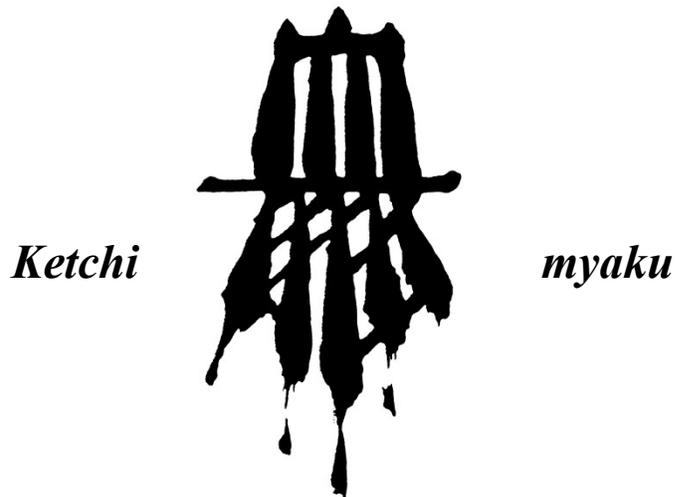


## Ketchimyaku: The Blood Line of the Buddhas.

Rev. Master Jiyu-Kennett

The plum-crested silk of the Ketchimyaku; the Blood Line of the Buddhas; the thread that runs through everyday life and eventually returns us to the Buddha; the thread that runs from yesterday to today and from today to tomorrow; and on into eternity, never turning back; the thread that is strong and vibrant so long as the Precepts are kept. Every year we learn more about those Precepts and how to return to the Eternal. We should know however, that it is not a going backwards but a going on. If it were going backwards there would be no need for the line from Master and disciple back to the Eternal: they would merely look back through each other. But this is a going on! This year we have learned much about the Precept concerning the Three Treasures. Do not defame the Three Treasures!



Perhaps one of the greatest gifts of all Buddhism is the learning of generosity of spirit for without it Buddhism does not live. Gratitude for the teaching, generosity of the spirit to all, no matter what may or may not have happened, the recognition of the law of karma which is inexorable; over which neither I nor you nor anyone else in this world has power, the fact that the consequences of actions are the consequences thereof and that no living person has the right to heap coals on the fires of hell; just the red line, going on, going on from

yesterday to today and from today to tomorrow. To be a Buddhist is to keep the Precepts from one day to the next and make sure of the meaning of that keeping. It is to keep the red line strong, vibrant and flowing; one year to another, to another, on to eternity. Above all this year, let us learn generosity of spirit.

The keeping of the Precepts leads to peace within the heart, which leads to true joy, which leads to gratitude which is unbounded, which gives birth to generosity of spirit and generosity of spirit gives birth to absolute trust. Never be fearful. Hold the red line. Feel the water of the spirit pour through you; to everyone around you and back to the Buddha and round and through and on. Never let yourself become clogged with self, ideas and doubts, delusions; and above all, no matter what you witness or experience, always keep generosity of spirit before your eyes and in your heart.

Lecture, March 26, 1987; *The Journal of the Order of Buddhist Contemplatives*, Summer, 1988.



