

1727 Pali Hwy, Honolulu, HI 96813

GOJI

Vol. 79 No. 12



DECEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER of the Honpa Hongwanji Hawai'i Betsuin

2024 Slogan:

hawaiibetsuin.org

"Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Nembutsu Moments"

BETSUIN MINISTERS

Chief Minister Rev. Yuika Hasebe

Ministerial Staff Rev. Shingo Furusawa Rev. Charlene Kihara

Annual HBC Bodhi Day Service at Nichiren Mission of Hawaii December 1st; Betsuin Bodhi Day scheduled for December 8th

On Sunday, December 1, 2024 at 9:30 a.m., the Hawaii Buddhist Council will celebrate Bodhi Day at Nichiren Mission of Hawaii located at 33 Pulelehua Way, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817. This event will be held in person and on Zoom.

We are privileged to have an accomplished Dharma teacher, Karma Lekshe Tsomo who is a professor emerita at the University of San Diego, where she taught Buddhist Thought and Culture, World Religions, and Death and Dying for 22 years. She earned a Ph.D. in Comparative Philosophy at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in 2000 with a dissertation on death and identity in China and Tibet, published as "Into the Jaws of Yama: Buddhism, Bioethics, and Death." Please attend the Hawaii Buddhist Council service to hear this incredible speaker or contact the Nichiren Mission of Hawaii to obtain the Zoom link for the service.

The Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin will hold its annual Bodhi Day Service on December 8th at 9:30 am. Our speakers will be Rimban, Yuika Hasebe for the Japanese service and Rev. Charlene Kihara at the 9:30 A.M. English service.

Bodhi Day is the day that Shakyamuni Buddha became enlightened under the Bodhi Tree. The Bodhi leaf is now a symbol of peace and harmony. To this day, Buddhists worldwide continue to observe Bodhi Day as the day of Shakyamuni Buddha's spiritual awakening. In Japan, Bodhi Day is observed on December 8th every year. It is celebrated with special services by each sect of Buddhism. Around the world, Buddhists spend this day listening to the Dharma and doing good deeds.



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A commemorative project of Hawaii's joyful Triple Celebration, this edition offers:

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Dharma Message: "Experiencing Korean Buddhism"

I recently returned from a vacation in Korea that was memorable for its many learning moments, particularly during my visit to Jogyesa Buddhist Temple and the Seon International Center.

Upon arriving in Seoul after a long flight from Honolulu, my friend and I checked in at our business-class hotel and enjoyed a hearty breakfast the next morning. Excitedly, we made our way to Jogyesa Temple, the main temple of the Jogye Order of Seon Buddhism, the largest Buddhist denomination in Korea.

The atmosphere at Jogyesa was captivating, filled with vibrant colors and beautiful decorations. The temple grounds were adorned with floral displays and colorful paper lanterns, creating a strik-



GOJI

The **GOJI** is a monthly publication of the Honpa Hongwanji Hawai'i Betsuin, Tel. (808) 536-7044.

DEADLINE:

Articles must be submitted no later than the 10th of the month prior to publication by e-mail (goji@hawaiibetsuin.org), mail (1727 Pali Hwy, Honolulu, HI, 96813) or fax (808-536-0919). 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.

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

GOJI STAFF:

Editorial: Jo desMarets; Dianne Ida, Randy Kawamoto, Rev. Shingo Furusawa, Japanese section editor Production: Colleen Kunishige; Circulation: Colleen Kunishige, Elmer Cagaoan; Contributing reporters from Hongwanji Mission School, Buddhist Women's Association, Dharma School & Parents, Project Dana, Green Team, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Pacific Buddhist Academy, Betsuin Board and Social Concerns, and the Kyodan.

ing visual impact. We marveled at the scenes depicting the Buddha sitting beneath the Bodhi tree, as well as illustrations from the "Contemplation Sutra," which highlights essential teachings on mindfulness and meditation.

One of the most impressive features of Jogyesa was the Geuknakjeon (Hall of Supreme Bliss), dedicated to the worship of Amitabha Buddha. The hall exuded a peaceful ambiance, enriched by the monks' prayers and chants. Although we weren't able to enter it due to our tour schedule, seeing the hall from outside was still a reverent experience.

