

Three Approaches to the Enlightened One in “Non-duality Dharma Door” Section of the Vimalakirtinirdesa-Sutra

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Abstract

Traditional interpretations of the "Non-duality Dharma Door" Section of the Vimalakirtinirdesa-Sutra often focus on the three approaches as rendered in "Non-duality Dharma Door" From the thirty-three bodhisattva's discourse on verbal representation of the attainment of enlightenment to Manjusri-Baddha emphasis on the use of words to stop words, the ultimate approach to enlightenment is a teaching of silence that focuses on the non-verbal way of communication as taught by We Mo Je. The interpretation above has been employed by most traditional scholars, but it should be reexamined to make sure that the original texts really mean so.

The paper will focus on why the "Three Approaches" has been interpreted this way. Is it possible to go through these three approaches without difficulty? And most importantly, is there other ways of interpretation of the sutra? Finally, the relationship between this traditional way of reading and Mast X'uanzang's Chinese translation will be scrutinized in order to achieve a cohesive view of the verbal discourse and significance. The sutra should be understood by itself without the help of these approaches of interpretation.

Key Words : Non-duality Dharma door, three approaches to enlightenment, The One, Vimalakirtinirdesa-Sutra