



RADIANCE

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Nichiren Buddhist Kannon Temple of Nevada
1600 E. Sahara Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89104-3488
Tel/Fax: (702)866-5956
www.kannon-temple-nevada.org
kannontemplenv@gmail.com

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SACRED WORDS

A Bodhisattva-mahasattva who wishes to expound this sutra in the evil world after [my extinction] should practice four sets of things.

Lotus Sutra Ch. 14 - *Peaceful Practices*

COVID-19 Update

Good News! The State of Nevada is gradually lifting restrictions, therefore Kannon Temple will open for in-person service. We request that everyone gets vaccinated, wear a mask, bring their own DHARMA book, and social distance as much as possible. There will be no meal after service so please do not bring anything. Services will still be broadcasted online via **Zoom**. For those interested in participating, please contact the temple to obtain meeting ID and password. Donations can be made through **Zellepay.com** to: kannontemplenv@gmail.com.

Tastsunokuchi Persecution Service September 11th, **10:30 a.m.** (Sun)

The fourth of Four Major Persecutions in Nichiren Shonin's life. On the night of September 12, 1271, Nichiren was arrested and sentenced to be executed. Miraculously he escaped death when a "bright light" shot across the sky, frightening everyone. Later he was exiled to Sado Island instead, where he began composing some of his greatest treatises.

Please join us to commemorate this important event.

Autumn O-higan Service Sept. 18th, **10:30 a.m.** (Sun)

The autumn equinox is the time to commemorate our ancestors. This is the time of equal parts day and night, thus the veil for this world and the "other shore" is close. Our chanting of the Lotus Sutra and *Odaimoku* can readily reach our ancestors to help them reach enlightenment. Please join us for this special service by writing down your ancestor's names on the included form and send back to Kannon Temple with your donation.

Oeshiki Memorial Service Oct. 9th, **10:30 a.m.** (Sun)

On the morning of October 13, 1282, our founder Nichiren Shonin entered into *parinirvana* after spreading the teaching of the Lotus Sutra for many difficult years. We are holding the 741st Memorial Service for him. Let us join our hands together in *gassho* to show our appreciation towards him for the lessons that he has taught and the gift he has left, which is the *Odaimoku*.

Electronic Newsletter

If you wish to receive this bi-monthly newsletter electronically, please email temple with your request at kannontemplenv@gmail.com. We are in the process of moving many processes online, which will help reduce temple expense. If you have any questions, please contact the temple.

You Too Can Become a Teacher of the Dharma

Shoda Kanai

As we contemplate our practice, sometimes it is difficult to say that we too can become teachers. We may be unsure in our knowledge as the Lotus Sutra is very difficult. We may understand some concepts, but not others. Being unsure may cause us to be hesitant to ask questions or even answer questions from someone who may be curious. Do not worry! Even with "limited knowledge," we can still expound the Dharma to everyone.

As this month's Sacred Words states, there are four things that one must do spread the Dharma in the later age in which we live. They are:

- 1) Perform proper practice, approach proper things and expound the sutra to all living beings.
- 2) When expounding or reading the Lotus Sutra, one should not point out the faults of other persons or sutras, not despise other teachers, and speak to good or bad points of others.
- 3) Should not nurse jealousy against others, or flatter or deceive them. Do despise those who study the Way to Buddhahood in any way.
- 4) Should have great loving-kindness towards laypeople and monks, and great compassion towards those who are not Bodhisattvas.

These are four basic things for beginners to follow in preparation of becoming a teacher. Let us further expound each of the four things.

One, to perform proper practice, means to first calm the mind in order not to make rash decisions and to be patient and meek. To change our thinking to not be attached to anything. To approach proper things means to be careful of who you approach. Many times, the recipient is not ready to hear the Dharma, thus may be combative and off-putting. They may even influence you in your thinking, questioning your faith in the Dharma. That said, we must continue to expound the Dharma to everyone as the Teaching is meant for everyone. Just be cautious and start slow. ⇒

⇨ Two, it is easy to criticize others and their beliefs. Attacking someone is easier as this leads to quick gratification. We cannot think in this way and revel in feeling superior to other teachers. We can debate, but in a respectful manner. Do not get personal and only focus on ideas.

