

Japanese Buddhism — A Critical Appraisal

by *Shōkō Watanabe*

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Dr. Shōkō Watanabe of Tōyō University is one of the outstanding Buddhist scholars in Japan. He is also one of the most critical. When this book first appeared in 1953, it was the center of a hot controversy and in a number of cases critics said that under no circumstances should it be translated into English. Fortunately, their advice was not heeded. However, in this volume some of the extremely critical points have been softened or omitted.

It is unfortunate that the necessity to meet a publisher's deadline should take priority over publication of a well edited and readable volume. Dr. Alfred Bloom, the able translator, worked under pressure

and produced a draft translation in record time with the understanding that it would be carefully edited in Tokyo. Unfortunately this was not done. The translation itself was checked by the author and found satisfactory, but no time was allowed for careful editing. The "system" required that the volume be out by the end of the fiscal year, and this was done, but the result is far from satisfactory from the standpoint of English composition and style. Fortunately, only a limited number of copies were printed and the book is already out of print. It is to be hoped that a revised edition can be published in the future. W.P.W.