Hawaii Betsuin DECEMBER 2024 Speakers' Schedule

01 HBC Bodhi Day service

at Nichiren Mission of Hawaii No Betsuin service

08 Betsuin Bodhi Day service

Japanese: Rev. Hasebe English: Rev.Kihara

15 Sunday service

"Remembering Mary Foster"

Japanese: Rev. Furusawa

English: Rev. Hasebe

22 Sunday Service

Japanese: Rev. Toshima Englsih: Rev. Furusawa

29 Sunday Service

Japanese: Rev. Muneto English; Rev. Kihara

31 11PM New Year's Eve ser.

English: Rev. Hasebe Japanese: Rev. Furusawa

January 1, 2025

10AM New Year's Day service English: Bishop Umitani Japanese: Rev. Hasebe

Rev. Charlene Kihara

Later in the week, on Thursday before leaving Korea, I visited the Seon International Center on my own. This center propagates Seon



teaching around the world and offers various programs for mindfulness and meditation. My group was shown an orientation video, then the monk led us on a brief tour throughout the center and we could see the mats of the worshippers completing their prostrations. In the large hall, the figures of Vairocana Buddha were in the center, and Shakyamuni Buddha and Nosana Buddha were enshrined on either side.

After the short tour, we were taken to the dining hall for a vegetarian lunch. The lunch was a simple but delicious meal of pickles, kimchee, and vegetables served with rice that looked like "sekihan" with beans inside. After lunch, we returned to our classroom to make a lotus lantern and string a prayer bracelet. While stringing the bracelet and constructing the lantern, I felt my impatience subside as I became immersed in the activity.

After this activity, we we re taken to a cooking demonstration area, where we learned to make no-bake Korean tea cakes or Dasik. Courtiers served these cakes to royalty in ancient times. The cakes were made of rice flour and flavored with matcha and Omija (five-flavor) tea.

After our cooking lesson, we entered an altar room, where a low table was set with teacups, tea-making implements, and hot water. The monk prepared two different teas: a puer tea and an Omija tea. She explained briefly about the teas and served them to the group. Watching the monk prepare the tea was relaxing and meditative.

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President's Message:

Cindy Alm, President

Gratitude to Our Members

As we approach the end of the year, and a time for reflection, I wish to express my gratitude to our temple members for your support and dedication. Hawaii Betsuin reopened fully after coming through the pandemic. It has been wonderful to see the joy of returning to in person services at the temple, reconnecting with old friends, and expanding our friendship circles. Our reliable technology team has made it possible for the temple to offer a zoom option for those who prefer or need to be at home.

In my first message for the March Goji Newsletter, I wrote that we will continue the tradition of the Spring Bazaar and Bon Dance, and asked for your participation and support. Later in the year, we added our Annual Golf Tournament with a transition to the next generation of leadership. Your response has been overwhelming and greatly appreciated.

In March, I also wrote that our Executive Director, Jon Matsuoka, had worked to strengthen our collaboration with the Hongwanji temples in our Honolulu District and to broaden our community partnerships. Among the activities this year were a special Sunday service and evening fundraising event featuring Star Trek action and social justice advocate, George Takei, a tour of Poka'l Bay to Makua Valley guided by Native Hawaiian educator and cultural practitioner Glen Kila, and an Aiea Ahupua'a experience. We also held a pickleball tournament organized by Reverend Blayne Naka-sone Sakata (who is now at Hilo Betsuin) in collaboration with Oahu Pickleball Association, with proceeds supporting Lahaina Hongwanji and Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii's Maui Wildfire Relief Fund. We again held a concert at Foster Botanical Garden to honor Mary Mikahala Robinson Foster, an early benefactor of Honpa Hongwanji.

We also adopted a resolution encouraging our temple to use only compostable food wares (and to compost), and participated in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade and the Honolulu Pride Parade.

Your support of our temple by attending temple services, participation in temple activities, and your generous dona-tions, are all very much appreciated. We are here for you.

