

Mahāvīra's Body and the Buddha's Body: Some Remarks

Yutaka Kawasaki
(Research Fellow, Osaka University)

The purpose of this research is to compare the physical characteristics of the ideal person found in the Jaina and Buddhist texts. In this research, two Śvetāmbara Jaina Āgamic texts are investigated: (1) *Aupapātika* §16 where we find a detailed depiction of the physical characteristics of Mahāvīra, and (2) *Samavāya* §34 where 34 kinds of the excellent and often supernatural phenomena obtained by an enlightened one (*buddhātiśeṣas*) are listed. Then these marks are compared with the 32 standard marks (*mahāpuruṣalakṣaṇas*) and the 80 minute marks (*anuvyañjanas*), both of which have been considered as the typical characteristics of the ideal person in Buddhism.

Although the physical marks depicted in above mentioned sources have been studied by some scholars so far and from these studies we know that Jainism and Buddhism share same view on at least some physical characteristics, there seems to be still room for further investigation to find more equivalents of these marks between the two traditions. Because most of these past studies seem to have compared the Jaina sources mainly with the the 32 standard marks based on the Pāli tradition and little attention seems to have been given to other versions of the 32 marks and the 80 minute marks (the latter marks are not found at least in the Pāli canon) presented in the various Hīnayānistic and Mahāyānistic Buddhist literature. It is well known that the scholars have found many traditions of these lists in the Buddhist texts and indicated that many of these lists contain several different physical marks from those given by the Pāli tradition.

Therefore, based on these results achieved by Buddhist studies, I would like to search the physical marks in the Buddhist texts more comprehensively to compare with those of the Jaina tradition and, as a result, add further instances which indicate that the two traditions share the same views on some ideal physical marks. At the same time, I also would like to point out a few instances of the physical characteristics in which slightly different views are indicated by each tradition.