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An Analytical Study of Nāgārjuna's Philosophy
as a Fresh and Logical Formulation of
Buddha's Middle Way



Ruimeng Zhou

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Department of Pāli and Buddhist Studies

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Faculty of Arts

University of Peradeniya

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Abstract

This work was an analysis of the philosophical basic conceptions to Mahāyāna Buddhism as found in the Mādhyamika-śāstra, a commentary on the Prajñāpāramitā-sūtras and traditionally attributed to Nāgārjuna.

The Mādhyamika-śāstra is the most extensive work in this field. The Sanskrit śāstra was originally preserved and translated into Chinese. The meanings of Sanskrit and Chinese terms are expounded, concepts are made clear, and supplementary materials are supplied in the notes. The study is prefixed with a short historical account of the broad lines of Buddhist philosophy in its early stage.

The aim of this work was to elucidate the meaning of the analytical study of Nāgārjuna's philosophy as a fresh and logical formulation of Buddha's Middle Way, the way of comprehension. Everything stands in harmony with him who stands in harmony with *śūnyatā*, which is not a rejection of existence or understanding but the misconstruction of the sense of the real or the error of misplaced absoluteness which is the origin of clinging and the root of conflict and suffering.

In this work, the examiners had provided a great help to me. They had not only given me a valuable suggestion in my dissertation, but also proposed a good topic for my dissertation. Such as the examiners said, it is not clear whether the original title "*Nāgārjuna's Philosophy – A Fresh and Logical Formulation of Buddha's Middle Way*" is going to be critical, analytical and comparative or what kind of study it would really be. Therefore it is better to mention in

the title such a qualifying statement, "*An Analytical Study of Nāgārjuna's Philosophy as a Fresh and Logical Formulation of Buddha's Middle Way*".