

## Online Course on Shin Buddhism

starts February 2022

**Title:** “Ocean 2: Further Introduction to Shin Buddhism in the West and Beyond. (The Seven Phases of the Pure Land Way)”

### **From the Lecturer:**

In this once a month ten-part course, I hope to build on the original *Ocean* book to present a deeper and fuller dimension of this tradition. This course offers a “birds eye view” through the lens of the story of the “Sailor and the Ocean.” This approach makes it easier to understand the uniqueness of Shin Buddhism, which many find difficult to grasp when it is described as “a form of Buddhism in which a person is saved *merely* by reciting the Name.”

Shin Buddhism is meant for those who want to deal more effectively with the ups and downs of ordinary lives, comprised of family, work, school, and human relations. It is also meant for those who 1) experience the challenges and difficulties of living, 2) have become more aware of their personal imperfections, and 3) are in a sincere search for greater meaning and fulfillment in their lives.

Please join others with similar aspirations as we share our stories and support each other in our struggles and hopes in order that “we may all attain perfect peace”!

### **Main Topics to be Covered**

	<u>Meaning in Our Lives</u>	<u>Parable of the Sailor</u>	<u>Shinran’s Life</u>
1. February 13 (1)	Being born a human being	Boarding the Ship	Born in Kyoto
2. March 13 (2)	Experiencing difficulties	Falling Off the Ship	Losses and anxiety
3. April 10 (3)	Striving on the Buddhist path	Swimming by Striving	Training as a monk

4.	May 8	(4)	Limits of “self-power”	Gasping for Air	Hitting a “wall”
5.	June 12	(5)	Shinjin realization 1	Letting Go	Meeting Honen
6.	July 10		Shinjin realization 2	Floating	Learning from Honen
7.	September 11	(6)	Assurance and confidence	Swimming with Ease	Family & Exile
8.	October 9		Gratitude and vitality	Swimming with Ease	Family & Exile
9.	November 13		Being of benefit to Others	Working for Others	Propagation
10.	December 11	(7)	Birth in the Pure Land	Reaching the Island	Passing
			Returning to Oneness	Returning to the Ocean	“Returning”

**Dates:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday (not Saturday) of each month in 2022 (except for January and August)

2/13, 3/13, 4/10, 5/8, 6/12, 7/10, 9/11, 10/9, 11/13, 12/11

Each class will be recorded to enable those who are absent to watch later.

**Time:** 5pm - 6:30 (Pacific Time)

Talk 1 (5:00-5:35)

Q&A1 (5:35-5:45)

Talk 2 (5:45-6:20)

Q&A2 (6:20-6:30)

“Happy Hour” (from 6:40 - 7:30 or so): Participation is *optional* and will not be recorded

**Tuition:** \$50 - \$100 for the entire course

(The *range* in the tuition is meant to accommodate your ability or willingness to pay. And the amount should be donated to your favorite Buddhist organization or to a charity or organization not necessarily affiliated with Buddhism. You are encouraged to mention to the recipient that the donation is made in lieu of the tuition payment for this course. The lecturer does not accept any payment.)

**Lecturer:** Kenneth Kenshin Tanaka, Professor Emeritus, Musashino University, Tokyo. Former Assoc. Prof. and Assist. Dean, the Institute of Buddhist Studies. Former Resident Minister, Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church. Author of numerous books, including *Ocean: An Introduction to Jodo-Shinshu Buddhism in America*. The 2017 recipient of the 27<sup>th</sup> Nakamura Hajime Eastern Academic Prize awarded by the Eastern Institute and the Indian Embassy in Tokyo.

**Reference Books:** You are not required to purchase them. The first three will be made available to you free of charge, and the 4<sup>th</sup> book (by J. Ducor) is optional.

1) Takamaro Shigaraki. Tran. by David Matsumoto. *Heart of the Shin Buddhist Path - A Life of Awakening*. Wisdom Publications, 2013. (pdf version of selected pages will be made available free of charge to those who register for the course.)

2) Kenneth Tanaka. *Ocean: An Introduction to Jodo-Shinshu Buddhism in America*. WisdomOcean Publications, 2017. (digital text is available free of charge at: <http://www.yamadera.info/ocean/ocean-index.htm>)

3) Kenneth Tanaka. *Jewels: An Introduction to American Buddhism for Youth, Scouts and the Young at Heart*. BDK America, 2020. (pdf can be downloaded free of charge; printed book is available in the U.S. for \$6.00 (including shipping) at: <https://www.bdkamerica.org/book/jewels-introduction-buddhism-youth-scouts-and-young-heart>)

4) Jérôme Ducor. *Shinran and Pure Land Buddhism*. Jodo Shinshu International Office, 2021. (This can be purchased at Buddhist Churches of America Bookstore \$20: <https://bcabookstore.mybigcommerce.com>)

**Conditions for the Participants:** You are asked to make a certain level of commitment in registering for this course with an earnest desire to learn and to devote time to it.

1) You are asked to show your face during the class in the spirit of openness and oneness of an interactive class. If you must hide your face during class, please inform the Lecturer *prior* to the class.

2) You are expected to fill out a short questionnaire after each class and submit it within 10 days after each class.

3) You are asked to attend at least 7 of 10 classes. If you miss a class, you are asked to watch the recorded video by the next class and fill out the questionnaire.

4) The classes will be recorded and be made available only to those registered for this class and the “over-flow” class during 2022. Starting in 2023, the recorded classes may be made available to the public. (Note: an “over-flow” class = class to be set up to accommodate those could not be included in the primary class.)

5) A “Certificate of Completion” (in its digital form) will be awarded to those participants who fully attend and fill out the questionnaire for at least 7 out of 10 classes. Make-up by watching the video afterwards will not fulfill this requirement.

**Registration:** Please register after you have read and agreed to the “Conditions for the Participants” stipulated above. Space is limited and is on a first-come first-served basis; you are encouraged to sign up early. If the class fills up, you will automatically be included in the “over-flow” class.

Please register here: <https://forms.gle/viWyn4fPAFrWBUA27>

If you do not receive an automatic confirmation within 24 hours, there is a good chance that you inputted your email number incorrectly. So, please try again or email the Lecturer at: [chacotanaka@gmail.com](mailto:chacotanaka@gmail.com)

**Inquiries:** Please contact the Lecturer, Kenneth Tanaka, directly at: [chacotanaka@gmail.com](mailto:chacotanaka@gmail.com)