

THE FUNCTION OF THE EKO

DHARMA ARCHIVE ENTRY #18

The function of Fueko and other Eko Verses is to 'turn around' (ekō) any merits accrued from chanting or ritual practices. So, and as a way of passing on all merit to all beings, it always the last chant in a Buddha Service. The Fuekō is a universal ekō. However, there are many other forms specific to other schools of Buddhism.

After a traditional chanting of the central element (normally a sutra) in a Buddha Service, the four syllables Na Man Da Bu are repeated six times, and this is followed by an Eko.

Eko is the Mahayana (but not the Shin) practice of transferring any merit accruing from this sutra chanting. Since Shinran abandoned this concept of the necessity of acquiring merit, and the virtue of such chanting as a means to the end of attaining Buddhahood, strictly speaking the Mahayana Eko is not compatible with Shin Buddhism.