translations of the *kārikās*, *bhāṣya* and *ṭīkā*, not always acceptable. The publication of the Sanskrit texts of the *kārikās* and *bhāṣya* by Nagao in 1964 makes it possible to correct the portions containing the quotations, which were verified and reconstructed only from the Tibetan by both Tucci and Yamaguchi.

Based on the manuscript microfilmed by the Nepal-German Manuscript Preservation Project (the same manuscript used by T and Y), the Tibetan translations and the new wealth of material produced by recent scholarship, I will attempt to produce an improved version of the text. My presentation will focus on the first chapter, dealing with questions concerning the nature of emptiness.