

JÑĀNAGARBHA'S COMMENTARY ON JUST THE MAITREYA CHAPTER FROM THE SAMDHINIRMOCANASŪTRA

Study, Translation and Tibetan Text

John Powers

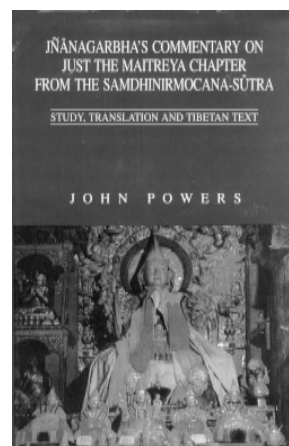
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This text, attributed to the Indian Buddhist master Jñānagarbha, is an important work of early Indian Buddhist philosophy. As the title indicates, it focuses on the eighth chapter of the sūtra, 'The Question of Maitreya,' one of the seminal scriptural sources for Indian Buddhist meditation theory. It provides learned commentaries on the doctrines of 'calming' (*śamatha*) and 'higher insight' (*vipaśyana*), as well as a comprehensive overview of the path to awakening as understood by the Yogācāra tradition. In addition, it comments on the sūtra's statement that all of the phenomena of experience are 'cognition only' (*viññapti-mātra*), interpreting this as a statement of universal idealism. This commentary contains one of the most detailed philosophical analyses of this important chapter, and it has some of the most thought-provoking exegesis of a text that is one of the most influential of Indian Buddhist scriptures.

John Powers received his Ph.D. in Buddhist Studies from the University of Virginia and is currently a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Asian Studies, Australian National University, Canberra, ACT, Australia. A specialist in Indian and Tibetan Buddhist philosophy, Powers has published numerous books and articles on topics related to Buddhist thought.