Three, to not be jealous, flatter or deceive others is to control our attitude. Again, it is easier to project our feelings onto others. Instead of reaching outwards, reach inward. How do we think? Do not let the surroundings dictate your attitude but rely on the Dharma. In a sense, do not worry about what others are doing and focus on how you can help them through the Dharma.

Four, everyone is on their own journey, navigating through their own path to Buddhahood. Many ignore this path, but that does not make it for us to criticize them for it. With our own compassion to everyone, we must realize this and act accordingly by showing them kindness and focusing on the benefits of following the Dharma. Even if they do not listen, their Buddha seed hears. We are helping “plant the seed of good” so that in the future everyone can seek out the Lotus Sutra.

Following these four things as a beginner will help one become a teacher. Buddha asked us to do five practices, keep, read, recite, expound, and copy the Lotus Sutra. Keep, read, recite, and copy one can do with relative ease. Expounding is the most difficult. With these Four Things, Buddha guides us to get started. As our knowledge and wisdom increase, so does our ability to expound the Dharma and be able to spread the Teaching to more and more people.

There are many ways to expound the Dharma. Everyone can quote sutras and push chanting *Odaimoku*. I think it will be more meaningful to others if you convey personal experience and personal understanding, even if limited. “Action speaks louder than words” so the saying goes. Live your life through the Lotus Sutra and people will recognize its Teachings.



New Building Fund commemorating the 800th Anniversary of Nichiren Shonin’s Birth

724 shakyo tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra offered, **24,420,000** times of Chanting *Odaimoku* offered, As of August 26, 2022

Thank you very much! Please continue your support.

From the High Desert, I Bring you Good News!

Jizo Bodhisattva

Shoda Kanai

Recently I had the chance to assist the Hawaii Mission with daily service and general upkeep. On the property, there is a big koi pond full of lotus blossoms and nice patch of green grass. As the temple is near the mountains, it squalls almost everyday. The nice misty air brings refreshment.

There is also a statue of Jizo Bodhisattva or Earth Store. While studying in Japan, I saw these statues everywhere, especially with red bibs tied around its neck. I loosely had an understanding but never really delved into who O-Jizo-sama was and his significance.

In Japan, O-Jizo-sama is mainly a protector of deceased children, thus the red bibs and sometimes a cap to keep warm. A special *mizuko* memorial service for deceased babies are sometimes held around the statue. It is said that he protects the newly deceased children in the spiritual realm from devils.

O-Jizo-sama is also a protector of travelers, thus many statues along trade routes. There were bandits everywhere, thus praying to O-Jizo-sama, he will come and protect you.

There are even special types of O-Jizo-sama, who has its own form that comes to assist us, just like Kannon Bodhisattva. Here are a few: helps with toothaches, rice farmers for their crops, wish granting, and Hawaii (guardian of fishermen and swimmers brought by the Isseis in late 1800s).

In your travels and you see O-Jizo-sama, please take time and place your hands together towards it and chant *Odaimoku* three times to pay homage.



EVENTS

September

- 4th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Monthly Kito Blessing
- 11th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. *Tatsunokuchi* Persecution Service
- 18th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Autumn *Ohigan* Memorial Service
- 25th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. *Shodai-gyo* (Chanting Meditation)

October

- 2nd (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Monthly Kito Blessing
- 9th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. *Oeshiki* Memorial Service
- 16th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. English Service
- 23rd (Sun) 10:00 a.m. *Shodai-gyo* (Chanting Meditation)
- 30th (Sun) **No Service** **5th Sunday**

*** Join in every Wednesday night at 6 p.m. for **Tea Time with a Priest** to have your questions answered. Email temple for zoom ID and password ***

*** Those interested in Study Class and/or Counseling, please contact the temple to make arrangements ***