

A BUDDHIST MAJOR WORK.
VASUBANDHU, VIJÑĀPTIMĀTRATĀSIDDHI.
VIMŚIKĀKĀRIKĀ WITH VIMŚIKĀKĀRIKĀVṚTTI
(THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SOLE EXISTENCE OF
REPRESENTATIONS. THE TREATISE IN 20 VERSES, WITH THE
COMMENTARY ON THE TREATISE IN 20 VERSES)

Ovidiu NEDU

Keywords: buddhism, Vijñānavāda, Vasubandhu, idealism, consciousness, representation

Vijñaptimātratāsiddhi is one of the major works of Vasubandhu, the founder of Vijñānavāda school of Mahāyāna buddhism. The text was put into written around the IV-th century, A.D. and consists of two treatises: *Vimśikākārikā* (*The Treatise in 20 Verses*) and *Triṃśikākārikā* (*The Treatise in 30 Verses*).

The Treatise in 20 Verses is an apologetical text, dealing mostly with the objections that could be raised against the idealist ontology promoted by it and which are refuted in the text, while *The Treatise in 30 Verses* represents an exposition of the idealist doctrine itself. Throughout the *The Treatise in 20 Verses*, Vasubandhu offers idealist interpretations to situations that seem to involve the existence of some external, objective entities. All such situations are dealt with in terms pertaining only to consciousness and representation.

The work is written as a dialogue between Vasubandhu and a virtual opponent, supporting the realistic philosophy. The realist system of philosophy considered by Vasubandhu is the atomist school, Vaiśeṣika, very influential in India, during that age. This wide recognition enjoyed by Vaiśeṣika explains Vasubandhu's particular interest in rejecting the atomist theory. Although the work is mostly polemic, sporadically, Vasubandhu also exposes his own idealist theories, as alternatives to the refuted realist interpretations.

The very brief *Treatise in 20 Verses* was commented by Vasubandhu himself, at large, in the work *Vimśikākārikāvṛtti*. The translation of the commentary is given along with the translation of the verses.