Board Actions - October 2024

• Revised capital improvement budget for refurbishing the Lounge and restroom for community meeting space was not approved. Grant-in-Aid funding from the State of Hawaii will not be used due to time constraint.

Mahalo

• Temple Clean Up Day, Nov. 24. Mahalo to Dharma School, Scouting America (Troop 49 and Cub Scouts), Honpa Hongwanji Girl Scouts, Buddhist Women's Association, Board of Directors, Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Club 100, and our temple members.

Save the Date for 2025:

- General Membership Meeting and New Year's Party, January 26, 2025
- Hongwanji Spring Bazaar, March 30, 2025
- Bon Dance, June 27 and 28, 2025
- Golf Tournament, August 14, 2025

End of Year Fund Drive

Mahalo for the great response so far to our End of Year Fund Drive! For online access to the letter and PayPal link, please visit http://hhhb.link/eoy2024. THANK YOU!

BWA News and Events

Fujiko Motobu

BWA UP COMING EVENTS FOR DECEMBER

- 01 (Sun) HBC Bodhi Day Service at Nichiren Mission
- 01 (Sun) BWA Year End Gathering 11:30 am to 2:30 pm
- 08 (Sun) Betsuin Bodhi Day Service
- 14 (Sat) Betsuin BWA Executive Board meeting; 9:00 am in the lounge
- 15 (Sun) Mary Foster Commemoration Service; 9:30 am
- 22 (Sun) BWA Refreshment for Sunday Services
- 31 (Tues) Betsuin New Year's Eve Service (11:00 pm to 12 midnight)

SAYING THANK YOU

Your parents who were born in Japan and moved to Hawaii became Japanese-Americans. If you were born in Hawaii or on the mainland, you became an American-Japanese. The mannerisms and behavior that our parents brought with them are still lingering with us. For instance, when we visit another Japanese home, we are sure to remove our shoes when entering their home. Even the Americans have learned such customs and follow them. Some behavior has never been adapted by the Japanese in Japan. Upon the receipt of a gift, the American-Japanese say "Thank you," or "thank you very much." Those who came from Japan will bow and say "Arigato" very politely. The American-Japanese will send a written thank you note within two weeks of receipt of the gift; whereas, the Japan person never sends any written note. In America they should do so.

Hawaii is a place where you meet people of many races, so learn to say thank you in many languages. English is "Thank you," Japanese is "Arigato," Vietnamese is "Cam on," Filipino is "Salamat po." Korean is "Gamsahamnida," Chinese is "Xie xie," and Hawaiian is "Mahalo," and the easiest is our pidgin, "Hey, tanks." Most of you are American-Japanese, so practice what you are taught and write your thank you cards for the receipt of the gift.

BUDDHA IS IN ALL OF OUR TEACHINGS: BUDDHA IS OUR TEACHER

Buddha said if you keep your heart clean and pure you will find much happiness. You keep your hands and body clean with soap and water, how about your heart? Your heart will stay clean if you do not misbehave. If you don't lie, don't steal, don't hurt animals or others around you. Don't use bad language, or speak badly of others. Don't be greedy. Starting today, keep your heart clean. It is easy for you to try. Everyone is born with a clean heart. It becomes dirty when you do something bad, and the more bad things you do the dirtier it becomes. No one can clean your heart for you. You must remember to behave and do good things for yourself and others to clean your heart. Our teacher Buddha was born about 2,500 years ago in Lumbini, in Nepal. His name was Siddhartha Gautama. He is also known as Shakyamuni Buddha or simply, Buddha. He was born as a prince of the Shakya clan. His father, the King, wanted to have the prince remain as prince, so he could someday take over and become the king. But when Siddhartha Gautama saw many people in his kingdom suffering from disease and lack of food, he left his castle and began to train and study on his own. After training for six hard years he reached enlightenment, which meant he un-



derstood the entire truth of the world. After he reached enlightenment he devoted himself to teaching people to live without suffering. Until he died at age 80, he taught us how to be kind and find peace of mind. His teachings are called Buddhism and are followed in Japan and in the world. Don't do bad. Do much good. Purify your heart. This is the teaching of the buddha.

