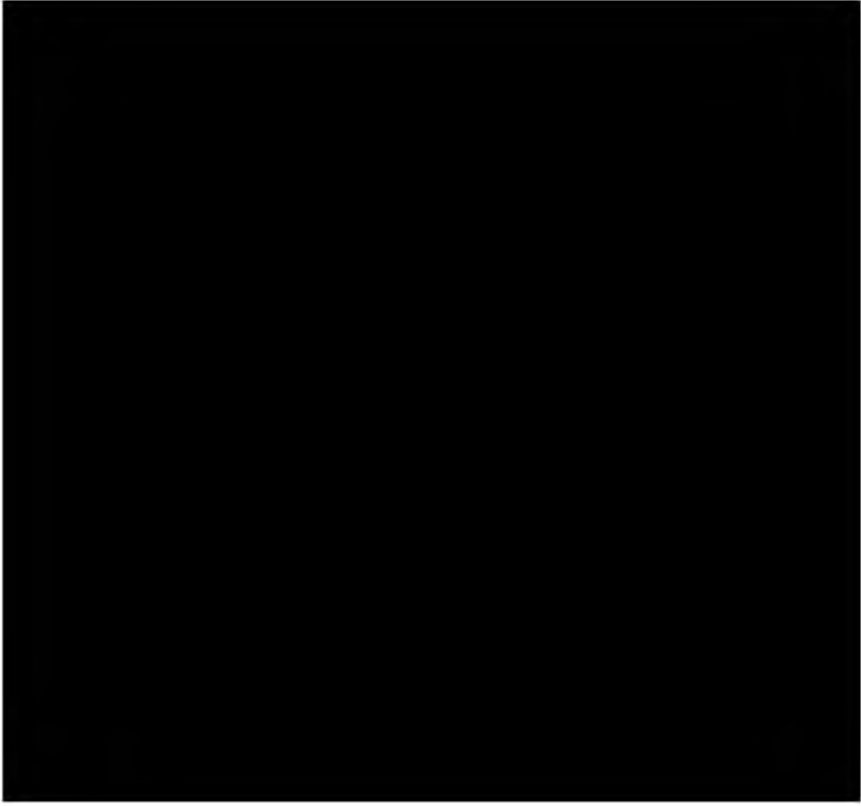


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(See back cover)

Frontispiece

Amida Buddha with Retinue Coming to
Receive a Devotee

(阿弥陀二十五菩薩来迎图)

This is a pictorial representation of Amida Buddha and his retinue coming to receive the Nembutsu follower on his death bed. It is of the Kamakura period (1192-1333) and is preserved in the Chion-in Temple in Kyoto. The artist is unknown.

Paintings of this nature came to be popular in Japan in the 10th century as the influence of the Amida faith became increasingly pervasive. Many of these works are believed to be of the Heian period (794-1192), and are usually ascribed to the scholar-monk Genshin (942-1017) of Mt. Hiei, an ardent expounder of the Pure Land School.