

An Approach to Buddha who preaches the *Lotus Sutra*

Yukihiro OKADA

From a viewpoint of “regarding the *Saddharmapuṇḍarika sūtra* as the Buddha’s words”, the author pays attention to the phrase “the Buddha who expounds the *Saddharmapuṇḍarika sūtra*.” From the standpoint, the attempt is made to examine the relationship between the formation of scriptures and the idea of the existence of the Buddha in the *Saddharmapuṇḍarika sūtra*. First, considering that the message of the *Śākyamuni* is reflected in the *Saddharmapuṇḍarika sūtra*, the forms and structure of the *Saddharmapuṇḍarika sūtra* was examined in relation to traditional 9 or 12 divisions of the scriptures. And the existence of the Buddha is proved from the examination of the future predictions. Next, many views on the emergence of the *Saddharmapuṇḍarika sūtra* were examined, and the present author agrees with Dr. Suguro’s view. Furthermore, in order to explore how the idea of “the Buddha who expounds the *Saddharmapuṇḍarika sūtra*” came into being, basing on the chapter on ‘Peaceful Life’ (chapter XIII), present author examines the significance of the phrase in relation to the actual composer of the *Saddharmapuṇḍarika sūtra*. And it is concluded that the existence of the phrase “the Buddha who expounds *Saddharmapuṇḍarika sūtra*” showed the standpoint of ‘becoming a buddha’, and by the episode of *Mahāstāmaprāpta*, the author explains the structure of the *Saddharmapuṇḍarika sūtra*.