



1727 Pali Highway
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

GOJI

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DECEMBER 2017
NEWSLETTER

of the

Honpa Hongwanji
Hawaii Betsuin

www.hawaiihetsuin.org

2017 Slogan:

Embrace Change:
Action

(Open Communications)

BETSUIN
MINISTERS

Chief Minister
Rev. Toyokazu Hagio

Ministerial Staff
Rev. Yuika Hasebe
Rev. Arthur Kaufmann
Rev. Joshin Kamuro
Rev. Sol Kalu

HBC Bodhi Day December 3rd at Soto Mission; Betsuin Observance December 10th

Bodhi Day, the day the historical Buddha Gautama Siddharta attained enlightenment some 2500 years ago has become a very important religious holiday for Buddhists all over the world. Traditions vary on how the historical Buddha also known as Shakyamuni finally attained enlightenment. Some say he made a vow, after receiving a meal of milk rice porridge and regaining his strength from prolonged fasting, from the maiden Sujata, to find the root cause of suffering or die trying. Other traditions say he entered into deeper and deeper states of meditation while under the Bodhi tree, was tempted and harassed by the demon of illusion Mara to end his search for enlightenment, but all traditions agree that Shakyamuni Buddha overcame Mara's attacks, attained Enlightenment by the time the early morning star rose in the sky on the third day and became Buddha, the Awakened One. By sharing his what he achieved for 45 years to many who were ready to receive the teachings, Shakyamuni Buddha taught the way to liberation from suffering to all sentient beings. Thus, Buddhism as a religion and way of life was founded and continues to benefit the lives of millions of people even to this present age.

In December, Hawaii Buddhist Council and the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin will observe Bodhi Day in remembrance of Shakyamuni Buddha's most important achievement of attaining Enlightenment after abandoning the extreme ascetic practices of his time. The Hawaii Buddhist Council 2017 Bodhi Day observance will be at the Soto Mission of Hawaii at 1708 Nuuanu Avenue in Honolulu, on December 3, 2017. Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin will have its own Bodhi Day observance service and Talk Story on December 10, 2017. The guest speaker will be Rev. William Masuda,

BWA Presents Check to Betsuin

Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin recently kicked off a centennial year of celebrating the 100th anniversary of its widely-recognized temple structure. HH Hawaii Betsuin also recently started an



ambitious centennial fundraising campaign for high priority temple renovations and improvements. Since HH Hawaii Betsuin's Buddhist Women's Association was also established over 100 years ago, current Hawaii Betsuin BWA members feel a deep connection and appreciation for those whose vision and commitment so long ago resulted in the distinctive, beautiful temple that overlooks the Pali Highway today. In gratitude to those dedicated men and women of generations past and with heartfelt hopes for future generations, the Hawaii Betsuin BWA made a donation of \$15,000 to HH Hawaii Betsuin's Centennial Project Fund on November 12, 2017. In this photo are HH Hawaii Betsuin BWA President, Wendie Yumori, presenting the donation check to HH Hawaii Betsuin Rimban Toyokazu Hagio and HH Hawaii Betsuin Temple President, Jerry Tamamoto

Dharma Message: “Ringing In The New Year!”

Rev. Yuika Hasebe

Hello! I hope all of you are having a wonderful month of December. 2017 is about to finish, and we are heading toward 2018! In Japan, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day are one of the most festive holidays. People go to Buddhist temples on New Year's Eve to listen and/or hit the temple bells. The next morning, New Year's Day, people often go to a Shrine to pray for good luck for the new year. So, what is our Jodo Shinshu way of welcoming New Year's Eve and New Year's Day?

As you know, many Buddhist temples toll the bells at night on New Year's Eve. The bell is hit 108 times, and it is said that the sounds of the bell

eliminate and purify all blind passions which humans possess. In Jodo Shinshu tradition, hitting the bell does not mean we eliminate or purify any of our blind passions. It is more important for us to know how strong and deep those passions are rather than eliminate it. If we understand the depth and strength of those passions, we realize that it is almost impossible to eliminate them. Therefore, for Jodo Shinshu followers, we reflect on the passing year and our blind passions as we hit or listen to the bells. Through studying and realizing those passions within us, we learn the certainty of Amida Buddha's Vow. Amida Buddha's true target is the one who helplessly struggles with those passions. Therefore, through hitting/listening to the bell, we sincerely learn about ourselves and appreciate Amida Buddha who never abandons us even though we are filled with those blind passions.

