

**53. Dharmakara and Amida Buddha Relationship**

The group discussed the relationship between Dharmakara and Amida Buddha, with Gary explaining that Dharmakara's vows would not be fulfilled unless he became a Buddha, which he did - and then became known as Amida Buddha. Luke shared insights about how Buddhist concepts often operate outside linear time, suggesting it's challenging to comprehend these non-worldly concepts with worldly senses.

54. Twelve Lights of Amida Buddha

Gary discussed the concept of the Twelve Lights in Buddhism, explaining that these represent different characteristics of Amida Buddha and correspond to 12 names given to him. He described how these lights are beyond human concepts of time and space and how understanding them requires looking beyond human limitations.

See PLN weblog entry 36.

55. Light of Bliss and Light of Liberation

Gary discussed the concept of Amida Buddha, explaining that this divine light protects all life and supports internal purification, dissolving barriers and confusion. He described the Buddha of the Light of Bliss as pure joy that is not tied to external circumstances, and the Buddha of the Light of Liberation as providing freedom from suffering and the ability to overcome even the worst situations. The discussion highlighted the challenge of maintaining this understanding of interconnectedness with the divine light in everyday life.

56. Pure Land Traditions Comparison

Gary discussed the differences between Pure Land traditions in China and Japan, explaining that while China recognizes 13 Pure Land masters, Japan focuses on 7 masters' with Shinran adding specific Japanese figures to the tradition. It should also be noted that Shinran believed Honen was a reincarnation or manifestation of Amida Buddha.

See PLN weblog entry 37.