



# **The Two Truths of the Tathagatagarbha: A study of two Mi pham rgya mtsho's works on the teaching of the Tathagatagarbha (Chinese Edition)**

*Tam Shek-Wing, Henry C.H. Shiu*

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The Two Truths Doctrine in the Buddhist discourse distinguishes two levels of truths: the Conventional Truth (samvrti) and the Ultimate Truth (paramartha). An important topic in the Khara-Khoto and the Dunhuang collections, the Two Truths Doctrine generated many heated debates throughout history but with little consensus. During Mi pham rgya mtsho's lifetime in particular, there was much disagreement among scholars of different traditions on the meaning of tathagatagarbha and its relevance to the Two Truths Doctrine. Through the Lion's Roar of the Great Exposition of the Tathagatagarbha and the Lion's Roar of Extrinsic-Emptiness, Mi pham rgya mtsho discussed the intrinsic relationship between tathagatagarbha and the Two Truths Doctrine within the rNying ma tradition. In the Two Truths of the Tathagatagarbha, Tam Shek-Wing and Henry C.H. Shiu present a new Chinese translation of two of Mi pham's major works.

Drawing heavily from texts such as Dasheng Qixin Lun (The Awakening of Faith in the Mahayana) and the Lankavatara Sutra, the authors provide an in-depth discussion on the nature of tathagatagarbha as a coalescence of the Buddha-wisdom and the cognizing consciousness according to the hermeneutics in the rNying ma tradition. In the commentary, the authors discuss various understandings of the Ultimate Truth of the Madhyamaka as transmitted by different traditions (dGe lugs, Jo nang and rNying ma), with emphasis on the importance of the historical context of Mi pham's work. Finally, the authors also offer a fresh perspective on the meditative state of attaining certainty in the realization of the tathagatagarbha in terms of topics such as dependent-origination, the twelvefold links of conditioning, emptiness, and the Two Truths.

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