PREFACE

This paper represents the small results of my study of Buddhaghosa's Visuddhimagga(henceforth Vis.) and its commentaries, especially Sīlanidēsa and Dhutaṅgāniidēsa. It is well-known that Vis. is the most authoritative text for the study of Pali Buddhism and that this text consists of twenty-three chapters, which are divided among three parts, namely sīla(I-II), samādhi(III-XIII) and pañña(XIV-XXIII). It has some commentaries such as Dhammapāla's Paramatthamañjūsā(Pm.), Chapada's Visumaggagāṇṭhi and Saṅkhepatthajotanī(Sj.).

Out of these commentaries, however, Sj. has not yet been published. I went to Thailand in April of 1975 to examine a MS. preserved in the National Library, Bangkok, and was allowed to make a microfilm copy of the MS., which is written in Cambodian script.

The main body of my thesis is an introduction and a critical edition of the first and second chapters of Sj. The importance of the text lies in the fact that it gives some new views that are not found in other commentaries. In the 'Introductory Essay', I first present the MSS. of Sj. as one Pali text for the study of Vis., and compared Sj. with Pm. Then I discuss the words "sīla" and "dhutaṅga" for clarification of their meaning, because sīla and dhutaṅga are the main subjects in the first and second chapters of Vis. (see Parts 2 and 5).

As 3 and 4 are a comparative study on atthaṅga and sattaraparikkhāra in various commentaries of Vis. with the views found in Sj. And lastly, I discuss how Buddha- and Dhammapāla criticized the Abhayagiri School's view
on dhutanga. Further, I add some appendices including a 'List of the Pali texts quoted in the Visuddhimagga' and so forth.

It is my pleasure to express my gratitude towards those who helped me in many ways in completion of my thesis.

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Poona

J. Abe