

## Rev Yuki's Dharma Talk

### Missing Audio from recording

March 12, 2023

The second is deep mind. Deep mind is the deeply entrusting mind. There are two aspects. One is to believe deeply and decidedly that you are a foolish being of karmic evil caught in birth-and-death, ever sinking and ever wandering in transmigration from innumerable kalpas in the past, with never a condition that would lead to emancipation.

The second is to believe deeply and decidedly that Amida Buddha's Forty-eight Vows grasp sentient beings, and that allowing yourself to be carried by the power of the Vow without any doubt or apprehension, you will attain birth.

(CWS, p.85)

Good morning everyone and welcome to today's service! I am bringing the storm to Sacramento every time I come and it is raining again today...

Today's my talk might be a little bit difficult one... I try not to be so difficult... but, if you would like to practice sleeping meditation, please do... I will wake you up when my talk is over.

In today's word I shared at the beginning of my talk we see the word "Foolish being." What

the foolish being means?

You know, "foolish" in here is not talking about our "intelligence." There are many smart people who are followers of Jodo Shinshu... but, they are considered the foolish being too...

why is it?

Here is a question... "what is the most famous fish in the world?" This is really a difficult question.

It is "Selfish."

When I say "selfish," I remember Rev. Bob once told me that when he was talking about how selfish we are to the children... then one of the children said "No, we are not shellfish!"

Well, we are not shellfish obviously... but, we are selfish in some degrees. Because of our selfishness, we do something which we should not have done, we say something we should not say, and we think something we should not think... and we are binding ourselves to this saha world... the world of suffering.

We suffer, we feel unsatisfactoriness because we try to control over people and things... and if things or people don't move the way we wanted... we feel irritated and unsatisfactoriness.

This is our foolishness.

With the mind of selfishness, whatever we do is poisoned... I often use this metaphor, but it is just like wiping the dirty table with dirty tablecloth... even though the intent is to clean the table, we cannot clean the table with the dirty tablecloth.

So, Master Shan-tao is saying that we had been transmigrated from distant past because we rely on our self-centered mind filled with affliction and we tried to direct the merit acquired through our practice to attain enlightenment. It is like trying to drive a car putting the sake in the gas tank and saying "why, the car is not moving!" Of course, it doesn't move... because we are putting sake instead of gasoline. Self-power practice is just like this... we are trying to move us towards enlightenment using the different fuel...

But now, we have encountered the teaching of the Primal Vow of Amida Buddha to grasp and never abandon us... I feel sorry for likening Amida Buddha to tablecloth... but, the working of Amida Buddha is just like clean tablecloth... finally we are able to clean the table...

So, because of the working of the Amida Buddha's Primal Vow... which is Namo Amida Butsu... we are finally able to leave this transmigration... attain birth in the Pure Land which is the realm of enlightenment and attain Buddhahood.

So, I have talked about this before too, but some people misunderstand that the Pure Land Buddhism is talking only about when we pass away... but, that is not true. The Pure Land Buddhism sets us the destination of our lives... and because our destination is settled, we live this life just like preparing for the travel.

Did I talk about this in Sacramento or my morning services? I don't remember but you know I am going to Japan in May with Oregon Buddhist Temple's members. Because I know I am going to Japan, I prepare what I need to bring to Japan. It's in May so I don't need heavy jacket... I am visiting places I have never visited in Japan... so, I look at tour itinerary and look forward to it.

This is the feeling of the daily life of Jodo Shinshu Buddhist... our destination is already set because we rely on, we ride on the working of Amida Buddha... so the adornments of the Pure Land taught in the sutras are just like tour itinerary to me... I don't look forward to it as I look forward to visiting new places in Japan... but the adornment of the Pure Land teaches

me many things... we can talk about this in another time...

And just as we prepare for the trip... we prepare ourselves for the trip to the Pure Land... we adjust our way of life from selfishness to self-reflection. Just as what to bring to the trip might be different by each individuals, how we prepare for the trip to the Pure Land is different by each individuals, but I would like to prepare myself by self-reflecting my daily actions with humbleness, respect and appreciation

This is a poem written by one of the famous poets in Japan named Aida Mitsuo titled Setomono/Ceramic.

セトモノとセトモノと

ぶつかりっこすると

すぐこわれちゃう

どっちか

やわらかければ

だいじょうぶ

そういうわたしは

いつもセトモノ

Ceramic and ceramic  
Hit each other and break easily  
Either one is soft  
It is ok  
Let us have the soft and gentle heart  
But I am always the ceramic  
-Mitsuo

Ceramic refers to each of ourselves... we often have the attitude of “listen to me” kind of attitude... but, if each of us had the attitude like this... we have conflict and easily break the relationship. There is a saying in Japan 覆水盆に返らず Spilt water won't go back into the tray... so before its too late, we should have the soft and gentle heart to avoid conflicts and disputes.

But, what I like about this poem is that... Mitsuo saying that “we should have soft and gentle heart” but he admits that he is always being like a ceramic... I can see his shamefulness and self-reflection in here... he is not justifying being selfish all the time... but, realizing that he is always being ceramic... and feeling ashamed of himself.

So, don't argue and say “You should have the soft and gentle heart!” “No, you should have that!” But, by each of us having soft and gentle heart, we are able to live this life peacefully... so, I know that I am always being like ceramic too... but, without justifying myself... I would

like to live my life with self-reflection, humbleness and respect in nembutsu.

Now, I would like to play bass guitar but before that I want to officially conclude my dharma

talk... so, after this is just an entertainment. Please join me in gassho.