On New Year's Day Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin will have a New Year's Day service. In front of Amida Buddha, we bow our head and express our joy for the New Year. The New Year is like a white blank paper. We

don't know what will be painted on the white paper. It is a little scary to step into the future because we don't know what waits ahead of us. We may encounter joys and happiness, or may encounter pain and sadness. On New Year's Day, in front of Amida Buddha, we reconfirm to live our best and appreciate Amida Buddha for embracing us in good times and bad. It means no matter what happens in the future, we don't have to worry, and we will be fine.

This is our Jodo Shinshu way of welcoming New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. These are precious opportunities to listen to the teaching, reconfirm Amida Buddha's Compassion, and share the joy of being embraced by the Great Compassion. Please join our New Year's Eve and New Year's Day services.

“Namo Amida Butsu
I live in Great compassion.
This great power guides my life.
I gassho to Amida”



GOJI

The **GOJI** is a monthly publication of the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin, Tel. (808) 536-7044. There is no newsletter published for the month of August.

DEADLINE:

Articles must be submitted no later than the 10th of the month prior to publication by e-mail (execdir@hawaiihetsuin.org), mail (1727 Pali Hwy, Honolulu, HI, 96813) or fax (536-0919). Address submissions to the **GOJI**. Please include your name and contact information. Original images should be labeled on the reverse side with caption and return information.

GOJI STAFF:

Editorial: *Jo desMarets; Dianne Ida, Randy Kawamoto, Rev. Yuika Hasebe, Japanese section editor*; Production: *Stacy Bradshaw, Colleen Kunishige; Joyce Tomita*, Circulation: *Stacy Bradshaw*; Contributing reporters from *Hongwanji Mission School, Buddhist Women's Association, Dharma School & Parents, Project Dana, Wednesday Gang and Gals, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Pacific Buddhist Academy, and the Kyodan*

The opinions expressed by individual contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin.

Join The Bwa At The Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade!

January 15, 2018

March from Magic Island to Kapiolani Park (2 miles)

Meet at 7:30 am, by the Restrooms near Ala Moana Beach Park

Wear your BWA shirt, temple shirt, or organization shirt

Please bring your own water – we're going green!

We will distribute cranes; if you have any, please bring them!

Let's be a huge presence this year.

The Jr. YBA will join us!!

Temple members, Dharma school students and parents, friends...

Everyone Welcomed!!

Betsuin BWA News and Events

YEAR 2018 IS CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION FOR HAWAII BETSUIN:

The Betsuin BWA will be presenting a gift of \$15,000.00 to the Betsuin Centennial Project Fund. Much of our MINI MARKET proceeds are going into this centennial fund, thus, the mini market will continue to flourish throughout the year 2018. Please continue to support this BWA project, which is unique only to our Betsuin BWA organization. The BWA members should be very proud for all their contributions that they tirelessly contribute. Thank you to all. Namu Amida Butsu to all.

JOINT CONFERENCE TO BE

HELD IN 2018: On September 1 - 3, 2018 the lay convention, ministers' spouses' organization, BWA, Jr. YBA and Dharma educators from all of the temples on each island will be gathering at Ala Moana Hotel and will be conducting workshops in their respective areas. Application forms are available in the office and registration deadline is December 10. More information will follow in future Goji Newsletters.

JAPAN'S OLDEST: A partial human skeleton, thought to be the oldest, dating around 27,000 years ago was discovered in a collapsed cave in southern Okinawa. More than a thousand human fragments from at least 19 humans have been unearthed at the site. The Okinawans seem to be the oldest human beings and still the longest living ones today.

THERE ARE MORE SINGLES IN

JAPAN THAN EVER TODAY: There are many men and women today in Japan who are age 40 and above and single. One out of 4 men are single,

and one out of 7 women are single. Values about marriage and family life culture are changing. Some have predicted that the Japanese race will become extinct in the future.

