

## What Is Your Information Source?

Do you always read a newspaper? You may read "The Garden Island", "Honolulu Star-Advertiser" or other newspapers. We can read various articles and find different news and information in the newspaper. We can get to know what happened or what will take place. If we have a plan to go someplace, we may check the weather forecast. If it says it will be cold, we can go out with a jacket. If it says it will rain, we would go out with an umbrella. If we cannot get this kind of information at all, it would be really inconvenient.

Once I heard that Buddhist scriptures or Sutras can be compared to the newspaper. The newspaper gives us the information about Kauai, United States, and all over the world. Some reporters get such information somewhere. Thanks to that, although we don't see incidents with our own eyes, we can get to know news for our everyday lives unless we doubt the information.

Likewise the Buddhist scriptures give us the information about Buddha and Buddha's world. Long time ago, many people received the guidance from Sakyamuni Buddha. Then some of them strongly wished to share his words with others and to leave them for future generations. Therefore, many Buddhist scriptures or Sutras were compiled. There were many teachings, but our founder, Shinran Shonin, picked up the Nembutsu teachings because he realized it is the best teaching for him. Thanks to those who have transmitted, we can receive the precious information today although we cannot meet the past masters.

I compared the Buddhist Scriptures with the newspaper, but there are some differences too. The newspaper gives us different news every day. However the teachings of Buddhism have never changed, because it is the eternal truth of this world. No matter where we are, the information is applicable to our daily lives.

Shinran Shonin said: If Amida's Primal Vow is true, Sakyamuni's teaching cannot be false. If the Buddha's teaching is true, Shantao's commentaries cannot be false. If Shantao's commentaries are true, how can Honen's words be empty of meaning? If Honen's words are true, what I, Shinran, say cannot be meaningless. In brief, such is the true entrusting of this foolish one. Now, whether you accept the nembutsu, entrusting yourself to it, or reject it, that is your own decision.

(Tannisho: Taitetsu Unno, Tannisho, p.4)

If the newspaper says that today's weather is fine, we don't need to worry about the weather too much. Buddhist Scriptures inform us that Amida Buddha is always working for us and certainly saves us. If we rely on this information and entrusting our heart to Amida Buddha, we would be able to live our daily lives with the firm strength. We always recite "Namo Amida Butsu." "Namo" means "entrust." "Amida Butsu" means "Amida Buddha." Amida Buddha is always calling us "Entrust your heart to me." When we say "Namo Amida Butsu," it means "I understand. I entrust my heart to you."

Let us continue living our everyday lives with the teachings of Nembutsu. Namo Amida Butsu.