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Kenji Miyazawa (Ame ni mo Makezu 02)

Hello, this is Kaneko, your navigator.

Today, I would like to talk about the poem "Ame ni mo Makezu" by Kenji Miyazawa.

Kenji Miyazawa, a well-known Japanese poet and writer of children's stories, was born in 1896 and died at the young age of 37. His most famous poem is "Ame ni mo Makezu.

I first became aware of the greatness of this poem when I began to study Buddhism.

Let's take a look at the poem again.

Unbeaten by the rain  
Unbeaten by the wind  
Bested by neither snow nor summer heat  
Strong of body  
Free of desire  
Never angry  
Always smiling quietly  
Dining daily on four cups of brown rice  
Some miso and a few vegetables  
Observing all things  
Leaving myself out of account  
But remembering well  
Living in a small, thatched-roof house  
In the meadow beneath a canopy of pines  
Going east to nurse the sick child  
Going west to bear sheaves of rice for the weary mother  
Going south to tell the dying man there is no cause for fear  
Going north to tell those who fight to put aside their trifles  
Shedding tears in time of drought  
Wandering at a loss during the cold summer

Called useless by all  
Neither praised  
Nor a bother  
Such is the person  
I wish to be  
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From an early age, Kenji was raised in a Jodo Shinshu home, a sect to which his father was devoted.

As a young man, however, Kenji was attracted to the Lotus Sutra and became addicted to Nichiren Buddhism instead of Jodo Shinshu.

The Lotus Sutra is the scripture of Nichiren Shoshu.

And although he was an agricultural engineer, or scientist, he was a thriving Buddhist and Lotus Sutra believer.

Kenji's thought is rooted in the Lotus Sutra and is reflected in his works.

The Lotus Sutra is the basis of Kenji's thought, which is reflected in his works: - Self-sacrifice -Salvation of sentient beings -True happiness - "Great compassion" for living beings -The afterlife

The energy of the universe, the precept of non-killing, and so on.

And throughout his life, he kept the idea of 'denial of egoism'.

While his father's Pure Land Shinshu focused on salvation for himself and salvation to the Pure Land after death, the Lotus Sutra, which Kenji followed, preached the salvation of other sentient beings and the realization of an ideal world, "the land of Buddha" in this world rather than the afterlife.

In the poem "Ame ni mo Makezu" (1931), which was found after Kenji's death  
First of all, this part;  
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Going east to nurse the sick child

Going west to bear sheaves of rice for the weary mother

Going south to tell the dying man there is no cause for fear

Going north to tell those who fight to put aside their trifles

The Buddha's "Shimon shutsuyu," or "four gates of departure," which led to the Buddha's ordination at the gates of the East, West, North, South, and West.

The story is based on the Buddha's "Shumon Shutsuyu," in which he saw "illness, old age, and death," or illness, old age, and death, at the four gates of the temple, which led to his ordination.

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Avoid greed.

Never be offended.

Always in silence smile

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This passage is about the state of mind of the enlightened one, who has shed all worldly desires.

And this leads us to the story of "dekunobo," which Monk Yugen spoke about yesterday.

In this way, the spirit of Buddhism has been transmitted by many literary figures. Among the writers who have been influenced by Buddhism are Rohan Koda, Soseki Natsume, Junichiro Tanizaki, Yasunari Kawabata, Kenji Miyazawa, Kanoko Okamoto, and Ango Sakaguchi.

If you have a chance, please pick up a copy and read it.

The Buddhist sermon series was given by Hirokazu Kaneko . Translation and voice in English by Hirokazu Kosaka.