A WONDERFUL STORY: The January, 1964 issue of Goji carried a story by a Dharma School (then known as Sunday School) student, Gregg Yamanaka, on what he learned in Sunday School. This article was written 53 years ago, so Gregg must be a senior citizen now. Here is his article.

"There is one lesson I have learned from a story told me and I think it is important enough to be related to you in the hope that you too may be enlightened. Long ago in India, there lived a wealthy man who owned two oxen, called Big Red and Little Red. These two oxen labored hard every day, contrary to the other animal, the pig, who slept all day long. One day this rich man began planning for an elaborate feast to be held on his daughter's wedding. The servants were instructed to fatten the pig, and the pig happily consumed the delicious food day after day with no knowledge of what was forthcoming. Little Red saw this and remarked to Big Red enviously: "We slave so hard all day, that at the end of the day our bones ache with pain. Yet, we have only hay and straw for our meals. Look at the pig. He eats delicious meals and sleeps all day. Why wasn't I born a pig instead of an ox?" Big Red answered, He wisely advised, "Do not envy others. It only makes you unhappy and discontent. Instead think how fortunate you are. There are many things which we should be thankful for. Let's not complain. But Little Red was not satisfied. He

Fujiko Motobu

asked, "Give me an example why you consider ourselves so fortunate." Big Red replied, "Well, we are fortunate to have good health and strong bodies. We may have only hay and straw but there is enough and we have a warm and comfortable place to sleep. If you would stop and think, instead of complaining there are many things which we should be grateful for. Besides, there will be a wedding soon and mark my words, the pig you envy is being fattened for a good reason." Little Red seemed to have understood and said no more.

A few days later, just as Big Red had predicted, there was a big wedding feast and the pig was a part of it. Big Red looked at Little Red and said, "Now, do you still wish you were that pig? Let us be thankful for what we have and not envy others." Little Red agreed and after this incident he never complained and was happy as an ox.

Now you may ask, "What is so significant about this story? It is very simple and we all know gratefulness." Once when a famous statesman asked a famous Chinese priest the meaning of Buddhism, the priest repeated a simple gatha. The statesman who had expected to hear some profound teachings of Buddhism commented on its simplicity and remarked that even a little child knows this. Then the priest said, "I agree it is very simple that even a little child knows it, yet it is so difficult that a mature old man cannot understand and practice it.

In the same manner, we should remember that thankfulness and reflection are among the most impor

continued on page 5

Eitai-kyo Service, September 12, 2017

Photos and Collage by Ruth Tokumi



Prelude "Amida is Such" (Mihotoke Wa) by Hawaii Betsuin Choir.



Eitai-k-yo Service M.C. Dexter Mar



With gratitude - Namo Amida Butsu

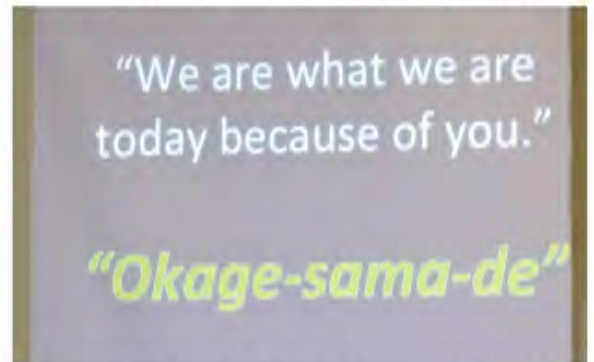


Eitai-kyo Service (Sangha Memorial Service) is held to thank deceased temple members who supported the Betsuin Sangha in appreciation for Amida's boundless compassion. We also remembered veterans who served our country.

