

Prayer In Praise of Kanzeon Bosatsu*

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THIS WORLD is the world of the wondrous wisdom and power of Kanzeon Bosatsu come into being. Kanzeon Bosatsu is not the name of a particular bodhisattva but the mercy, wondrous wisdom, and “laws of the mind” that permeate the universe. “Kanzeon” means to look into the hearts of all the living on earth and to help them in their troubles by changing his appearance in a number of ways. Kanzeon is “great compassion” and helps us by changing his appearance in 33 different ways. To appear to us as “laws of the mind,” assuming different forms according to the spiritual level of each person, is great mercy itself.

Kanzeon Bosatsu appears to us in every possible way to teach us the ways of salvation. The mountain air, moving clouds, whistling wind, flowing water — these all show us Kanzeon Bosatsu’s mercy. Listen, with your mind’s ears. See, with your mind’s eyes.

Furthermore, Kanzeon Bosatsu constantly teaches us the Truth by appearing in the people around us. If someone is unkind to us, it is not that he is mean but that Kanzeon Bosatsu sees the meanness in our hearts and is showing it to us through that person. Therefore, you should not hate others. Kanzeon Bosatsu shows himself through your father, mother, husband, wife, brothers, sisters,

employer, and fellow workers, always teaching you. Listen, with your mind’s ears. See, with your mind’s eyes.

A prophet does not live far away in the mountains or city but is right here, right here within me. What I think comes into being. What I believe comes into being. What I say takes form. Thoughts, beliefs, and words become prophecies and will come into existence in time in the physical world. Therefore, we should never entertain or express dark, hateful, or negative thoughts.

When something bad occurs, reflect upon yourself to see if its “model” is in your mind before seeking its cause in the outer world. If one tries to extinguish a fire (misfortune) without taking away its cause in his mind, another fire will occur, as the cause of the fire has its roots in the person’s mind.

Kanzeon Bosatsu is the omnipresent incarnation of love and mercy, the Buddha of Infinite Light. Though called different names by different religions, the object of worship is the same. It is, in essence, omnipresent God’s mercy incarnated. Therefore, all religions are one. Seicho-No-Ie worships Kanzeon Bosatsu. We praise and glorify Kanzeon Bosatsu.

— From *Shinri No Ginsho*, “Recitations of the Truth,” pp. 43-46

*Kanzeon Bosatsu: “One who Observes the Sound (of the World).” Being one of the two bodhisattvas attending Amida Buddha, he has an image of Amida Buddha in his crown. He is capable of manifesting 33 forms of incarnation to save people in different states of existence. In China and Japan, Kanzeon Bosatsu is popularly worshipped as a female deity. (From *A Dictionary of Japanese Buddhist Terms* by Hisao Inagaki)