HUMOR

There was a young handsome fellow and his pretty girlfriend who were on their way to their wedding ceremony at the temple when they got into a fatal accident and died immediately. When they died they came upon the gate of Nirvana immediately. They were met by a Buddha who told them to enter; however, the young man asked Buddha, "Can my girlfriend and I get married in Nirvana?" Buddha said he didn't know the answer and would go and find out, so he asked the young couple to wait by the gate. The young couple waited and waited and they chatted. As they talked about all kinds of things they even talked about the possibility of having a divorce if their marriage didn't work out. Soon it came to be that three months passed by, and finally the Buddha appeared and said, "Yes, you can get married here." The young man then asked, "If we get married and if the marriage doesn't work out can we get divorced here?" the Buddha blurted out, "It took me three months to find a minister in Nirvana to marry you. It will take more than that to find a lawyer for you to get a divorce." The end.

The Sunday English Service is Just for You submitted by Rev. Tatsuo Muneto (Ret.)

Dear Readers of Goji Newsletter,

Aloha Kakou and Happy Holidays! I have a request to you from a former Rimban, Chief Minister of Hawaii Betsuin.

Our Hawaii Betsuin Sunday Adult English Service has been one of the temple's most important programs. It was attended for decades by the local Niseis and Sanseis, who received spiritual nourishments and connections to the compassionate vow (Hongwan) of Amida Buddha. They became valuable members of the Hongwanji Sangha. Today it will continue to help people of all ethnicities in their search for the spiritual and social enrichment.

After retirement in 2015, I became a dues-paying Betsuin member and have attended the Sunday English Service regularly with my wife, now for about ten years. And it is with a sense of sadness that I observe today that attendance at this important Sunday service is becoming smaller and smaller.

Once I was happy to see the front pews between the center aisle and the Makai aisle filled by faithful senior members of the BWA. As the years went by and members aged, the pews became less and less filled until, today, they are practically empty. This moves me to wholeheartedly invite more Betsuin members to attend the Sunday English Service and learn the Dharma with the ministers and other spiritual friends.

As you attend the English Service, may I urge you to sit in the front pews instead of the back ones. This is one way to become "active" in listening to the Dharma. What other ways are

there to be active in hearing the Dharma? Here are some suggestions:

- 1. When you enter the Hondo, go to the front of the altar and offer incense first. This will "purify" your hearts and rid your minds of worldly preoccupations to allow you to concentrate on the Buddha, the Dharma, and the Sangha and enjoy the 40 minutes service program.
- 2. During the Sutra chanting, sit erect on your seat and hold the sutra book slightly raised in front of the chest. Bring out your voice from within and breathe out while chanting each line. Chant the lines loudly for sutra chanting is meant to joyfully praise the virtues of the Buddha.
- 3. One of the important practices of Jodo Shinshu is to simply say "Namo Amida Butsu." This acknowledges Amida Buddha's "Name-that-calls," that is Amida's Compassionate Vow (Hongwan) to embrace you, saying that "Amida is with me." This Entrusting Heart (Shinjin) appears from your lips as your saying of "Namo Amida Butsu".
- 4. In sutra chanting, after you recite, "Namo Amida Butsu, Nan-mandabu, Nan-man-dabu...., bow your head slightly. This Japanese temple etiquette of humility may be likened to the American "Thank you!"
- 5. Read Shin Buddhist books and join the Dharma Dialogue and other study sessions to learn more about Shinran Shonin's teachings and their meaning in daily life.

Thus, when listening to the Dharma becomes a focal point in your Shin

Buddhist life, your attention naturally extends to others in the temple



community and to their happiness and welfare. Our Betsuin Mission Statement reads as follows:

"The mission of Hawaii Betsuin is to enrich people with a life of gratitude, harmony, and peace by sharing the Buddha's teachings."

Will you attend the Sunday Adult Services with your spouses to enrich both this mission and your lives? Let us work together to make Hawaii Betsuin a place of worship, learning and fellowship.

Mahalo Nui loa for your dedication to make our temple a religious institution of love, care and friendship and Aloha.

