# ناجارجونا

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## Ναγκάρτζουνα

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## <sup>[DOC]</sup> Το 1ο αρχείο

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## נגרג'ונה



## לקריאה נוספת

- נאגארג'ונה, שירת השורש של דרך האמצע, תרגם מסנסקריט: אביתר שולמן. הוצאת כרמל, 2010.
- אביתר שולמן, על הריקות במלואה : הגותו של Sûnyatâ-ה Yukti-sastikâ-karikâa נגרג'ונה לאור saptati, חיבור לשם קבלת תואר דוקטור, האוניברסיטה .2008 העברית,

### קישורים חיצוניים



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### 3 מקורות הטקסט והתמונה, התורמים והרשיונות

#### 1.3 מקסט

• נגרג'ונה מקור http://he.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D7%A0%D7%92%D7%A8%D7%92%D7%A0%D7%94?oldid=16147882 מיפש ט"ו בשבט, האזרח דרור, הגדב למענה מקור אוועם, אוועם, אוועם, אוועס, בעמה מ, בעמה מ, אוועס, מוטי, אוועס, מוטי, אוועס, אוועס, מוטי, אוועס, מוטי, אוועס, אוו

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#### 3.3 רישיון לתוכן

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## Nagarjuna

For other uses, see Nagarjuna (disambiguation).

Nāgārjuna (Sanskrit: नागार्जुन, Telugu: నాగార్జునుడు, Tibetan: শ্রশ্ধুন, Wylie: klu sgrub

Chinese: 龍樹; pinyin: Lóngshù, 龍樹 (Ryūju), Sinhala: නාගර්ජිත, c. 150 - c. 250 CE) is widely considered one of the most important Buddhist philosophers after Gautama Buddha.\*[2] Along with his disciple Āryadeva, he is considered to be the founder of the Madhyamaka school of Mahāyāna Buddhism. Nāgārjuna is also credited with developing the philosophy of the Prajñāpāramitā sūtras and, in some sources, with having revealed these scriptures in the world, having recovered them from the nāgas (snake-people). Furthermore, he is traditionally supposed to have written several treatises on rasayana as well as serving a term as the head of Nālandā.

## 1 History

Very little is reliably known of the life of Nāgārjuna, since the surviving accounts were written in Chinese\*[3] and Tibetan centuries after his death. According to some accounts, Nāgārjuna was originally from South India.\*[1]\*[4] Some scholars believe that Nāgārjuna was an advisor to a king of the Sātavāhana dynasty.\*[1] Archaeological evidence at Amarāvatī indicates that if this is true, the king may have been Yajña Śrī Śātakarṇi, who ruled between 167 and 196 CE. On the basis of this association, Nāgārjuna is conventionally placed at around 150–250 CE.\*[1]

According to a 4th/5th-century biography translated by Kumārajīva, Nāgārjuna was born into a Brahmin family\*[5] and later became a Buddhist.

Some sources claim that in his later years, Nāgārjuna lived on the mountain of Śrīparvata near the city that would later be called Nāgārjunakoṇḍa ("Hill of Nāgārjuna").\*[6] The ruins of Nāgārjunakoṇḍa are located in Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh. The Caitika and Bahuśrutīya nikāyas are known to have had monasteries in Nāgārjunakoṇḍa.\*[6]

## 2 Writings

There exist a number of influential texts attributed to Nāgārjuna though, as there are many pseudepigrapha at-

tributed to him, lively controversy exists over which are his authentic works. The only work that all scholars agree is Nagarjuna's is the *Mūlamadhyamakakārikā* (Fundamental Verses on the Middle Way), which contains the essentials of his thought in twenty-seven chapters.

