



#### **41. Shinjin**

The group discussed Shinjin (true faith) and Nembutsu. Gary suggested that Shinjin is not about logical belief but an intuitive awareness of Amida's presence, which can be experienced without conscious effort. They explored how faith in Amida's vows leads to participation in his Dharma body, where individuals become part of Amida's eternal activity. The group also discussed the role of the Sangha in Shin Buddhism, including both the sangha of Buddhas and holy sages in the Pure Land, as well as teachers and friends in this world.

#### **42. Buddhist Merit and True Virtue**

Gary discussed the concept of true merit in Buddhism, explaining that Dharmakara accumulated merit through Bodhisattva practices over innumerable kalpas. He distinguished between two types of merit: false merit, which arises from defiled minds and self-power activities, and true merit, which is based on the fundamental Mahayana principle of voidness. Matthew interjected to clarify that false merit corresponds to the three delusions of greed, anger, and ignorance, particularly ignorance which Gary described as not knowing rather than stupidity.

#### **43. Buddhist Merit and True Virtue**

Gary discussed the concept of true merit in Buddhism, explaining that Dharmakara accumulated merit through Bodhisattva practices over innumerable kalpas. He distinguished between two types of merit: false merit, which arises from defiled minds and self-power activities, and true merit, which is based on the fundamental Mahayana principle of voidness. Matthew interjected to clarify that false merit corresponds to the three delusions of greed, anger, and ignorance, particularly ignorance which Gary described as not knowing rather than stupidity.

#### **44. Interconnected**

The group discussed the concepts of Pure Land, Amida Buddha, and Bodhisattvas in Buddhist teachings, focusing on how these elements can be perceived as both present and accessible. They explored Shinran's emphasis on the single sincere Nembutsu practice and its distinction from self-powered efforts.