

Then, selecting from his followers one distinguished for his talents in speaking, he addressed him as follows: "I, who am but a scholar of poor ability, have aspired to surpass one of high natural talent. Wherefore, after my approaching death, do you take this letter which I have written, and my treatise also, and make my excuses to that Bôdhisattva, and assure him of my repentance."

After uttering these words he suddenly stopped, when one said, "He is dead!"

The disciple, taking the letter, went to the place where Vasubandhu was, and having come, he spoke thus: "My master, Saṅghabhadra, has died; and his last words are contained in this letter, in which he blames himself for his faults, and in excusing himself to you asks you not to destroy his good name so that it dare not face the world."

Vasubandhu Bôdhisattva, reading the letter and looking through the book; was for a time lost in thought. Then at length he addressed the disciple and said: "Saṅghabhadra, the writer of *śāstras*, was a clever and ingenious scholar (*inferior scholar*). His reasoning powers (*li*), indeed, were not deep (*enough*), but his diction is somewhat (*to the point*).<sup>89</sup> If I had any desire to overthrow Saṅghabhadra's *śāstra*, I could do so as easily as I place my finger in my hand. As to his dying request made to me, I greatly respect the expression of the difficulty he acknowledges. But besides that, there is great reason why I should observe his last wish, for indeed this *śāstra* may illustrate the doctrines of my school, and accordingly I will only change its name and call it *Shun-ching-li-lun* (*Nyâyānusāra Śāstra*).<sup>90</sup>

The disciple remonstrating said, "Before Saṅghabhadra's death the great master (*Vasubandhu*) had removed far away; but now he has obtained the *śāstra*, he proposes

<sup>89</sup> Or it may be complimentary, "his phraseology or composition is exceptionally elegant."

<sup>90</sup> In full—*O-pi-ta-mo-shun-chan-*

*li-lun*. It was translated into Chinese by Hiuen Tsiang himself. See Bunyiu Nanjio's *Catalogue*, No. 1265; Beal's *Tripitaka*, p. 80.