

The Relationship between Ten Stages and Ten Perfections in Mahayana Buddhism

Kattakaduwe Chandawimala Thera¹

The meanings given in the Pali-English dictionary for the term *bhūmi* are earth, place, region, ground, plane, stage, level and state of consciousness. In *Dhammasangani*, *bhūmi* is synonymous with *magga* (path). The philosophical term *bhūmi* means stages of spiritual progress.

A Bodhisattva's entire career has been divided into several parts and stages. Among them, both Perfections and Stages play a major role. There are four stages in Theravada as *Sotapanna*, *Sakadāgāmi*, *Anāgāmi* and *Arāhant*. The stages were explained in various ways in Mahayana Buddhism. We can identify at least four different schemes of divisions.

Mahāvastu: *durārohā*, *baddhamānā*, *puṣpa-manditā*, *puṣirā*, *citta-vistāra*, *rupavati*, *durayā*, *janma-niddesa*, *yauvarāj* and *abhiseka*.

Shatasāhasrikā Prajñā pāmīta: Even though the ten *bhūmis* are mentioned, they have not been assigned any names.

Bodhisattva bhūmi sūtra: *gotra*, *adbimukṭi carya*, *suddhāsaya*, *caryā pratipatti*, *nīyatā*, *nīyatā caryā*, *nīstbhagamana*.

Dasabūmika sūtra: *pramuditā*, *vimalā*, *prabhakṛi*, *arcismatī*, *sudurjayā*, *abbimukṭi*, *dūarangamā*, *acalā*, *sādhumatī*, *dharmameghā*.

This paper intends to examine the relationship between the Stages and Perfections. The comparative method is applied by using primary sources.

¹ Dept.of Buddhist Philosophy, Buddhist and Pali University of Sri Lanka
Email: kattakaduwa@yahoo.com

In this study, attention has been drawn to ten stages in Dasa Bhūmika sūtra. The author of this sūtra manages to place all the important concepts and categories of Buddhist Philosophy, but his system exhibits a certain unity of plan on account of the parallelism between *dasa pāramitā* and *dasa bhūmi*.

Keywords: *bhūmi, pāramitā, Mahāvastu, Shatasāhasrikā Prajñā pāmī,*
Bodhisattva bhūmi sūtra, Dasabūmika sūtra