



Address

Karasuma Shichi-jō Agaru, Shimogyō-ku, Kyoto 600-8505, Japan

Visiting Hours

Mar–Oct. 5:50 am – 5:30 pm    Nov–Feb. 6:20 am – 4:30 pm

# Dharma words

**Shinran's Teachings in  
Modern Poetry**





# Dharma words

Shinran's Teachings in Modern Poetry

# HŌGO

Simple and easy-to-understand expressions, thoughts and stories conveying Buddhist teachings are called in Japanese HŌGO. They come from the Buddha, Shinran Shōnin (founder of Jōdo Shinshu) and other historical teachers, as well as from contemporary thinkers who give us a modern understanding of Buddhism.

Translations of historical texts, such as the Shinshū Seiten(a collection of important Shinshu writings), provide an important philosophical foundation, but more recent writings really connect Shin Buddhism with our lives today.

These Dharma words embody the essence of living, expressed through vignettes and remembrances. The writers of these hōgo share their thoughts, feelings and experiences, which in turn, help us ponder our own lives.

Hōgo are easier to understand than academic writings. Therefore, we can feel a sense of what it means to live in the Jōdo Shinshū teachings.

Words of Hōgo have encouraged countless people over the ages to lead meaningful lives.

May readers of this book also find inspiration and fulfillment through these Hōgo words.

We hope that the photos of Higashi Honganji featured in this booklet also evoke a sense of connection to the Dharma words.





Higashi Honganji

Dharma  
Words **01**

**Foolishness is one's own  
experience; we live thinking that  
one's own knowledge is absolute.**

**Miyagi Shizuka**

愚かさとは 自分の体験  
自分の知識のみを絶対的なこととして  
生きてゆくことです

宮城 顗

Truth is something that a great  
scholar or a child can understand.  
If not then it is not truth.

Akegarasu Haya

真理というものは  
大学者にも子供にもわかるものである  
でなければ真理でない

暁烏 敏



Fonder's Hall (Goeidō)





Amida Hall (Amidadō)

Dharma  
Words

03

**Though there are those who do not wish  
to become buddhas, those who receive  
that wish are true human beings.**

**Fujimoto Masaki**

どんな人も自分自身に仏になる願いはなくとも  
仏の願いを受けたものが人間なんです

藤元 正樹