The Betsuin BWA is Collecting Aloha Shirts



"Hawaiian Shirts for Deployed Soldiers"

Search for "Hawaiian Shirts for Deployed Soldiers" on Facebook to see photos of our heroes wearing their Aloha Shirts.

Please contact Jo desMarets at purpleldy2.com for more information or to donate aloha shirts!

Volunteers Pitch In for Annual Temple Clean Up

Thank you to those who woke up early to volunteer for the annual temple clean up day! The positive energy of Scouting America (Troop 49 and Cub Scouts), Honpa Hongwanji Girl Scouts, Buddhist Women's Association, Dharma School, our temple board and volunteers was amazing. Thank you to Rick Tabor for organizing volunteers from RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) and Club 100 who prepared and served sandwiches to the volunteers. Thank you, also, to Wendy Harman, Business Manager Jenny Wakumoto, and Office Coordinator Colleen Kunishige, for coordinating the volunteer assignments and purchasing the ingredients and supplies for the volunteer lunch.

All assigned areas were cleaned in record time and, once again, are fresh and renewed for another year of activities and service!









Make the Betsuin Part of Your Legacy

Through tax strategies you can leave real estate properties and IRA Roth accounts, required distribution amounts, and stocks to the temple, and:

- Increase rental income without the challenges of management.
- Avoid or significantly decrease taxes on the donation.
- Secure lifetime income.
- Ensure that your children and heirs are taken care of.

 Planned Giving experts are now working with Hawai'i Betsuin to support our long-term sustainability while making sure that your financial needs and those of your descendants are met.

For more information please contact: Executive Director, Hawai`i Betsuin 808-536-7044

Planning Guide to Put Your Affairs in Order Annette Kam, Author

Available from the Betsuin

Office \$25

(Profits from the sale of the book go to the Betsuin)



Project Dana Community Programs for December 2024

Saturday, DECEMBER 9 10:00 am to 11:30 am

- Topic: Palliative Care v. Hospice Care
- Speaker: Hope Young, Kokua Mau
- Location: Zoom and Waipahu Hongwanji Buddhist Temple (94-821 Kuhaulua Street, Waipahu, HI 96797)

Saturday, DECEMBER 30 10:00 am to 11:30 am

- Caregiver Training Workshop: Caregiver Burnout and Self-Care
- •, Featuring: Maria Morales, MSW, Project Dana Program Coordinator
- Location: via Zoom
- Attendees must register before the workshop.

Please call or email if you are interested in attending or need more information: Maria Morales, Program Coordinator at (808) 945-3736 or cgsg@projectdana.org

Dharma message continued from page 2

At the Seon Center, the serene environment fostered focus and reflection. The instructors provided valuable techniques to enhance my awareness and cultivate mindfulness. Engaging with the other participants allowed me to share insights while deepening my understanding of the practice.

In summary, my time in Korea allowed me to fully experience the stunning visuals of Jogyesa Temple and explore the teachings at the Seon International Center. These visits offered not only a glimpse into Korean Buddhism but also a deepened understanding of its practices.

Dharma School End of Year Report

Happy Holidays! Dharma School got off to a positive start in August. Our students learned about the Dharma by making make-it-take-it projects that centered around Shinran Shonin and Jodo Shinshu teachings. We were honored to have Living Treasures Mr. Art Kimura and Mrs. Rene Kimura talk about interconnection and the use of an energy ball, and the students were fortunate to make nenju bracelets that glowed in the dark for energy. The students also made tie dye t-shirts, played bingo in referencing Shinran Shonin's wife Eshinni. The teachers as well as the students were blessed to be a part of the 6th Annual Statewide Dharma School Gathering "Sharing Joy Together: The Golden Chain of Love with D. Trinidad Hunt. We are ending our Dharma School Session on 12/8/2024 with an Intergenerational Holiday Party. Dharma School will resume on January 5, 2025.

With Gratitude, Wendy Harman, Betsuin Dharma School Director/Teacher

Girl Scout Cadettes Seek Silver Award: Highest Award Cadettes can Earn

Cadette scouts, Ellie Wong and Laney Okino, are working on their Silver Award Projects, parterning with two different community agencies to improve our community. Ellie has joined forces with Fraud Free Futures to educate the community how to detect and prevent scams. Laney is working with Aloha Harvest Community Harvest Program to identify home owners who are interested in donating fruit and vegetables from their yards to reduce waste. Please consider participating in their projects!

