

**Gary Jaskula**

**August 2, 2015**

Gary Jaskula, a Shin Buddhist, began his message with the chant below.

**SANBUJO Three Respectful Callings**

Sanbujo Text:	Translation:
Bu jou mi da nyo rai niu dou jou San ge ra ku	We respectfully call upon Tathagata Amida to enter this Dojo As we joyfully scatter flowers of welcome.
Bu jou sha ka nyo rai niu dou jou San ge ra ku	We respectfully call upon Tathagata Shakyamuni to enter this Dojo As we joyfully scatter flowers of welcome.
Bu jo ji-ppo nyo rai niu dou jou San ge ra ku	We respectfully call upon the Tathagatas of the ten directions to enter this Dojo As we joyfully scatter flowers of welcome.

Sanbujo or "Three Respectful Callings" is used at the beginning of many Jodo Shinshu services. The verses were written by Shan Tao (Zendo in Japanese, 618-681 CE), the fifth master of Shin Buddhism. Here it is given in the Roman script, though the original is in Chinese (kambun) form and read with Sino-Japanese readings.

**The Six Realms of Existence**

Everything living is impermanent – even the flowers we bring here to celebrate life and love, our joys and sorrows. The nature of one's existence is determined by karma. Some realms seem more pleasant than others -- but all are temporary and imperfect. Fortunately, we are surrounded by Amazing Grace, which will direct us as we choose our paths.

After opening with a chant, Gary spoke about the six realms of existence.

Summarized below from: [www.buddhism.about.com](http://www.buddhism.about.com)

**1. Naraka-gati, the Hell Realm**

As the name suggests, the Hell Realm is the most terrible of the Six Realms. Hell beings have a short fuse; everything makes them angry. And the only way hell beings deal with things that make them angry is through aggression -- attack, attack, attack! They drive

away anyone who shows them love and kindness and seek out the company of other hell beings. Unchecked anger and aggression can cause rebirth in the Hell Realm.

## **2. Tiriyagyonigati, the Animal Realm**

Animal beings are marked by stupidity, prejudice and complacency. They live sheltered lives, avoiding discomfort or anything unfamiliar. Rebirth in the Animal Realm is conditioned by ignorance. People who are ignorant and content to remain so are likely headed for the Animal Realm, assuming they aren't there already.

## **3. Pretagati, the Realm of Hungry Ghosts**

Hungry ghosts (preta) are pictured as beings with huge, empty stomachs, but they have pinhole mouths, and their necks are so thin they cannot swallow. A hungry ghost is one who is always looking outside himself for the new thing that will satisfy the craving within. Hungry ghosts are characterized by insatiable hunger and craving. They are also associated with addiction, obsession and compulsion.

## **4. Asuragati, the Realm of Asura (Titans)**

The Asura are strong and powerful beings who are sometimes depicted as enemies of the Deva. Asura are marked by their fierce envy. The karma of hate and jealousy causes rebirth in the Asura Realm. Chih-i (538-597), a patriarch of the T'ien-t'ai school, described the Asura this way: "Always desiring to be superior to others, having no patience for inferiors and belittling strangers; like a hawk, flying high above and looking down on others, and yet outwardly displaying justice, worship, wisdom, and faith -- this is raising up the lowest order of good and walking the way of the Asuras." You may have known an Asura or two.

## **5. Manusyagati, the Human Realm**

The Human Realm is the only realm of the six from which beings may escape samsara. Enlightenment is at hand in the Human Realm, yet only a few open their eyes and see it. Rebirth into the Human Realm is conditioned by passion, doubt and desire.

## **6. Devagati, the Realm of Devas (Gods) and Heavenly Beings**

In Buddhist tradition, the Deva realm is populated by godlike beings who enjoy great power, wealth and long life. They live in splendor and happiness. Yet even the Deva grow old and die. Further, their privilege and exalted status blind them to the suffering of others, so in spite of their long lives they have neither wisdom nor compassion. The privileged Deva will be reborn in another of the Six Realms.