According to one view, that of Christian Lindtner,\*[7] the works definitely written by Nagarjuna are:

- Mūlamadhyamaka-kārikā (Fundamental Verses of the Middle Way)
- Śūnyatāsaptati (Seventy Verses on Emptiness)
- Vigrahavyāvartanī (The End of Disputes)
- Vaidalyaprakarana (Pulverizing the Categories)
- Vyavahārasiddhi (Proof of Convention)
- Yuktiṣāṣṭika (Sixty Verses on Reasoning)
- Catuhstava (Hymn to the Absolute Reality)
- Ratnāvalī (Precious Garland)
- Pratītyasamutpādahṛdayakārika (Constituents of Dependent Arising)
- Sūtrasamuccaya
- Bodhicittavivarana (Exposition of the Enlightened Mind)
- Suhṛllekha (Letter to a Good Friend)
- Bodhisambhāra (Requisites of Enlightenment)

In addition to the above, there are many other works attributed to Nāgārjuna, and lively controversy over which are authentic. In particular, several important works of esoteric Buddhism (most notably the *Pañcakrama* "Five Stages") are attributed to Nāgārjuna and his disciples. Contemporary research suggests that these works are datable to a significantly later period in Buddhist history (late eighth or early ninth century), but the tradition of which they are a part maintains that they are the work of the Madhyamaka Nāgārjuna and his school. Traditional historians (for example, the 17th century Tibetan Tāranātha), aware of the chronological difficulties involved, account for the anachronism via a variety of theories, such as the propagation of later writings via mystical revelation. A useful summary of this tradition, its literature, and historiography may be found in Wedemeyer 2007.

2 3 PHILOSOPHY

Lindtner considers that the *Māhaprajīāparamitopadeśa* "Commentary on the Great Perfection of Wisdom" is not a genuine work of Nāgārjuna. This work is only attested in a Chinese translation by Kumārajīva.There is much discussion as to whether this is a work of Nāgārjuna, or someone else. Étienne Lamotte, who translated one third of the work into French, felt that it was the work of a North Indian bhikṣu of the Sarvāstivāda school who later became a convert to the Mahayana. The Chinese scholarmonk Yin Shun felt that it was the work of a South Indian and that Nāgārjuna was quite possibly the author. These two views are not necessarily in opposition and a South Indian Nāgārjuna could well have studied the northern Sarvāstivāda. Neither of the two felt that it was composed by Kumārajīva, which others have suggested.

## 3 Philosophy



Statue of Nagarjuna in Tibetan monastery near Kullu, India

From studying his writings, it is clear that Nāgārjuna was conversant with many of the Śrāvaka philosophies and with the Mahāyāna tradition. However, determining Nāgārjuna's affiliation with a specific nikāya is difficult, considering much of this material has been lost. If the most commonly accepted attribution of texts (that of Christian Lindtner) holds, then he was clearly a Māhayānist, but his philosophy holds assiduously to the Śrāvaka *Tripiṭaka*, and while he does make explicit references to Mahāyāna texts, he is always careful to stay within the parameters set out by the Śrāvaka canon.

Nagarjuna may have arrived at his positions from a desire

to achieve a consistent exegesis of the Buddha's doctrine as recorded in the āgamas. In the eyes of Nagarjuna, the Buddha was not merely a forerunner, but the very founder of the Madhyamaka system.\*[8] David Kalupahana sees Nagarjuna as a successor to Moggaliputta-Tissa in being a champion of the middle-way and a reviver of the original philosophical ideals of the Buddha.\*[9]

#### 3.1 Sunyata

Nāgārjuna's primary contribution to Buddhist philosophy is in the use of the concept of śūnyatā, or "emptiness," which brings together other key Buddhist doctrines, particularly anātman "not-self" and pratītyasamutpāda 'dependent origination", to refute the metaphysics of the Sarvastivāda and Sautrāntika (extinct non-Mahayana schools). For Nāgārjuna, as for the Buddha in the early texts, it is not merely sentient beings that are "selfless" or non-substantial; all phenomena are without any svabhāva, literally "own-being" or "self-nature", and thus without any underlying essence. They are empty of being independently existent; thus the heterodox theories of svabhava circulating at the time were refuted on the basis of the doctrines of early Buddhism. This is so because all things arise always dependently: not by their own power, but by depending on conditions leading to their coming into existence, as opposed to being.

#### 3.2 Two truths

Nāgārjuna was also instrumental in the development of the two truths doctrine, which claims that there are two levels of truth or reality in Buddhist teaching, the ultimate reality (*paramārtha satya*) and the conventionally or superficial reality (*samvṛtisatya*).

