

Why does the Chinese Version of the *Mahāmeghasūtra* Emphasize the Existence of *Buddhadhātu* against its Original Context?

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One of the chief intentions of the *Mahāmeghasūtra* (*MMS*) lies in devaluating *stūpa* worship and shifting the central value of Buddhism from *stūpa* worship to dharma evaluation (see Suzuki [1998a]). The Chinese version of the *MMS* (*MMS_C*), however, emphasizes the existence of *buddhadhātu* as interiorized *stūpa* against its original context. No precise examination has been made of this question to date.

In this paper, it is concluded that some proponents of the *Mahāparinirvāṇasūtra* (*MPNS*) had altered the Sanskrit text of the *MMS* along their opinion, and Tān-wú Chèn (曇無讖) translated it into Chinese. This could be good example to show that Chinese version can be effective to know the environment surrounding one *sūtra* in India besides Tibetan version and Sanskrit text.