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Today we are having
the remembrance
service for Shinran
Shonin, a man who
experienced the one-
ness with Amida,



while living still in his body; a man who discovered that the true shinjin is actually the spiritual birth in the Amida Pure Land. His religious realization won later the name of “The Ultimate Gate” to the Buddhahood.

Shinran Shonin didn't follow NihonjinRon, but the Teaching of Buddha. He was the man of Compassion. Westerners could say: he was a loving man. The Teaching of Buddha is about happiness, the eternal happiness. It is about equality not only of men and women, but of all living forms. It is about total interrelationship, about love/compassion, about sharing, about generosity, about no blind devotion, about no blind obedience, about wisdom, about honesty, about non-discrimination. Teaching of Buddha is about Life. Life by itself is the most wonderful experience as could be. Life is never dirty. Only our way we take Life may be “dirty”.

In Western culture love plays very important role. Love doesn't mean any blind passion. Love is the most egoless emotion, which makes us reach beyond our usual limitations. Love is a gift we treasure the most. Love makes us sensitive. Love makes aware of others and aware of Life.

Therefore, we are a little bit afraid of people, who don't love, who are heartless and indifferent. Such people are usually amoral and able to do any cruelty with no sense of responsibility. People are not robots. The difference is that people can feel and evaluate their actions not only by intellectual calculation, but also by heart.

We all are exposed to Amida Compassion, so we all should be able to love others. Accordingly to the teaching of Buddha, there is no true difference between others and us. Shinran realized that. Anytime when somebody complained about his/her inability, Shinran identified himself with the miserable one by saying;” me too, me too.” Though his mind was enjoying the Pure Land, he felt at the same time all possible troubles of all people.

