



## Senchaku Hongan Nembutsu Shu, A Collection of Passages on the Nembutsu Chosen in the Original Vow

By Genku (Honen)

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*Collection of Passages on the Nembutsu* is the principle work by Honen. It ranks along with Dogen Zenji's *The Treasured Eye of the True Dharma* and with Honen's disciple Shinran's major writings as one of the three most influential bodies of Buddhist teachings of the Kamakura period. Together, the doctrinally revolutionary ideas contained in these works radically and permanently changed the face of Japanese Buddhism. And among them Honen's *Senchakushu* was, in terms of its originative and transformative effects on Japanese Buddhism, the most powerful of them all.

This work brought Buddhism within the grasp of even the most unlettered peasant. In a word, Honen simply declares that Sakyamuni Buddha left and "easy way" for the powerless people of the Age of the Dharma's Degeneration into which the world has already entered. One need only cast aside all other worries and practices and recite the Nembutsu. All other Buddhist traditions were expounded for stronger people of an earlier age. But now, says Honen, literally no one is able to use the Holy Path to attain Enlightenment. And so only the Gateway of the Pure Land - the simple recitation of the Numbutsu in full faith - can lead one to Rebirth in the Pure Land and assure one of eventual complete Enlightenment.

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### **Editorial Review**

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About the Author

The BDK English Tripitaka Series was started by the late Dr. Rev. Yehan Numata, founder of the Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) [Society for the Promotion of Buddhism]. The goal of this series is to make available in the English language the Buddhist scriptures and commentaries of the Sino-Japanese edition of the "Taisho Tripitaka." Scholars and specialists from throughout the world have been enlisted to translate the selected texts into English. When completed, the one-hundred eight volumes will comprise the First Series of the BDK English Tripitaka.

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