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Dharma Talk for New Year Service at Korinji

Ignorance and Nembutsu Practice

Happy New Year with Namu Amida Butsu!

Yes, Happy New Year! But what does it mean? I truly wish the best to anybody. But what precisely does "the best" mean? If you even try to be more specific, you may fail easily. Even trying to wish the best to yourself you may fail.

Why? Because we are ignorant human beings. We cannot see our karmic connections and true consequences of our actions. Actually, we don't know what is really good, what is really bad. We are told about various evaluations since our childhood, like "this is good", "this is bad". And we try to follow such criteria or sometimes we may review them and establish new ones.

But whatever we do wanting to get "the best" we will fail. Because we don't know what is "the best". Life is suffering. So, whatever we do, we may only change one kind of suffering into another one. Some people stay with the same trouble for a long time, some others will meet new difficulties instead of old ones. That is it we do. Only to change one trouble for another one. And we repeat troubles, and we call it life. And in the end of lifetime we meet our death. And after death we meet our new life. And we repeat to make the same troubles. And so on... Until we meet Buddha.

Until we meet Buddha. Not this statue standing on the altar in a temple, but real Buddha which means the special state of mind. There is the special kind of life, special kind of existence, which is not of human kind, which is the gorgeous one and free from suffering. This kind of being is called Buddha, which means PURE MIND. PURE means free from illusions. Buddha is the absolute Wisdom. He perfectly knows what is "the best" and He doesn't feel pain because he doesn't do anything causing the pain.