

23. Ornament of Higher Knowledge: An Exposition of the Treasury of Higher Knowledge
Chim Jampal Yang (13th century)

Translated by Ian Coglan

Undisputedly this lengthy work is the most authoritative Tibetan commentary on Vasubhandu's classic of Buddhist psychology and phenomenology, the Treasury of Higher Knowledge (Abhidharmakosha). Running into more than four hundred long folios, the work presents a detailed exposition of Vasubhandu's text alongside a critical treatment of many of the text's central topics. Vasubhandu's work, which in terms of stature and authority rivals Buddhagosha's well-known Theravada classic The Path of Purification, deals with such central themes of Buddhist psychology and phenomenology as the nature and causal dynamics of emotions, typology of mind and mental factors, the understanding of different heightened meditative states, the typology of karma and its diverse manifestations. The work also contains a lengthy discussion of Buddhist theory of the evolution of the cosmos and the life within.

Chim's exposition of this important Buddhist classic represents the greatest flowering of Abhidharma psychology and phenomenology studies in Tibet. To this day this monumental work is used as a key textbook for the study of Buddhist psychology and phenomenology in the great monastic universities. When translated this work will be a veritable encyclopedia, covering all areas of classical Indian Buddhist knowledge.

Translation project funded by The Hershey Family Foundation and Healing the Divide.

Project Status: Ms being edited.