

Karma

24/7

The Southern District Bookstore called the Hongwanji Place once produced a t-shirt with the words Karma 24/7 written in Sanskrit on the front.

A literal translation might be Action 24 hours a day 7 days a week. That is to say, we create and recreate ourselves from moment to moment being influenced by others, by our memory of things, even when we are asleep and dreaming. And this in an unbroken chain of action with to beginning and no end. This interconnected cluster of energies I identify as me, and with that identity my verb-ness becomes a noun, a thing moving through time and space. gathering around it label after label until that collection of labels appears as a solid thing. I have learned to ignore the action that I really am for the actor I imagine myself to be. And once I make the leap from action to actor, the dialog, the costume, the make-up, the posing, and preening fall quickly into place, accompanied by that telltale "I am doing well aren't I." The Buddha was right, ignorance is the cause of all suffering. Thinking that Masao Kodani is substantial and real is a painful experiencing. Knowing that I am a fake is a truth that is painless and delight-inducing. How lucky we all are that everything in the universe contrives to push us to this light, this illumination, this Arnitabha - even the shadows point to the light, and the darker the shadow the brighter the light. All the no's of a lifetime ultimately end in yes!

Yes to birth. yes to old age, yes to sickness, yes to death. Yes to the arising of things, yes to the passing away of things - one phase no better or worse than the other. If leaves sink in the river, then rocks must float downstream. One's stink is another's sweetness, one's ugliness another's beauty - yes, yes, and yes, and yes, and yes. Take a deep breath and say namandab as fast and as long as you can. Do it twice more. Suffer and enjoy, suffer and enjoy, yeeeeeeeeessssssss

Gassho,
Rev Mas