



RADIANCE

No. 46

July/August 2015

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SACRED WORDS

Generally speaking, there are too many references to the means of countering calamities and disasters in both Buddhists and non-Buddhist scriptures. They are too numerous to be mentioned here thoroughly. However, as I have often contemplated the matter in view of Buddhism, I have come to the conclusion that putting a ban on the slanders of the True Dharma, and esteeming highly the upholders of the True Dharma will lead to the tranquility of the nation and world peace.

Rissho Ankoku-Ron by Nichiren

***Obon* Mass Memorial Service**

10:30 a.m., July 12th (Sun)

Buddhism can save even the souls in hell. The *O'bon* memorial service originated with the story of Sakyamuni Buddha's disciple, Maudgalayana and his mother. She was saved from her incessant suffering from starvation in hell. While she was alive, she raised him to be superior in intellect over others, no matter the consequences. She was extremely self-centered toward her son which resulted in her falling into the hungry state of hell. The Buddha's advice was for him to serve food to one thousand monks in a monastery and request them to recite the Lotus Sutra and pray for her to attain the "Law of Cause and Effect" and to be repentant.

Please write your name and ancestors' on the enclosed prayer form and send it back to the Kannon Temple before July 12th with your donation. Together with the congregation, we will pray for your deceased loved ones and all hungry spirits in the hell stage.

Obon Cemetery and Home Visitations in Utah **August 21st - 23rd**

Mrs. Kumiko Kanai, Reverends Shokai and Douglas will make their annual visitation to the gravesites and homes of members in northern Utah such as Corinne, Ogden, Syracuse, and Salt Lake City. A detailed schedule will be mailed out later to those members.

Greetings!

Rev. Shoda Douglas Kanai

On June 7th, I was installed as the new head priest for Kannon Temple of Nevada. Along with the local congregation, many people from Japan came to join us in this special occasion. Thank you very much for your participation. They were the members from Shinnyo-ji Temple where I trained for the past three years, along with a group from a tea shop at Nakayama Hokekyo-ji Temple, where I completed my second 100 Days Aragyō Training. It was nice to see all of them again! Thank you for traveling a long distance just to be here and enjoy the hot and dry weather of Las Vegas!

Moving forward please be patient as I slowly re-adjust stateside. The 100 Days Aragyō Training has taken a toll on my body, even though I may not show it or feel it. I must rest and rejuvenate through summer. It is now well over 100

degrees here in Las Vegas so I have to be especially careful by staying hydrated. Going from extreme cold to extreme hot can cause serious harm.

During this “resting” time, I will begin to formulate my dreams and ideals for the coming future. First and foremost is to continue the work that my father has laid before me in creating a place for *peace of body, mind and soul*. Secondly, is to realize St. Nichiren’s goal of bringing the Lotus Sutra to the world, thus ensuring peace and harmony. Through his major treatise, *Rissho Ankokuron, Treatise on Spreading Peace throughout the Country by Establishing the True Dharma*, by truly believing in the Lotus Sutra, we can affect change in this world, by bringing calm instead of fighting, happiness instead of suffering. This world is the Buddha Land. We just need to realize as such. Thirdly, here are some of the ideas I am contemplating:

1. Incorporating more Japanese and

- English style chanting
2. Create lay leaders within Las Vegas congregation as well as develop lay leaders for NONA
 3. Explain many of the traditions and esoteric teachings within Nichiren Shu
 4. Eventually take over study classes (within the next five years)

My goal is to have everyone raise their awareness and begin to move out of the *Sravakabuddha* stage and into *Pratyekabuddha* stage and *Bodhisattva* state. If you do not understand these terms, do not worry. I will reveal them to you when the time is right.

In the coming months, I will be traveling to Japan to further my education in September. In October there are a couple of large



events in California and Utah that I will most likely attend. In November, we will have a special guest from Japan to teach us another aspect of Nichiren Shu. Then December is year end. So I will be quite busy for the rest of the year.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or comments, I have created a new email address: kannontemplenv@gmail.com that you can write to. I look forward to hearing from all of you.



Congratulatory Message

Rev. Kanju Ueda
Head Priest of Shinnyo-ji Temple, Osaka

I sincerely express my congratulations to Rev. and Mrs. Shokai Kanai, the members and friends of the Kannon Temple of Nevada for this Installation Ceremony welcoming Rev. Shoda Douglas Kanai.

Shoda Douglas Shonin! Your next step

starts now! As the head of this temple, you must assume the solemn responsibility that your father has planted seeds of the teachings of the Lotus Sutra and the O'Daimoku to this huge land of North America. You must begin planting the seeds of propagation now.

By the way, Nichiren Dai Shonin, the founder of the order, spent for over three years in exile on Sado Island. During that time he wrote many important treaties and Mandala Gohonzon.

You, Douglas Shoda Shonin spent a little over three years at my temple in a mountain in Nose, Osaka. During that time you have never left the mountain for personal matters. You had completed the 100 Days Aragyō twice with your big purpose to propagate the O'Daimoku to the entire lands of America. I trust you can do it not only in America but also around the world. It was the wish of our founder, Nichiren Dai' Shonin.

Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō



NONA Dharma Conference **(*Wasan and Shodai-gyo* Training)** **Nov. 21st (Sat) & 22nd (Sun)**

Kannon Temple of Nevada will be holding a study session November 21st and 22nd on *Wasan* and *Shodaigo*. We have invited Giko Tabata Shonin from Eisho-ji Temple, Aomori, Japan to lead us in both activities. He is well known in both fields. As this is a NONA event, it is open to everyone (ministers and lay people), so please make plans to attend. The registration fee is \$50. Transportation and accommodations are at your own expense. Those interested please contact the temple (702)866-5956 or via email kannontemplenv@gmail.com for further information.

New Building Fund **\$52,547.45**

437 offering of the tracing Chapter 25
1,470,000 times offering of Chanting Odaimoku

As of June 23, 2015

We deeply appreciate your support!

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

“Silver” Is Crying

Kumiko Kanai

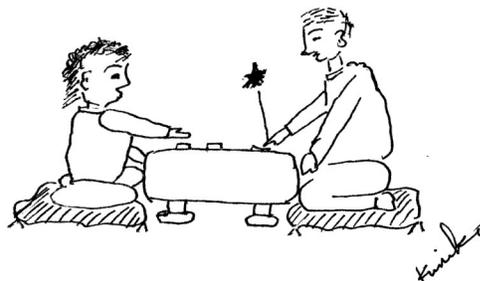
Sankichi Sakata was playing Japanese chess (*sho-gi*) in the back alleys of Osaka. He was known as a rebel among professional *shogi* players. He had toiled for ten hard years. He finally found a sponsor and had a chance to play against the number one player Mr. Sekine. If Mr. Sakata won, he would be champion, otherwise return to obscurity. He misplaced a “Silver” piece that could not go forward or backward on the *shogi* board. He regretted this move and said, “The *silver* is crying.” After three days he finally won the game.

The day before the tournament, it is said that he prayed very hard to the Deity Nose Myoken Bodhisattva by beating Odai-moku taiko, “I will win, Nose Myokensan!” The story was very famous and dramatized later, and also a song, “OH-SHOU”, was created and became very popular in Japan.

Myokensan in Nose, Osaka Prefecture enshrines that Deity Myoken, the symbol of the North Star, the king of the stars that controls one’s fortune and brings good fortune.

On June 7th, 17 people from nearby Shinnyo-ji Temple visited for Rev. Shoda Douglas Kanai’s Installation Ceremony to-

gether with 3 people from Gakudo, a tea shop on the pathway to Hokekyo-ji Temple where Shoda Shonin entered the 100 Days Aragyō.



Lotus Flower Blooms from its Good Root

Rev. Shokai Kanai

“Lotus, lotus, Grow in lively fashion and make flower bloom next year!” This is what I say to the lotus plant every morning.

Since I moved to Las Vegas, I have been trying to grow a lotus flower for the last eight years in this dry heat of the desert. Lotus brings beautiful flowers from the muddy pond. Kannon Temple of Nevada will bring beauty and purity to this sin city. “The flower may bloom next year.”

Since I cannot bring a lotus with established roots from out of state, I have tried to cultivate it from seeds. Until last year it was a failure because several leaves grew to the surface of the water in April and May, but they get sun-

burnt in early June when the temperature rose over 90 while humidity dipped down to the single digits. Fortunately this year, April and May were cooler than the other years. When the temperature went up over 100 degrees on May 5th, I made a special shelter with a sun-block cloth to cover the south and west sides, so the lotus only receives the morning sun. And I also covered the flower vases with heat insulation cloth. The stems and leaves have grown above the water for the first time in the last eight years of trying.

However, since the second week of June, the daytime temperature has kept over 100 degrees every day, so some of the leaves did get sun-burnt. So, on June 21st (the first day of summer), I move two of the vases to a bathroom. This is my first attempt in trying something different. The sun hits the lotus only in the mornings and evenings, while there should be enough moisture in the air. If the lotus keeps growing in this way, if the roots are able to sprout in the muddy soil, and if it survives this coming winter, the lotus flowers may bloom in next year.

Lotus flowers bloom from good roots. A huge tree is supported by strong and long roots under the soil, so it keeps standing even if a strong storm wind hits the tree for hundreds of years. On June 7th, Rev. Shoda Douglas took my place as the head priest of the Kannon Temple of Nevada. In order for him to help many people with the power of the Lotus Sutra and Odaimoku, I must strive to recite the sutra and chant the Sacred Title of the sutra day and night in order to establish strengthened roots of Odaimoku.

EVENTS

July

- 5th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Monthly *Kito* Blessing
- 12th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. *Obon* Mass Memorial Service
- 19th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. *Shodai-gyo* (Chanting and Meditation)
- 26th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Reading the Lotus Sutra (Chapter 9)

August

- 2nd (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Monthly *Kito* Blessing
- 9th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. *Shodai-gyo* (Chanting and Meditation)
- 16th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. English Service
- 23rd No Sunday Service (Visiting Members in Utah)
- 30th No Sunday Service (5th Sunday)

Kanai Family will visit the members' houses and cemeteries in northern Utah for *Obon* memorial services from August 21st to 23rd

Rev. Shokai Kanai will be a lecturer at *Shami* Seminar at NBIC from August 25th to 31st