



# **A Study of the Avikalpaprapvesa-dharani: It's Historical and Doctrinal Implications, with a Comparative Study of it's Various Tibetan and Chinese Translation (Chinese Edition)**

*Tam Shek-Wing, Shen Weirong, Henry C.H. Shiu*

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Avikalpaprapvesa-dharani is a Mahayana scripture which centres around the theme of entering the realm of non-conceptuality (avikalpa). Throughout history, this scripture was cited in numerous important Buddhist treatises including writings by Sthiramati, Kamalasila, Vimalamitra, gNubs chen Sang rgyas ye shes, Ratnakarasanti, Atisa, Tsong kha pa, and in the early 20th century, Mi pham rgya mtsho. With the recent discovery of the Dunhuang and Khara-Khoto manuscripts complementing the two fragmentary Sanskrit manuscripts extant, the time is ripe for a thorough comparative study using various resources in Chinese and Tibetan.

From the historical perspective, Dr. Shen Weirong and Dr. Henry Shiu provide a historical survey of the role this scripture played in Mahayana Buddhism in India and Tibet. Philologically, the various translations of this scripture are compared to the critical edition of the Sanskrit manuscript by Matsuda Kazunobu. From the doctrinal perspective, Master Tam provides a structural analysis and commentary on the scripture. He elucidates the teachings of dependent-origination in fourfolds as transmitted within rNying ma tradition. He further gives a comparative study focusing on the notion of entering the realm of non-conceptuality by means of the classical tradition of Yogacara Buddhism and the systems of meditation of the rNying ma tradition of Tibetan Buddhism. Finally, this study also refers to citations of the Avikalpaprapvesa-dhani as found in the bSam gtan mig sgron. Tam discusses the relationship between these two texts as well as its significance in relation to various Chinese and Tibetan Buddhist traditions.

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