

ONE WITH AMIDA

a selection of recent seventeeners
for Diane & friends in the sangha.

*“Just for Today
I intend to be happy,”
said Martha Washington.*

One with Amida,
saying Nembutsu,
we share
the Great Compassion.

Total surrender.
Complete abandon.
My life in Amida's hands.

Life begins
when we no longer care
what other people think of us.

“I will show you
what you need to see
and tell you
what you need to know.”

“Do whatever you enjoy,
Diane,
and enjoy whatever you do.”

“Do you stop *breathing*
when you are tired?”

“No.”

“So keep saying Nembutsu.”

“But I'm karmically unsound.”

“Codswallop!

Nembutsu puts paid to karma.”

“It's when you least want to say it
that Nembutsu is most effective.”

“Approach samsaric life
cheerfully and resolutely,”
he whispers.

“How near ARE you, Amida?”
“As near as the Nembutsu
on your lips.”

Our much-loved parent
never stops calling:
“Come to me, just as you are.”

The thought of 'me'
and 'the other' is false -
a mental fabrication.

Thinking is a waste of time.
Better say
“Namo Amida Butsu.”

“Namo Amida Butsu”
unites me with
the Lord of heaven and earth.

The benefits of
Namo Amida Butsu
defy description.

Tell me, Amida my friend
and mentor, where to start
and where to end.

Thank you for these moments of peace
which follow recital of your Name.

Marcus Cumberlege, 8 February '18.