

THE REAL SELF

On The Publication of The Revised Edition of English Version of “The Real Self”

It was our great pleasure and honor that both the Japanese and the English versions of “The Real Self” by Sasamoto Kaijo Shōnin were published the year before last, sixteen years after first planned in 1976, with kind and self-sacrificing assistance, and warmhearted understanding of all the people concerned.

It has been a long painstaking way to accomplish this task. And it is our duty to distribute this book and his message to all the Buddhists and scholars in the world. It would have been more appropriate to revise the first edition after their evaluations and criticisms. However due to minor but plain errors and some unsatisfactory discourse found in the first edition we determined to revise.

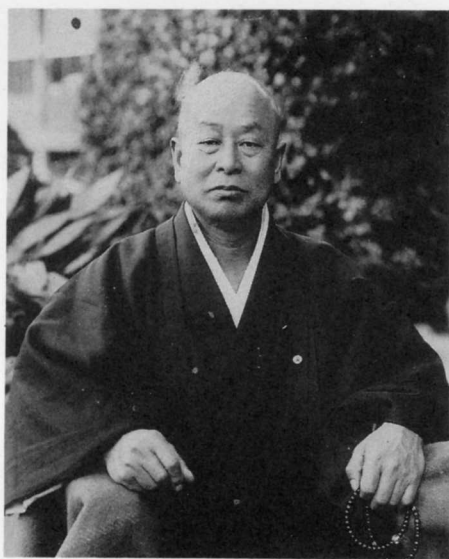
When young we used to listen to the sermons of “The Real Self” by Sasamoto Shōnin together with many others, young and old, men and women. We remember on such occasions many elderly devotees claimed the sermons’ soul-soothing truth. This fact may prove the sermons of Sasamoto Shōnin transcend all the minor verbal mistakes and farfetched logic and send the message of eternal knowledge and mercy of Buddha, and the eternity of soul to the all the peoples in the world, so long as we pray with Nembutsu and understand the import of the sermons.

But we are afraid that once rendered into English and exposed to the eyes of Westerners known for their logical thinking, the essence of “The Real Self” might be misunderstood on account of such minor verbal errors and vague logic in the translation. Having feared to leave stains behind us we felt responsible for revising the English version directly before we miss a chance to do so. Thus the blast furnace and Makada, Buddha’s birth place, in Chapter II of Part I in the original edition were deleted.

Thanks are due to Yoshio Minato, Yoshihiro Ono, Ohashi Eisei Shōnin and Prof. Kiyohiko Tsuboi, Professor of English and ex-Dean

On The Publication of The Revised Edition of English Version of “The Real Self”

of Okayama University School of Letters, one of the late Professor Masato Yano’s disciples, for their advice on this revised English edition.



1937 (64 years old)
at Dairinji Temple
in Matsuyama

The Narrator, Sasamoto Kaijo Shōnin

- 1874 Born in Tokyo.
- 1906 Graduated from the Tokyo Imperial University, Department of Psychology, with graduation thesis, “A Psychological Commentary of Jō-yui-shiki-ron.”
- 1906~14 Professor of Psychology at Taisho University.
- 1913 Was introduced to the teachings of Ben-nei Seija, the sage who had advocated the Light of Grace Doctrine. He abandoned writing his doctoral dissertation and devoted himself to Nembutsu practice under the personal guidance of Seija. Became a Leader of the Light of Grace Doctrine. “The Real Self” was developed on the basis of “A Psychological Commentary of Jō-yui-shiki-ron.”
- 1937 Passed away at the age of 64.

The Translator, Professor Masato Yano

- 1903 Born in Tokyo.
- 1926 Graduated from the Tokyo Imperial University School of Letters, Department of English.
- 1929~38 Professor of English at Matsuyama National Higher School.
- 1938~49 Professor of English at the Sixth National Higher School.
- 1949~68 Professor of English at Okayama University.
- 1968 Professor Emeritus at Okayama University.
- 1984 Passed away at the age of 79.

On The Publication of The English Version of “The Real Self”

I am delighted to know that “The Real Self” by Sasamoto Shōnin has been translated into English by the members of Cessho Dormitory at Dairinji Temple in Matsuyama and that the Light of Grace Doctrine by Ben-nei Seija shall be introduced to all over the world.

Prof. Koji Sato, Professor of Psychology at Kyoto University, had translated a part of “The Real Self,” as ‘The awakening of the real self’ and introduced it to the public in 1961. In the preface he expressed his desire to translate the whole of “The Real Self,” but his wish was not realized. Then the members of Gessho Dormitory wanted to find someone who had studied under Sasamoto Shōnin to undertake the work of translation, but it was extremely difficult to find an appropriate translator forty-five years after the death of Sasamoto Shōnin.

At that time Prof. Masato Yano, former Professor of English at Matsuyama National Higher School, kindly agreed to undertake this difficult task. Prof. Yano, a graduate of Shiba Middle School of Jōd Sect of Buddhism, was interested in the work of this Buddhist. Being his colleague at Matsuyama, I have known him long and found that he was a man of great intelligence and maturity.

Prof. Kawanami, a member of this project, is a brilliant Buddhism scholar and has a deep faith in Nembutsu. Prof. Shishin Sasamoto, Professor of Psychology at Tokyo Women’s College, is not only a member of the project but he himself is a son of Sasamoto Shōnin. Thus the work of translating “The Real Self” is the result of the cooperative efforts of these distinguished members mentioned above.

I earnestly hope that this English Version shall be introduced to the world as the members of Gessho Dormitory wished, so that they could reciprocate their obligations to the kindness from Sasamoto Shōnin.