

Afterword

It was in April in the sixth year of Showa Era (1931) that Brother Jusaku Nōmi, a fellow disciple of mine, first began taking down the series of public lectures given by the late Shōnin, though Shōnin, who was a modest man, gave permission to no one to take notes on, his lectures in his life time. Brother Nōmi, however, thought that the invaluable sermons the late Shōnin preached should not be long left unavailable to the general reading public.

In fact Brother Nōmi never failed to attend the special Nembutsu meetings presided over by Shōnin during the session on more than ten occasions, in order to listen his sermons in person and to take notes of them, with closest attention not to miss even a single word. He completed the most carefully revised manuscripts, and gratified our long cherished desire. More than ten years have passed since the compiler first undertook the self-imposed task of a scribe, and at long last the notes he took of the lectures were put in print and published in the interests of the reading public. In the meantime Mr. Nōmi was occupied with repeated revision of the manuscripts, consulting his fellow disciples who had studied under the late Shōnin to get doubtful parts clarified before he decided to bring out a tentative edition on his own expenses in the fifteenth year of Showa Era (1940).

And he sent the edition to his Buddhist friends in the whole country, who had assisted at a community Nembutsu practice the late priest presided, requesting them to check and correct miswriting if any as well as to supply possible omissions. After taking every care to the best of his ability to make his transcription as accurate as possible to a single word and worthy of the original lectures, he made up his mind to give it to the public in print as a definitive edition.

On this occasion of the publication of the present book we express our most profound gratitude and highest respect to Brother

Nōmi for the seriousness of purpose and untiring effort with which he made it possible.

Lastly, we should like to add a brief quotation from the words of the late Sasamoto Shōnin, which we believe furnishes the true key to a correct understanding of *The Real Self* explained at length in the present book so entitled. —refer to the preface.

Alas, more than six years went by since Sasamoto Shōnin passed away to the west and we can no longer behold his benevolent look nor hear the encouraging tone of his voice.

As we now go through pages of his *The Real Self*, recollecting the Shōnin of his life time who is so dear to our heart, we cannot but invoke the holy name of Amida Buddha.

In the middle of the First Month, the Nineteenth Year of the Showa Era (1944).

Members of the Light of Grace Society
Institute for Cultural Studies

Acknowledgments

Twelve years have passed since we formulated a plan to translate “The Real Self” by Sasamoto Shōnin into English. The members of the project are as follows: the late Prof. Masato Yano (Professor Emeritus, Okayama University), Prof. Akira Kawanami (Toyo University), Prof. Shishin Sasamoto (Tokyo Women’s College), the late Yasushi Suzuki, Shun-ichi Ishii, Makoto Inoue, Kiyoshi Toshima, Ken-ichiro Toyoda, Mikio Kakimoto, Katsumi Kanzaiki, Takaaki Mori, Eiich Shigeoka, Tadao Minato, Yoshinobu Ishida, and Sugeo Ebina.

The original text was dictated to and transcribed by the late Jusaku Nōmi when Sasamoto Shōnin had given lectures more than fifty years ago. Prof. Yano translated the text in his exact and plain English, but the contemporary readers may find it a little archaic. Therefore it may be advisable to carefully revise it to suit the contemporaries. This version consists of two volumes, with the first for the beginners to understand the essence of “The Real Self.”

Here I would like to extend my sincere thanks to those who have contributed immensely in various ways: Y. & Q.F. Irwin (U.K.), T. Karen (U.S.A.), Hajime Nakamura (Professor Emeritus, Tokyo University), Prof. Kodo Matsunami (Ueno Gakuen College), Prof. Ryojun Sato (Taisho University), Koji Uchizono (Professor Emeritus, Tokyo University), Prof. Masaaki Nomura (Waseda University), Prof. Tsutomu Murao (Showa Women’s University), Shunko Kato, Masanori Tomita, Masaru Kawaji, Masakuni Hashimoto, Yasumasa Ota, Yoshiaki Hori, Hatsuo Yamada, Koichi Fujishiro, Kankei Minagawa, Masako Kikuchi, Shotaro Nakae, Yoshio Minato, Tokugei Hashimoto, Yosuke Ebina, and to more than forty people who have generously given us their precious suggestions to our project.

March 3, 1992

“The Real Self” Translation Association
The Members of Gessho Dormitory at Dairinji
Temple in Matsuyama