

## Inside the Pure Land

*Milton Moon*

Shinjin seems to be complete  
like the beautiful Pure Land;  
there are others who, despite the beauty,  
know their time is limited —  
like a concert-goer who finds himself or herself  
not responding to the program  
offered — or even the conversation  
of the others guests.

Incompleteness knows no end,  
Especially the power of the Vow.  
But how sincerely is it thought in your mind;  
wholly and completely voiced?  
But without a sense of conviction,  
the Vow is incomplete

The Eighteenth Vow  
of all the sacred vows —  
formed and promised by Amida —  
ensures entry to the Pure Land,  
even those not worthy of permanence.

What are those things that include  
or exclude the Pure Land?  
It is very easy to assess and add exclusions  
whilst ignoring and avoiding shame,  
falsehood, deception or shared virtues.

Self-deceiving can become memory's residue  
when we want something badly, even the Pure Land.  
We are able to vow or promise anything  
and believe in it wholly.  
Amida urges patience, Amida urges faith.  
Namu is taking refuge and Amida Butsu  
is the refuge of the Primal Vow.

Namu Amida Butsu.