

## Invisible Working

Recently I bought a book through the Internet. Do you use this kind of service? Since it's really convenient, I sometimes do Internet shopping. I can easily look for books or other things at stores on the Internet. I can even order books from Japan. The book I bought was delivered only five days after I ordered it. This kind of service is very convenient. After I order something, I can track where the item is, on its way to me. The book I bought was sent from Dallas, Texas to Memphis, Tennessee, then to Honolulu. Finally it was delivered from Honolulu to Lihue.

Looking at tracking information, I was surprised that the book was sent from a remote city where I have never been. When I received the book, I thought "Oh, this book made a long trip and arrived by the help of many people." I just ordered the book on my computer and received it. It was a very simple process. However, thanks to the tracking service, I realized many people helped to deliver the book.

Actually, not only do we receive things from shopping on the Internet, but also all things we have and use are brought through various processes that we cannot see. For example, we can buy fruit at the supermarket. However, they don't start out in the supermarket. There are many people who grow them, many people who process them and many people who transport them to the supermarket. In addition, fruit needs sunshine, rain, and good rich soil to grow in. Thanks to such conditions and processes, we can buy fruits at the supermarket. If we could use a tracking service for those items, I think we would discover an amazing process.

We always recite the Nembutsu. In our Jodo Shinshu teachings, we learn it's not we who recite the Nembutsu by our self power, but Amida Buddha's working that enables us to recite the Nembutsu. I think various causes and conditions enabled us to utter the name of Amida Buddha. All these have happened because of Amida Buddha's great vow to save us. If we could use the tracking service to see how the Nembutsu is delivered to us, we would be amazed by the invisible process and have deep gratitude indeed.

Shinran Shonin expressed his deep gratitude thinking about the origin of Amida Buddha's working in the following passage. When you read this passage, please try to put yourself in Shinran Shonin's place, so that we can see that Amida's vow was made for each of us. He said: **"When I ponder on the compassionate Vow of Amida, established through five kalpas of profound thought, it was for myself, Shinran, alone. Because I am a being burdened so heavily with karma, I feel even more deeply grateful to the Primal Vow which is made to decisively save me."** (Tannisho: Taitetsu Unno, Tannisho, p.4)

We receive many different things in our daily lives. It's difficult to find out the causes and conditions by which we receive those things, but we would have greater appreciation if we try to imagine. The tracking service of the Internet Shopping made me think about such invisible processes. It also made me remember Amida Buddha's immeasurable working. Let us live our daily lives, reciting the Nembutsu. Namo Amida Butsu.