

BIRTHDAY IN FRANCE

Seventeeners for Eunice,
Maria and Diane

“Receive Guidance”
and “let things happen”.
Amida knows what is needed.

Amida's will for me
consists of saying Nembutsu
and feeling good.

If I must think at all,
please, Amida,
put the thoughts into my mind.

Thinking what you think
other people think
you should think
gets you nowhere.

“NO ME OR I”.
Only the earth and sky
and the rivers in between.

“No-one is saved
unless all are saved.”
That is how Amida sees it.

Feelings of constant
love and gratitude
open the gates of wisdom.

Do only *that* today
which furthers
your true happiness.

The “Great Natural Way”
of Hozen Seki -
“Do what's in front of you.”

From now on I'll pay
more attention to my Friends
and less to myself.

There's nothing clever
in saying Nembutsu.
Let it come *naturally*.

Enjoy the merriment
of those around you
and let it lift you up.

Namo Amida Butsu.
With love in our hearts
we can do no harm.

23 December '17.
Your birthday card,
Diane, was Amida saying
“Well done, Marcus.”

Time spent reciting
Namo Amida Butsu
is never wasted.

There must be many
Buddhalands, but Amida's
is the one for me.

Namo Amida Butsu!
I am of One Mind
with Tathagata.

I stand at the Pure Land Gate,
patiently waiting for it to open.
Kuan Yin arrives with the key.

All is connected -
us four in Eunice's car
and the furthest star.

Specially for Diane:
We who hear the Call
above life's deafening roar
walk on entrusting.

I am here because
Amida needs me here,
and Amida knows best.

Admire the beauty
of winter, Saturn's work.
Wet black leaves underfoot.
Brown geese flap upstream, screeching
“Namo Amida Butsu”.

Reduce everything
to a minimum,
until there is only love.

Shed peace wherever you go.
Be a lamp to the living and the dead.

Saint-Mammès, 21-27 December '17