

Six Nembutsu and Wassan

The *Shōshinge* is traditionally followed by the chanting of six sets of *Nembutsu* and *Wasan*. *Wasan* are poems composed by Shinran Shonin, which explain his teaching in a simple form. The first six of these poems are shown below, concluding with the "*Ekoku*," written by Shan-tao (Zendo in Japanese, 618-681 CE). Within these short verses, he expresses the aspiration that all beings may benefit by the truth and virtue of the dharma.

Namuamidabutsu

Mi da jo-u bu-tsu no ko no ka ta wa
I ma ni jik ko-u o-o he ta ma e ri
Ho-sshi-n no ko-u ri-i-n ki wa mo na ku
Se no mo-u myo-u o te ra su na-ri

Namuamidabutsu

Amida has passed through ten kalpas now
Since realizing Buddhahood;
Dharma-body's wheel of light is without bound,
Shining on the blind and ignorant of the world.

Namuamidabutsu

Chi e no ko-u myo-u ha ka ri na shi
U ryo-u no sho so-u ko to go to ku
Ko-u ke-u ka mu ra-a nu mo no wa na shi
Shi-n ji-tsu myo-u ne ki myo-o se-yo

Namuamidabutsu

The light of wisdom exceeds all measure,
And every finite living being
Receives this illumination that is like the dawn,
So take refuge in Amida, the true and real light.

Namuamidabutsu

Ge da-tsu no ko-u ri-n ki wa mo na shi-i
Ko-u so-ku ka mu ru-u mo no wa mi na
U-u mu o ha no ru to no be ta mo o
Byo-u do-u ka-ku ni ki myo-o se yo

Namuamidabutsu

The liberating wheel of light is without bound;
Each person it touches, it is taught,
Is freed from attachments to being and nonbeing,
So take refuge in Amida, the enlightenment of nondiscrimination.

Namuamidabutsu

Ko-u u-n mu ge nyo-o ko-o ku-u
Is sa-i no u ge ni-i sa wa ri na shi
Ko-u ta-ku ka mu ra nu mo no zo na ki
Na-n ji-i gi o ki myo-o se yo

Namuamidabutsu

The cloud of light is unhindered, like open sky;
There is nothing that impedes it.
Every being is nurtured by this light,
So take refuge in Amida, the one beyond conception.

Namuamidabutsu

Bu-uk-ko-u se-u e-u sa-i da-i i-chi
Ko-u e-n no-u but-to na zu ke ta ri
Sa-n zu no ko-ku a-n hi ra ku na ri
Da-i o-u gu-u o ki myo-o se yo

Namuamidabutsu

The Buddha's light is supreme in radiance;
Thus Amida is called "Buddha, Lord of Blazing Light."
His light dispels the darkness of the three courses of affliction,
So take refuge in Amida, the great one worthy of offerings.

(Ekoku)

Ga-n ni shi ku doku
Byo-u do-u se i-sa-i
Do-u ho-su bo da-i shi-n
O-u Jo-u a-n ra-a ko-o

(Ekoku)

I vow that the merit-virtue of this truth
Be shared equally with all beings.
May we together awaken the Bodhi Mind,
And be born in the realm of Serenity and Joy.