

法然上人のご法語第二十
難^{なん}修^{じゆ}観^{かん}法^{ぼう}

Honen's Words No. 20

Difficulties of Contemplation Method

近ちか来ごろのぎ行人よう観にん法かんをほうなす事

なかれ。仏像を観ずとも、

運慶・康慶が造りたる仏ほ

どだにも観じ現わすべから

ず。

Practitioners in this date should not rely on a contemplation (imagination) method. Even if you try to imagine a buddha, you can hardly visualize it with reality like a statue made by Unkei or Kokei.

極樂の莊嚴を觀ずとも、

桜梅桃李の花菓ほども、觀

じ現わさんこと、難かるべ

し。

Even if you try to imagine the ornaments of Gokuraku (Sukhavati), it is difficult for you to imagine them with as much reality as you can visualize blooms and fruits of cherries, plums, peaches, or apricots in this world.

「彼かの仏、今現に世よに在ありし
て成仏し給えり。当まに知しる
べし、本誓ほんぜいの重願じゅうがん、虚ましか
らざることを。

Master Zendo explained: "That buddha (Amitabha) is currently resident in Gokuraku and already became a buddha. This means that the solemn Vow (the 18th Vow) made by Amitabha had been fulfilled. You should understand this.

衆生称念すれば、必ず往生
を得^う」の釈^{しゃく}を信じて、深く
本願を頼みて、一向に名号
を称^{しょう}うべし。

"If you people chant Nembutsu, you can attain Ojo (rebirth in Gokuraku) without fail." Believe his explanation, and chant Nembutsu wholeheartedly relying upon the Vow.

名号を称うれば、
三^{さん}心^{じん}、
自
ずから具足するなり。

As you chant Nembutsu, Sanjin (three minds: [three kinds of attitudes]) are spontaneously endowed.



阿弥陀如来像（浄楽寺）

Statue of Amitabha
by Unkei
(Jorakuji - Yokosuka City)



無著像（興福寺）

Statue of Mujaku (Asanga)
by Unkei
(Kofukuji - Nara City)

・運慶

法然上人とほぼ同時代に活躍した仏師。康慶はその父。

Unkei: A Buddhist sculptor who made his mark in the same period as Honen Shonin. Kokei is Unkei's father.