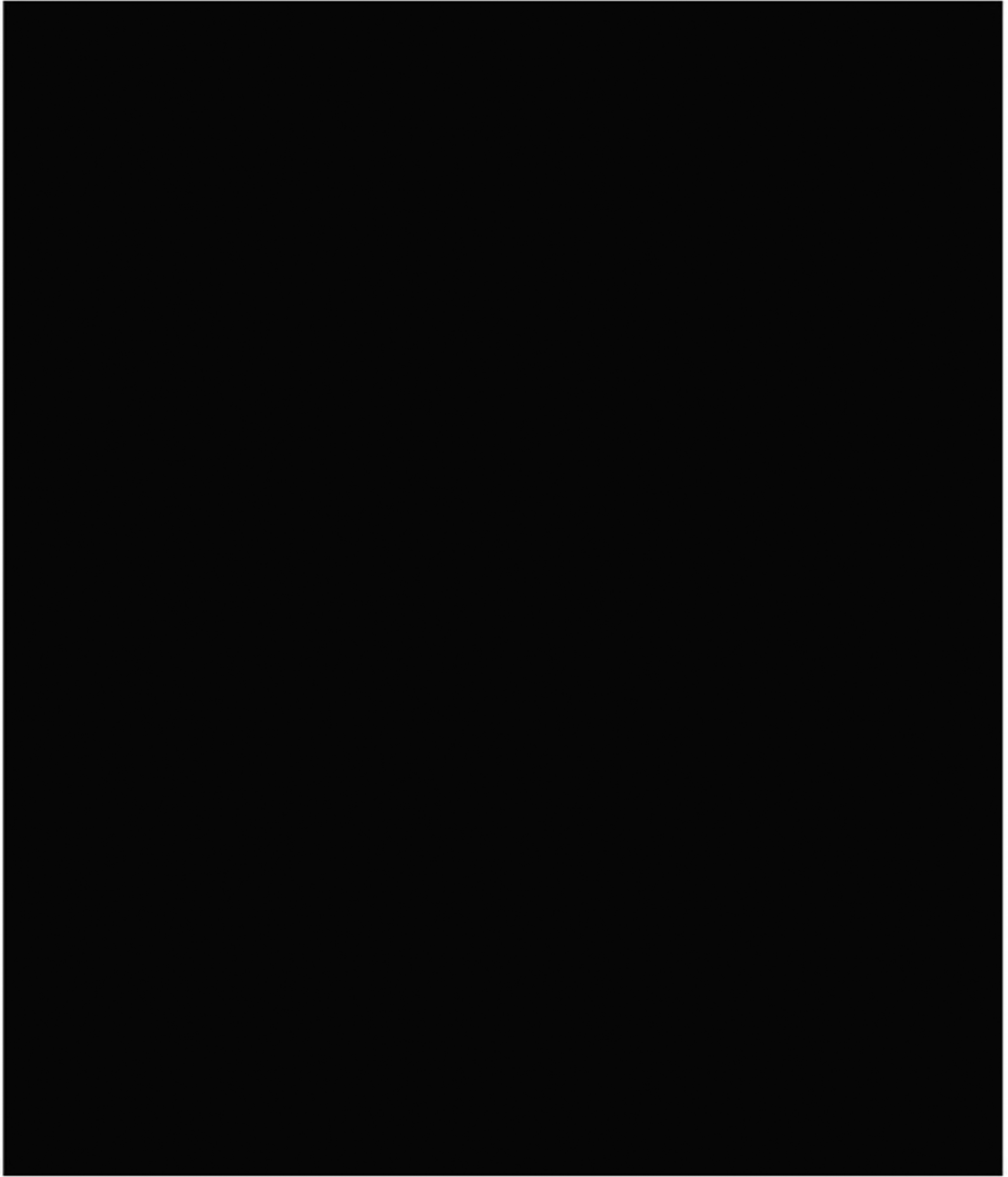


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*Frontispiece*

Aka Fudō

(Red *Acalanātha*)

"Fudō" (Skt. *acala*) means "immovable." *Acala* in Hinduism was one of Śiva's epithets. After being incorporated into Buddhism it came to assume an independent character as a messenger of Tathāgata. In Tāntric Buddhism, however, it was made to represent an aspect of Tathāgata Mahāvairocana. This figure of "Fudō Myō-ō" (*acalanātha*), painted on silk cloth, is popularly known as the "Aka Fudō" (Red Fudō) for the reddish hue which pervades the whole image. Preserved at Yakuō-in on Mt. Kōya, this image by an unknown painter, now designated as national treasure, is believed to have been painted either in the ninth or eleventh century.

Its ferocious and even demoniac countenance is a form of the Buddha's infinite compassion which tolerates no evil to prevail. The unique character of this painting is that unlike the magnanimous and compassionate figures such as Amida and Kwannon, there is a quality of *tremendum* that constitutes the main factor. It is none other than the Buddha's infinite compassion in the guise of tremendous or fiery wrath that will subdue all relative evils by an absolute strength far beyond any other power. The essential quality of Fudō is marvelously revealed in this image. This is by no means an ordinary anger or wrath, but something highly refined and sublime.

The seal of the Society on the back cover was engraved by Mr. Ryokuzan Morita.