In articulating this notion in the *Mūlamadhya-makakārikā*, Nāgārjuna drew on an early source in the *Kaccānagotta Sutta*,\*[10] which distinguishes definitive meaning (*nītārtha*) from interpretable meaning (*neyārtha*):

By and large, Kaccayana, this world is supported by a polarity, that of existence and non-existence. But when one reads the origination of the world as it actually is with right discernment, "non-existence" with reference to the world does not occur to one. When one reads the cessation of the world as it actually is with right discernment, "existence" with reference to the world does not occur to one.

By and large, Kaccayana, this world is in bondage to attachments, clingings (sustenances), and biases. But one such as this does not get involved with or cling to these attachments, clingings, fixations of awareness, biases, or obsessions; nor is he resolved on "my self". He has no uncertainty or doubt that just stress, when arising, is arising; stress, when passing away, is passing away. In this, his knowledge is independent of others. It's to this extent, Kaccayana, that there is right view.

"Everything exists": That is one extreme. "Everything doesn't exist": That is a second extreme. Avoiding these two extremes, the Tathagata teaches the Dhamma via the middle...\*[11]\*[lower-alpha 1]

#### 3.3 Relativity

Nagarjuna also taught the idea of relativity; in the Ratnā-valī, he gives the example that shortness exists only in relation to the idea of length. The determination of a thing or object is only possible in relation to other things or objects, especially by way of contrast. He held that the relationship between the ideas of "short" and "long" is not due to intrinsic nature (svabhāva). This idea is also found in the Pali Nikāyas and Chinese Āgamas, in which the idea of relativity is expressed similarly: "That which is the element of light ... is seen to exist on account of [in relation to] darkness; that which is the element of good is seen to exist on account of bad; that which is the element of space is seen to exist on account of form." \*[12]

#### 3.4 Nagarjuna as Ayurvedic physician

According to Frank John Ninivaggi, Nagarjuna was also a practitioner of Ayurveda. First described in the Sanskrit medical treatise *Sushruta Samhita*, of which he was the compiler of the redaction, many of his conceptualisations, such as his descriptions of the circulatory system and blood tissue (described as rakta dhātu) and his pioneering work on the therapeutic value of specially treated minerals knowns as *bhasmas*, which earned him the title of the "father of iatrochemistry.\*[13]

#### 4 Influence

According to Jay Garfield, Nagarjuna is a 'titanic figure' in the history of Mahayana Buddhism:

...his influence in the Mahayana Buddhist world is not only unparalleled in that tradition but exceeds in that tradition the influence of any single Western philosopher. The degree to which he is taken seriously by so many eminent Indian, Chinese, Tibetan, Korean, Japanese, and Vietnamese philosophers, and lately by so many Western philosophers, alone justifies attention to his corpus.\*[14]

Also Gadjin M. Nagao writes:

Nagarjuna who lived around the second or third C.E., was a great philosopher and monk-scholar second only to the Buddha. It was owing to him that Mahāyāna Buddhism got a firm philosophical foundation and almost all forms of Mahāyāna schools of later times regard and accept him as their founder.\*[15]

In contrast, Richard P. Hayes writes:

Nagarjuna's writings had relatively little effect on the course of subsequent Indian Buddhist philosophy. Despite his apparent attempts to discredit some of the most fundamental concepts of abhidharma, abhidharma continued to flourish for centuries, without any appreciable attempt on the part of abhidharmikas to defend their methods of analysis against Nagarjuna's criticisms. And despite Nagarjuna's radical critique of the very possibility of having grounded knowledge (pramana), the epistemological school of Dignaga and Dharmakirti dominated Indian Buddhist intellectual circles, again without any explicit attempt to answer Nagarjuna's criticisms of their agenda. Aside from a few commentators on Nagarjuna's works, who identified themselves as Madhyamikas, Indian Buddhist intellectual life continued almost as if Nagarjuna had never existed.\*[16]

## 5 Iconography

Nāgārjuna is often depicted in composite form comprising human and naga characteristics. Often the naga aspect forms a canopy crowning and shielding his human head. The notion of the naga is found throughout Indian religious culture, and typically signifies an intelligent serpent or dragon, who is responsible for the rains, lakes and other bodies of water. In Buddhism, it is a synonym for a realised arhat, or wise person in general. The term also means "elephant".