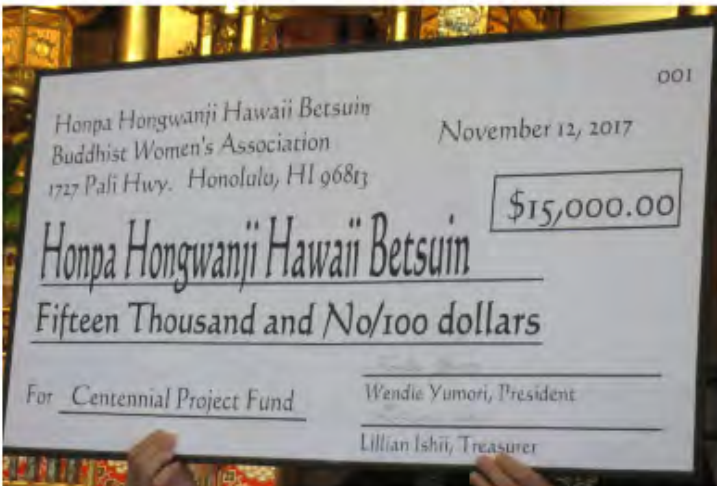
November 11, 2017



<<< Rev. Tatsuo Muneto



Dharma Message: "Thank you Dharma Teachers & Friends for your Spiritual Gifts!"



HHHB BWA President, Wendie Yumori presented a donation check of \$15,000 to HHHB Rimban Toyokazu Hagio and Temple President Jerry Tamamoto for Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin's Centennial Project Fund.

Betsuin BWA News and Events continued from page 3

tant things in life. Through this simple story I have learned the secret of happiness and the feeling of gratitude. Since then whenever I have the wicked urge to complain or nag my parents for more luxuries, Little Red appears before me as a reminder. “

Thank you, Gregg for the nice story (this is appearing in the Dec. issue of Goji, 2017)

THANK YOU, BWA MEMBERS FOR SHARING INFORMATION:

Fourteen Best things you can do for your body. 1. MEDITATE: 10-20 minutes to unwind and focus on yourself. 2. SLEEP: Get 7 to 8 hours of sleep at night to keep well. 3. DRINK WARM WATER WITH LEMON/APPLE CIDER VINEGAR AND HONEY: Drink this mixture in the morning and

you will feel full of zest all day long. 4. DRINK TEA: Green tea can improve your memory and cognition. Drink lots of tea aside from water. 5. FLOSS keep your gums free of bacteria. 6. TAKE PROBIOTICS: Helps with digestion and good for immunity. 7. WARM UP BEFORE WORKOUTS: Prevent injuries 8. SWEAT WITH HIIT: (high-intensity interval training) HIIT improves your fitness while fighting heart disease, hypertension and diabetes. 9. AVOID BPA: stands for Bisphenol A, a chemical used to produce many common household products, like water bottles and food cans. Recycle code of 3 or 7 on the bottom of containers may be made with BPA. 10. CLEAN UP YOUR SKIN CARE REGIMEN: Check your sunscreen contents. Sodium Lauryl Sulfate or Sodium Laureth Sulfate must be avoided. 11. WEAR SUNGLASSES: Guard against sunburn cataracts and even skin cancer. The bigger the

glasses the better. 12. GET MORE FIBER: Key component of healthy diet. 13. GO GREEN AT EVERY MEAL: Dark green may be some of the best cancer preventing foods. 14. HAVE MORE SEX: 25 year study from Duke University found that the more sex you have, the longer you'll live. This is the Fountain of Youth. (Shared by Margie Determan)

NOW FOR SOME PEACE OF MIND AND HUMOR:

1. What happens when a Buddhist becomes totally absorbed with the computer he is working with? ANSWER: He enters Nerdvana

2. Why did the Buddhist coroner get fired? ANSWER: He kept marking the cause of death as "BIRTH".

3. Oscar Wilde said: Some cause happiness WHEREVER they go; others WHENEVER they go. (Contributed by Penny Atcheson)

The Wisteria Ballroom Dancing Club Invites You to Dance!

*Mondays,
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
in the Social Hall*



Dances change every 8 weeks!

For Information, please contact
Claire Groom (286-3486)
or Mary Fujitani (595-4533)

DECEMBER BWA UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, Dec. 3 Bodhi Day Service: HBC service

Sunday, Dec. 10 Betsuin Bodhi Day service at 10 am

Sunday, December 10 beginning at 11:15 am Betsuin BWA Year End Party in the social hall. Letters and sign up sheets have been mailed and deadline was on November 29

Sunday, December 10 Talk Story with the Rev. and Mrs. William Masuda will be at 2:30 pm.