Cadette Ellie Wong:

Calling all Fraud-Fighters! Join us on January 5th after temple service in the

Ministers' Lounge for games, food, and fun as we learn how to detect and prevent scams and fraud! My name is Ellie from the Honpa Hongwanji Girl Scout Cadette Troop 383 and I am hosting the



Fraud-Free-Futures event for my Silver Project. If you would like to attend, please email me at fraud-freefutures@gmail. com. See you there!

Cadette Laney Okino

I would like to help Aloha Harvest by finding homeowners to participate in the program, and by helping to harvest produce from their yards. Aloha Harvest is an organization with the goal of reducing the amount of food waste by collecting and redistributing it to help nourish those less fortunate in our community. One way they help to make sure food is not wasted, is through their Community Harvest program. In this program, they help homeowners who cannot harvest for themselves the ripe fruit or vegetables growing in their yard and gardens. If interested, please contact me at mamotraders808@gmail.com.

More information will be available at the December 8th Sunday servide.

Radio Programs KZOO (1210 AM) Japanese Language, SATURDAY AT 7:30 AM DECEMBER 2024

07.....Rev. Ryoso Toshima 14.....Rev. Eric Matsumoto 21.....Rev. Toyokazu Hagio 28.....Rev. Shingo Furusawa

Information Regarding Sunday Services

Attendee limits for in-person funerals and memorial services are now based on room capacity and families' comfort levels. Other service options are available. Please call the Betsuin office at (808) 536-7044 for current information and to plan for your family's needs.

Services are open to in-person at tendees and a Zoom option continues to be available for the 9:30 a.m. English-language Family Services. The 8 a.m. Japanese language services continue in person only.

Many past services are available for replay on the Hawai'i Betsuin YouTube channel. For current information on Betsuin services, including Zoom connection details, see the online calendar at hawaiibetsuin.org. You may also check the Betsuin Bulletin sent by email on Fridays (subscribe at hawaiibetsuin.org/email-signup/). Or, you can call the Betsuin office at (808) 536-7044.



In Memoriam



OCTOBER 2024

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

7/30/2024 SAKIHARA, Ella Ritsuyo Nakamura (91)

7/25/2024 KAMEI, Evelyn Shinami (85)

8/27/2024 YUDA, Neal Seiichi (64)

9/16/2024 ICHINOSE, Calvin Makoto (87)

9/16/2024 NAKAGAWA, Mitsue (91)

9/29/2024 IMAYE, Thomas Mitome (97)

OCTOBER 2024

01 NISHIMOTO, Ronald Yuichi (80)

03 MAR, Faye Fujisaki (78)

08 MOHIDEEN, Rafeek (95)

11 MURAOKA, Alice Chizue (97)

11 NISHIMOTO, Barry Hideo (61)

14 SHIMIZU, Katherine Kaoru (88)

17 TSURU, Albert Sueo (67)

18 TERAI, Suemi (103)

19 KOJA, Tsuru (98)

19 MURAOKA, Nelson Hirotami (100)

20 HAMAMOTO, Dennis Kiyoshi (78)

20 NOMURA, Gary Noboru (80)

30 KURITA, Harold Riyozo (88)

Schedule of Monthly Nursing Home Services

Leahi Hospital

Service every 2nd Tuesday at 10:00 AM

Hale O Meleana

Service Every 2nd Friday at 10:30 A.M.

Hale Ho Aloha

Service Every 3rd Tuesday at 10:00 A.M.

Maluhia Hospital

Service Every 3rd Wednesday at 10:00 A.M.

2024 Memorial Service Schedule 2024 is the memorial year for those who passed away in:

 2023: 1st year
 2012: 13th year
 1992: 33th year

 2022: 3rd year
 2008: 17th year
 1975: 50th year

 2018: 7th year
 2000: 25th year
 1925: 100th year

The great practice is to say the Name of the Tathagata of unhindered 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