## 6 English translations

#### 6.1 Mulamadhyamakakarika

Main article: Mulamadhyamakakarika

4 10 SOURCES

#### 6.2 Other works

#### 7 See also

- Acharya Nagarjuna University
- · Nagarjuna High School
- Aryadeva
- Buddhapālita
- Buddhism
- Kamalasila
- Middle way
- Śāntaraksita
- Sun Simiao
- Yogachara-Madhyamaka

#### 8 Notes

[1] The version linked to is the one in found in the nikayas, and is slightly different from the one found in the Samyuktagama. Both contain the concept of teaching via the middle between the extremes of existence and non-existence. See A.K. Warder, A Course in Indian Philosophy. Motilal Banarsidass Publ., 1998, pages 55–56, or for the full text of both versions with analysis see pages 192–195 of Choong Mun-keat, The Fundamental Teachings of Early Buddhism: A comparative study basted on the Sutranga portion of the Pali Samyutta-Nikaya and the Chinese Samyuktagama; Harrassowitz Verlag, Weisbaden, 2000. Nagarjuna does not make reference to "everything" when he quotes the agamic text in his MMK; in this regard see David Kalupahana, Nagarjuna: The Philosophy of the Middle Way. SUNY Press, 1986, page 232.

#### 9 References

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- [2] Garfield, Jay L. (1995), The Fundamental Wisdom of the Middle Way, Oxford: Oxford University Press
- [3] Rongxi, Li; Dalia, Albert A. (2002). The Lives of Great Monks and Nuns, Berkeley CA: Numata Center for Translation and Research, pp. 21–30
- [4] Buddhist Art & Antiquities of Himachal Pradesh By Omacanda Hāṇḍā (Page 97)
- [5] Notes on the Nagarjunikonda Inscriptions, Dutt, Nalinaksha. The Indian Historical Quarterly 7:3 1931.09 pp. 633–653 "..Tibetan tradition which says that Nagarjuna was born of a brahmin family of Vidarbha."

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- [8] Christian Lindtner, Master of Wisdom. Dharma Publishing 1997, page 324.
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- [10] Kalupahana, David J. (1986). Nāgārjuna: The Philosophy of the Middle Way. State University of New York Press.
- [11] SN 12.15 Kaccayanagotta Sutta: To Kaccayana Gotta (on Right View)
- [12] David Kalupahana, *Causality: The Central Philosophy of Buddhism.* The University Press of Hawaii, 1975, pages 96–97. In the Nikayas the quote is found at SN 2.150.
- [13] Frank John Ninivaggi Ayurveda: A Comprehensive Guide to Traditional Indian Medicine for the West, page 23. (Praeger/Greenwood Press, 2008). ISBN 978-0-313-34837-2.
- [14] Garfield & Priest, Nāgārjuna and the Limits of Thought, 2002
- [15] Nagao, Gadjin (1991). Madhyamika and Yogacara: A Study of Mahayana Philosophies. State University of New York Press. p. 173. ISBN 9780791401873.
- [16] Hayes, Richard P. Nagarjuna: Master of Paradox, Mystic or Perpetrator of Fallacies?, 2003

#### 10 Sources

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#### 11 External links

- Nāgārjuna entry by Jan Christoph Westerhoff in the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy
- Nagarjuna entry in the *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*
- Nagarjuna: a bibliography
- Overview of traditional biographical accounts
- Online version of the Ratnāvalī (Precious Garland) in English Translated by Prof. Vidyakaraprabha and Bel-dzek
- Online version of the Suhrllekha (Letter to a friend) in English Translated by Alexander Berzin

- Nārāgjuna vis-à-vis the Āgama-s and Nikāya-s Byoma Kusuma Nepalese Dharmasangha
- ZenEssays: Nagarjuna and the Madhyamika
- She-rab Dong-bu (The Tree of Wisdom) LibriVox recording; Edited and translated by W. L. Campbell, 1919 free pdf
- Mula madhyamaka karika online Tibetan and English version translated by Stephen Batchelor

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