

THE LARGE SUTRA ON
PERFECT WISDOM

WITH THE DIVISIONS OF THE
Abhisamayālaṅkāra

PART I

TRANSLATED BY

EDWARD CONZE

AMONG the Buddhists of the Mahāyāna no scripture is more sacred and more esteemed than the holy Prajñāpāramitā, or "Perfection of Wisdom". Forty-two separate texts on this particular topic of "perfect wisdom" have survived but the fountain head of all of them is the Large Sutra on Perfect Wisdom, extant in 100,000, 25,000 or 18,000 Lines. The Sutra itself was written down about A.D. 150, and two centuries later a monk, said to be inspired by Maitreya, the future Buddha, produced the key to the interpretation of this extremely difficult work. Dr. Conze, our greatest living authority on the Prajñāpāramitā literature, has here translated from the Sanskrit original the first third of the version in 25,000 Lines, and he has also added the divisions and sub-divisions which tradition ascribes to Maitreya's guidance. Very few literary documents of the human race can match this Sutra for sheer spirituality. No student of the "perennial philosophy" can safely ignore it.

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TRANSLATED BY
EDWARD CONZE

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