

## **Ordination Barriers**

In my view, the traditional Japanese requirements for ordination have unfortunately created barriers for Western practitioners. At a recent study session I shared my concerns about the egoism in Buddhist leadership and cited a specific incident where an American priest's suggested that priests that can read and speak Japanese were 'professional' and all others were 'amateur'. Surely, we should all remember Shinran's original teachings and his insistence that Shin be accessible to all people, regardless of formal training or false language barriers.