

‘The Event of the Arising of *Shinjin*’ in Shinran’s
Thought: Focusing on His Interpretation of
“The Mind of Aspiration and Merit Transference”
(*ekō hotsugan shin*)

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In recent years, one of my primary concerns has been to clarify in as great detail as possible what sort of “event” (*dekigoto* 出来事) the arising of *shinjin* was for Shinran.

In *Church Dogmatics: The Doctrine of Reconciliation*, Karl Barth (1886–1968) writes that the life of Jesus himself, especially his resurrection, is the “event” which attests to the oneness of God and human beings. In this paper, I use the term “event” in order to express Shinran’s experience of the arising of *shinjin* as the attestation of the oneness (*kannō dōkō* 感応道交) of Shinran and Amida Buddha.

This paper explores how Shinran understands of the arising of *shinjin* from this sort of a perspective by focusing on the view of the “mind of aspiration and merit transference” (*ekō hotsugan shin* 廻向発願心) from the *Guan wuliangshoujing* 觀無量寿經 as interpreted by Shandao 善導 (613–681), Hōnen 法然 (1133–1212), and Ryūkan 隆寛 (1148–1228). Through these considerations, I hope to show the ideas that form the background of Shinran’s original understanding of *shinjin*.