Key terms in Mahayana Buddhism and Shin Buddhism

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blind passion | boundless compassion
foolish being | Amida Buddha
Namu | Amida Butsu
defiled world | Pure Land
samsara | nirvana
self-power | other-power

Shinran (1173-1262), contemporary of Dogen (1200-1253)
Founding figure of Shin Buddhism, which is a form of Pure Land Buddhism, and the largest sect of Japanese Buddhism.

Dogen: Celibate path of a monk living in a monastery, Eiheiji
Shinran: Lay path of a married man who taught along with his partner, Eshinni, among peasants and fishermen in the countryside.

Dogen: Focus on seated meditation in monastic practice
Shinran: Focus on chanting the Name of Amida among lay people

Foolish Being and Boundless Compassion

The Saying of the Name (Nembutsu):
Namu Amida Butsu, from the Sanskrit, Namô Amitâbha Buddha
Namo is from Namas, as in “Namaste”
“Amitâbha” is the Buddha of Infinite Light. However, the Buddha is a dynamic activity. Thus, Namu Amida Butsu, or Namô Amitâbha Buddha, means:
“I entrust myself to the awakening of infinite light”
“True entrusting” (Jpn. Shinjin) is very close to enlightenment

Nirvana | Parinirvana (final nirvana of the Buddha Sakyamuni)
True Entrusting | Birth (realization) of the Pure Land