




# RADIANCE

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September/October 2020

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## SACRED WORDS

*The Buddhas, the Leaders, expound the teaching of Nirvana  
In order to give a rest [to all living beings].  
When they see them having already had a rest,  
They lead them to the wisdom of the Buddha.*

*Lotus Sutra Ch. 7—The Parable of a Magic City*

### COVID-19 Update

With continued restrictions in place, Kannon Temple will remain closed due to continued safety of followers and social distancing rules. Services will still be broadcasted online on **zoom**. For those interested in participating, please contact the temple at: [kannontemplenv@gmail.com](mailto:kannontemplenv@gmail.com) to obtain meeting ID and password.

We have also created an electronic payment option in addition to check/cash. Please create a **venmo.com** account and send donation to: [@kannontemplenv](https://www.venmo.com/@kannontemplenv). Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

### **Tastunokuchi Persecution Service** September 13<sup>th</sup>, **10:30 a.m.** (Sun)

The fourth of Four Major Persecutions in St. Nichiren's life. On the night of September 12, 1271, St. Nichiren was arrested and sentenced for execution. 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 come join us to commemorate this important event.

### **Autumn O-higan Service** Sept. 20<sup>nd</sup>, **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. 11<sup>th</sup>, **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 739<sup>th</sup> 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*.

### *Nichiren Shu News*

In the past, many of you have been receiving hard copies of *Nichiren Shu News* paper along with this newsletter. Due to the current pandemic, physical copies cannot be delivered in time as the Japanese Post Office has suspended mail service to various destinations.

In lieu of the physical copy, please direct your attention to: <http://nichiren-shu.org/news/> to download or view the PDF version. Physical copies may resume once the pandemic subsides.

If you have any questions, please contact the temple.

### **What it Takes to Climb Mt. Everest** Shoda Douglas Kanai

With many months passed, I hope everyone is still staying safe during this COVID-19 pandemic. During this this time, I have been able to binge watch many shows. I have been able to catch up on many of the comedies, dramas, and historical documentaries that I have missed over these years. As such, my perusal landed on mountain climbing, especially trying to reach the peak of Mt. Everest.

Though it is now very commercialized and expensive, summiting Mt. Everest is one of many goals in people's life. It takes about 9 days hike just to reach base camp. Base camp is very important as the altitude is still very high that the body can maintain adaptability to the conditions. It is from here that climbers go on smaller excursions to further strengthen the body. It takes several weeks before the body is ready to finally push to the summit.

The difficulty of trying to reach the top of Mt. Everest reminded me of a certain parable in Ch. 7 of the Lotus Sutra. A clever and wise man created a "magic city" as a rest stop for the weary travelers who did not wish to continue along the dangerous road any further. This road was long and terrifying. People were fearful, grew weary, and needed to rest. No amount of encouragement was able to persuade the crowd to continue forward. Instead of forcing them along, the city was created for everyone to take a break.

Once the travelers were rested and peaceful, the clever man made the city disappear and told everyone that an even greater treasure, something even ⇒

⇐grander than the “magic city” lies ahead. Now everyone was ready to continue forward down the dangerous road and finally reach their destination.

In this parable, the clever man is Sakyamuni Buddha. The dangerous road represents the long and arduous path of our countless lives. Life can be challenging, and many may stop trying to reach the end, which is attaining Buddhahood. The people were not ready for the One Vehicle Teaching of Buddhahood, so it was split into three, thus, helping ease the minds of the people with something easily attainable, like the “magic city” along the road. This “magic city” represents nirvana. Here people could rest and enjoy themselves and no longer worry about the dangerous road. This place though was only temporary in order to prepare them for the journey ahead.

Just as trying to summit Mt. Everest cannot be done in a single attempt, it also must be split into sections for the safety of the climbers. Base camp is like the “magic city” as this is where everyone congregates and prepares for the continued journey. It is a place to rest the body and mind from the effects of low oxygen. The summit or Buddhahood is within reach, but without proper preparation of the body and mind, the journey will surely fail. Base camp/“magic city”/nirvana will ensure the proper training is completed before the final push.

About 4,000 people have summited Mt. Everest, thus exceedingly rare. Becoming a Buddha is rarer and even more challenging. This does not mean that it is impossible. The path is difficult, but there are way stations along the way where we can rest and further build our spiritual strength. We do not need to be afraid and continue to climb the mountain. We have the Lotus Sutra which are like extra oxygen tanks and the *Odaimoku* which gives us the strength to carry the tanks all the way to the top. Though we may be tired in body and mind, the Teachings of the Lotus Sutra will carry us all the way to the end and reach Buddhahood.

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**New Building Fund** commemorating the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Nichiren Shonin’s Birth

662 *shakyo* tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra offered, **23,770,000** times of Chanting *Odaimoku* offered, As of August 25, 2020

*Thank you very much! Please continue your support.*

*My View Point (As I heard and as I see)*

## American Phone Scam from Family Member in Distress?

Kumiko Kanai

The other day, I heard from a friend of mine who lives in Las Vegas (her American husband passed away and now lives alone).

With all the turmoil caused by COVID-19, she has been staying home more and more lately. With that, the phone calls have increased coming from all over the place. Then one day,

Scammer: “Hi, Grandma!”

Friend: “Hello!”

Scammer: “Grandma, how are you?”

Friend: “I’m fine.”

Scammer: “Grandma, I borrowed money from my friend, but I just can’t pay it back. So, can you help me?”

Friend: “I can hardly hear you. What is your name?”

Scammer: “Sean.”

Friend: “Sean? I think you have the wrong number, let me call you back.”

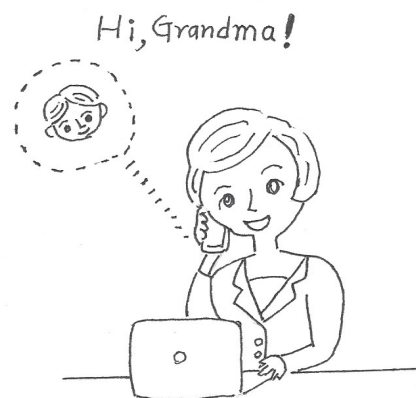
Then the scammer seems to have slammed the phone.

My friend felt that the voice on the phone sounded like an echo, and her grandson’s name was different, then she realized that it was a phone scam involving family members.

Of course, this conversation was in English because it happened in the U.S. It was not known where the call came from.

I advised her that when I added caller ID to my phone, I can see who is calling and those names I do not recognize, do not pick up the phone and let it go to voicemail. If someone wanted to talk to me, surely they would leave a message. She too, should get caller ID.

Everyone, please be careful about phone scams involving people impersonating one of your family members.



## EVENTS

(Services will be conducted online until it is safe for everyone to meet again)

<u>September</u>		<u>October</u>	
6 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing	4 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing
13 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Tatsunokuchi</i> Persecution Service	11 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Oeshiki</i> Memorial Service
20 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Autumn <i>Ohigan</i> Memorial Service	18 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	English Service
27 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)	25 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)

\*\*\* 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 \*\*\*