“Revisiting the Legacy of ‘Master’ Yemyo Imamura – Mastermind of Hawaii Shin Buddhism”

Futaba Memorial Lectures: Saturday, December 16, 2017

As Master
Shinran
discovered
the Jodo
Shinshu

path in the 13th Century and Master Rennyō resurrected it 200 years later, Yemyo Imamura came to Hawaii in the early 20th Century with a vision of an American Shin Buddhism developed from Japanese Hongwanji Buddhism that forms the foundation of Hawaii Shin Buddhism today. Though studied by scholars such as Tomoe Moriya in “Pioneer American Buddhist” and Michihiro Ama in “Immigrants to the Pure Land,” he is mostly unknown today. On the Centennial of Bishop Imamura’s enduring mark on American Buddhism and the Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin temple, come re-visit the legacy of this amazing innovator, a true Master of American Shin Buddhism.

Prof. Michihiro Ama, the Karashima Tsukasa Associate Professor of Japa-

in the United
States, pro-
moted Ma-
hayana Bud-
dhism, and

helped form a universal Buddhist front in Hawaii. His Buddhist ideas resonated with the democratic principles of the United States and allowed him, together with his congregation, to oppose discriminatory and oppressive policies of the then territory of Hawaii.

In this master narrative, however, Imamura’s personal struggles and contradictions as a leader of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii are often overlooked. He accepted the policies of Imperial Japan and the United States at the same time, resolved the difference of opinion between Issei and Nisei; and reconciled the demand of Japanese clergy to the needs of Euro-American clergy. Imamura was a bombu shackled by his own karma and socio-political conditions of the day. He met the challenge by “leaving the world by living there and living in the world by keeping distance from it.”



nese Language and Culture at the University of Montana, will share insights on the most influential Shin

Buddhist Bishop in Hawaii history.

Yemyo Imamura is considered to be a pioneer in what is often referred to as “American Buddhism.” While the notion of American Buddhism is open to discussion, Imamura contributed greatly to the acculturation of Shin Buddhism

If you are unable
to come to the temple
and would like to
have a minister visit
you in your home,
please call
Rev. Yuika Hasebe
at **536-7044**



to request a home visit.
We miss you and
do not want to lose
contact with you!

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Saturday morning, December 16

8:30 Registration

9:00 **Lecture:**

Dr. Michihiro Ama

**“Yemyo Imamura: Pioneer of
American Buddhism”**

10:30 Discussion & Questions

11:00 Break

11:30 **Lecture:**

Dr. Michihiro Ama

**“Searching for Universal
Buddhism”**

12:30 Discussion & Questions

1:00 Closing

The Futaba Lecture Series is endowed by Dr. Alfred & Mrs. Dorothy N. Bloom to honor the memory of friend and mentor, Professor Kenko Futaba. Dr. Bloom, who helped plan these Futaba lectures before his passing in August 2017, fervently hoped that this lecture series will be a continuing inspiration for the nurturing of American Buddhism and for the social participation of Buddhists in the quest of social justice and peace.

More information can be found on the Betsuin website (www.hawaiiibetsuin.org) or the Buddhist Study Center website (www.bsawahawaii.org).

Betsuin Dharma School News

Debbie Kubota

What a busy fall for our Betsuin Dharma School! But, oh what fun we had!

Dinner/Dance

On Saturday, October 2, the Dharma School and Hongwanji Mission School families enjoyed a delicious chili and chicken dinner, dancing to music provided by a DJ and a costume contest complete with prizes to the top three winners.



Halloween with Pack 49

Cub Scout Pack 49 transformed the Betsuin Social Hall into a Harry Potter themed Hogwart's Express Train Station with Platform Nine and Three-quarters and Haunted House on Saturday, October 28. There was a contest for scariest, funniest, most creative and family costumes, and fun Harry Potter themed games. There were even lifelike wands that were crafted by the Cub Scouts. Everyone enjoyed a catered Korean food dinner. It was a fantastic turnout of Cub Scouts and Dharma School students and families!



Queen Liliuokalani's 100th Anniversary Tribute Service

A wonderful tribute Service was held for the 100th Anniversary of Queen Liliuokalani's passing on Sunday, October 29. The Honolulu Dharma Schools offered flowers and candlelight, with Dharma School parent Benjamin Bruch and his daughter Ellen representing the Betsuin. The Dharma School students, parents and teachers also participated by leading the congregation in the recitation of The Golden Chain of Love.



