

Preface <to the First Edition>

In 1936–37, at the Faculty of Letters of Kyoto [Imperial] University, I delivered a special lecture on the *Awakening of Mahāyāna Faith* under the theme “The Philosophical Tasks of the *Awakening of [Mahāyāna] Faith*.” Following the lecture, at the request of the publisher Kobundo, I decided to publish it as a volume in the company’s *Cultural Archive*, under the title *Tasks of the Awakening of [Mahāyāna] Faith*. Since I had preserved only a small portion of the notes used for the lecture, I borrowed those taken by two attending students—FUJIYOSHI Jikai and YAMADA Tomoaki—and began to arrange them. This undertaking, however, proved extremely complicated: progress was very slow; I found it troublesome and tended to neglect it; and, despite repeated urgings from the publisher and readers, it was postponed day after day, month after month.

At the time of the lecture, my aim had been to explain this important Mahāyāna scripture in relation to the philosophical and religious interests then prevalent, namely existential philosophy and crisis theology. Yet as time passed, philosophical interests shifted, as did my own conceptions and terminology. This further complicated the task of ordering the notes. Now, more than ten years later, it would have been more in keeping with my present intentions to rewrite the whole; but I did not have sufficient time to do so. In the end, I resolved to publish only what I had been able to prepare from the notes, on the occasion of the revived publication of the *Cultural Archive*.

The greater part of this book presents only the introduction to the entire lecture. From the main body, it includes only the first chapter, on Reality. The remaining chapters—the second on Phenomenon, the third on Cognition, and the fourth on Praxis—will be published at a later date.

This publication of my lecture owes a great debt to the lecture notes of Fujiyoshi and Yamada. I also wish to express my heartfelt thanks for the generous assistance of the members of Kobundo Publishing.

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The Author

