



49. The Six Parameters

The group focused on the name "Namu Amida Buutsu" and its significance in providing immediate salvation. They discussed Dharmakara's virtues and his unattachment to greed, hatred, and cruelty, emphasizing the importance of contentment and wisdom. Matthew joined the discussion to explain the six parameters or practices that Dharmakara performed, including **generosity, discipline, patience, diligence, meditation and wisdom.**

50. The Accumulation of Merit

Gary led a discussion that focused on the story of Dharmakara and his journey to becoming Amida Buddha, explaining key concepts like the importance of right speech, proper motivation, and the accumulation of merit. Gordon shared insights about the transcendent nature of Dharmakara's practices and the development of virtues across multiple lives.

51. 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. Gary suggested that in this context, ignorance might be best described as not knowing.

52. Buddha Vows and Jodo Shinshu

The group discussed the concept of all Buddhas and the 48 vows, particularly focusing on the 17th and 18th vows made by Dharmakara, who later became Amida Buddha. Gary explained that the 17th vow represents the vow of true practice, where Amida's name is recommended throughout the universe, while the 18th vow states that if Amida's vows are not fulfilled, he will not become a Buddha. The discussion highlighted the relationship between these vows and their significance in Jodo Shinshu teachings, with participants exploring how Dharmakara's vows became incorporated into Amida Buddha's practice.