The Sunbeams are Singing Again!

On Sunday, November 5, we had our first practice of our "resurrected" Sunbeams singing group. We are excited to have a children's singing group again, and encourage any interested Dharma School students to join the fun. Another practice will be held in December, and then regular practices will start up in January.



Dharma School Birthday Party

Dharma School Birthday Party was held on Sunday, November 5. Students with birthdays during the months of July through October celebrated their birthdays.

We have lots more fun and exciting activities for our Dharma School in 2018. Please join us!

**Hongwanji
Radio Programs
DECEMBER 2017
KZOO 1210 AM
Japanese Language
Saturday at 7:30 AM**

- 02 Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani
09 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
16 Rev. Joshin Kamuro
23 Rev. Ryoso Toshima
30 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio

Betsuin Services

Asaji Service 8:00 AM

- 03 HBC Bodhi Day Service
at Soto Mission 9:30 am
10 Betsuin Bodhi Day Service
Rimban Toyokazu Hagio
17 Rev. Joshin Kamuro
24 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
31 New Year's Eve Serv. 11:00 pm
Rev. Hasebe
English: Rev. Hagio

**Adult English Services
10:00 AM**

- 03 HBC Bodhi Day Service
at Soto Mission 9:30 am
10 Betsuin Bodhi Day Service
Rimban Toyokazu Hagio
17 Rev. Sol Kalu
24 Rev. Joshin Kamuro
31 New Year's Eve Serv. 11:00 pm
Japanese: Rev. Hasebe
English: Rev. Hagio

**Dharma School
Service 9 am**

- 03 HBC Bodhi Day Service
at Soto Mission 9:30 am
10 Betsuin Bodhi Day Service
Rev. Will Masuda 9:30 am
17 Rev. Arthur Kaufmann
24 No Dharma School
31 New Year's Eve Serv. 11:00 pm
Japanese: Rev. Hasebe
English: Rev. Hagio

In Memoriam



OCTOBER 2017

The Hawai'i Betsuin extends its deepest sympathy to the families of the following members who recently passed away. May the family members find solace and comfort in the Nembutsu. Namo Amida Butsu

September 15, 2017 FUJIMOTO, George Joji (72)

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 01 MIZUNO, Frank Yasuki (96) | 20 KINA, Shigeko Arakaki (84) |
| 04 AKASE, Clifford Haruo (78) | 23 MATAYOSHI, James Kenichi (93) |
| 04 FUJIO, Ruth Yoshiko (96) | 24 SAKURAI, Lily Ukishima (92) |
| 06 NITTA, Masaru (102) | 28 YAMAMOTO, Wallace Teruo (90) |
| 10 SAITO, Nancy Yukiko (83) | 29 OSHIRO, Janet Reiko (76) |
| 13 SOGI, Mildred Mitsuko (92) | 30 MAEKAWA, Shigeo (93) |
| 16 NIIMI, Roy Nobuji (78) | 28 ARAKAWA, Clifford Michio (80) |
| 16 TSUKIMURA, Craig Takeo (59) | |

2017 Memorial Service Schedule

2017 is the memorial year for those who passed away in:

2016 – 1 year	2005 – 13 year	1985 – 33 year
2015 – 3 year	2001 – 17 year	1968 – 50 year
2011 – 7 year	1993 – 25 year	1918 – 100 year

Nursing Home Services for DECEMBER 2017

- 07 Hale Nani – Rev. Kaufmann
Hale Ho Aloha – Rev. Kalu
08 Kuakini – Rev. Kamuro
14 Maluhia – Rev. Hasebe
Liliha – Rev. Kamuro
28 Nuuanu Hale – Rimban Hagio
29 Leahi – Rev. Hasebe



The great practice is to say the Name of the Tathagata of un-hindered light. This practice, comprehensively encompassing all practices, is perfect and most rapid in bringing them to fullness. For this reason, it is called "great practice." Saying the Name then breaks through all the ignorance of sentient beings and readily brings all their aspirations to fulfillment. Saying the Name is in itself mindfulness; mindfulness is nembutsu; nembutsu is Namo-amida-butsu.

-Shinran Shonin