

藤 谷 厚 生

## “Shingon-shugyō-taiyōshō” (The Description of the summary of Shingon Training) stated by Precept-Master, Rev. Jōgon

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Rev. Jōgon (浄厳 : 1639~1702) was a monk of Shingon sect and a stern Precept-master in Edo period who was commonly called ‘Kakugen’ (覚彦), ‘Myogokudō’ (妙極堂) or ‘Zuiun-dōnin’ (瑞雲道人). He was born as a son of Doun Ueda (上田道雲) in Onishimi village (currently Kawachinagano city of Osaka). As he had trained Shingon esoteric Buddhism at Koya Mountain since his childhood, he was able to establish the Shin-anshouji style (新安祥寺流 : a new style of Shingon esoteric training). After he left Koya Mountain, he devoted himself to the investigation of Buddhist precepts and the revival of Buddhism. In 1691 he founded the head temple named ‘Reiunji’ (霊雲寺) in Yushima of Edo to centralize all temples of Shingon sect in Kanto district with the support of the Tokugawa Shogunate. Based in this temple, he propagated teachings of Shingon esoteric Buddhism and Buddhist precepts to many people.

In 1690 Rev. Jōgon authored “Shingon-shugyō-taiyōshō” (真言修行大要鈔) as a summary of the Training in Shingon esoteric Buddhism for his disciples. In this he emphasized that Ajikan Yoga (阿字觀), which was a meditation by contemplating A (𑖀) character in our mind, was the most important practice in Shingon Training. In particular, he pointed out that ‘Originally all phenomena have never occurred’ (一切諸法本不生) in the true meaning of A character. And he stated that Honpushō (本不生) was a significant idea that meant the metaphysical existence without beginning or end. In short it is very important that he defined it as the meaning of Eternal Existence in that description. Furthermore he argued that the content of enlightenment in Shingon esoteric Buddhism was better than that of Zen Buddhism which was thriving in Japan at the time. He insisted that Shingon sect had advantages over other Mahāyāna Buddhist sects by clarifying the superiority of realizing Honpushō. In this way “Shingon-shugyō-taiyōshō” is an invaluable document specifically indicating the conceptions of Honpushō and the enlightenment of Shingon esoteric Buddhism in Edo period.

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