

Prayer to Vanquish All Evil, Sin, and Karma

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GOD IS INFINITE LOVE. Love sees only the perfection of the True Image and does not see any shortcomings. Therefore, God does not see my shortcomings. When He sees me, my shortcomings simply disappear into thin air. It is like darkness disappearing when confronted by light. When God forgives our shortcomings, it is not the kind of forgiveness in which shortcomings are discovered and then endured. Just as light disperses darkness and causes it to simply disappear, God causes our shortcomings to disappear completely. When we face God, our shortcomings simply disappear. The act of facing God is called Shinsokan (meditation to visualize God).

When we forgive the sins and errors of others, it must be done in the same way that God forgives our shortcomings. In other words, we do not see their shortcomings, sins, and errors, and then endure and forgive them. Rather, we firmly visualize their True Image that is already perfect and thereby draw out their essentially perfect True Image. When Jesus Christ saw Lazarus who had already been in his burial cave for four days, he said, “Our friend Lazarus sleepeth. . . . Lazarus, come forth” (John 11:11, 43). Thus Jesus refused to recognize the dead form of Lazarus, saw only his vibrant life, and called forth that life. In the same way, no matter how imperfect the other person’s phenomenal appearance may be, we must not see his shortcomings but only the perfection of his True Image and nothing else. By worshiping and praising such perfection, we draw out his True Image, his Buddha-nature, and thereby make him a perfect human being. This is the ideal way.

We have been taught: “The True Image is the perfect image exactly as created by God. It is pure and immortal and exists eternally in perfect condition. However, these qualities do not manifest themselves unless they are visualized; that is, they appear only by being visualized.” The fact that the other person has appeared imperfectly before us is because of our insufficient efforts in seeing his perfect True Image. If only we would constantly endeavor to see his perfect True Image with firm determination, that perfect True Image will appear without fail. We must not make the excuse that although we strive to see the perfection of the other person’s True Image, it is difficult to really perceive it because the imperfection of phenomena all around us is too great. It is like the high jump event in track and field—the greater one’s jumping ability, the higher the bar.

The reason the bar called the “imperfection of phenomena” is placed high for you is because your spiritual power to overcome phenomena and clearly perceive the perfection of the True Image has risen to that level. That is why your bar has been raised to a difficult level. So call up your courage, strengthen your faith, rise above the other person’s phenomenal imperfection, and see the perfection of his True Image. The other person is an expedient personification of the Goddess of Mercy who has appeared to help your soul rise ever higher. Do not see the other person’s faults. Instead, worship him and be grateful to him. His perfection will then manifest itself.

—From *Shinri No Ginsho*, “Recitations of the Truth,” pp. 304-307