

要旨

Seeking of Dishonour

— apropos of the Bodhisattva Sadāparibhūta —

Minoru Hara

This Bodhisattva related in the Saddharma-puṇḍarīka-sūtra 20 is known for his practice of praising others, regardless of himself being despised and maltreated. Here, we analyse this Bodhisattva's practice in the light of Hindu rite of seeking dishonour.

Abusive language is harmful, hitting one's vital (*marman*). Hence the compounds *vāk-salya*. Thus, one should refrain himself from speaking ill of others, for to blame others unnecessarily is nothing but to lower the public estimation of himself.

The wise man (*paṇḍita*) stands beyond praise or censure (*stuti-nindā-sama*). Considering praise (*saṃmāna*) as poison (*viṣa*) and censure (*avamāna*) as *amṛta*, he seeks dishonour and in the course of enduring *avamāna* he gives his sin to them and takes their merit to himself. For that purpose some ascetics (*Śaṃvarta, Bharata*) behave themselves as if fool or madman (*jaḍa, unmatta*). The tradition seems to be traced back to Vasiṣṭha-dharma-sūtra and the story of Sadāparibhūta may have this general Hindu background.