




RADIANCE

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July/August 2020

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SACRED WORDS

I am a link in Lord Buddha's golden chain of love that stretches around the world. I must keep my link bright and strong. I will try to be kind and gentle to every living thing, and protect all who are weaker than myself. I will try to think pure and beautiful thoughts, to say pure and beautiful words, and to do pure and beautiful deeds, knowing that on what I do now depends my happiness and misery. May every link in Lord Buddha's golden chain of love become bright and strong, and may we all attain perfect peace.

Golden Chain

COVID-19 Update

Though some temples and churches have opened, 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 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.

Obon Memorial Service

July 19th, **10:30 a.m.** (Sun)

Buddhism can save all souls even those in hell. The *Obon* Memorial Service originated with the story from one of Sakyamuni Buddha's disciple, Maudgalayana, who saved his mother from her incessant suffering in the level of Hungry Ghost.

For the newly deceased, this will be their first *Obon* Memorial Service. We will create a special *Toba* (wooden tablet) with their name written on it and make special offerings to them. This is a special message to the deceased.

Please write your name and ancestors' on the enclosed prayer form and send it back to the Kannon Temple before July 19th with your donation. Together with the congregation, we will pray for your deceased loved ones and all hungry spirits in the lower realms.

Obon Cemetery and Home Visitations in Utah

Due to the ongoing pandemic, this year's visit has been cancelled. Instead, please fill out enclosed prayer form and send back to Kannon Temple. Join service online on **zoom** July 19th and let us all together chant for our ancestors.

Matsubagayatsu Persecution Service

Aug. 23rd, **10:30 a.m.** (Sun)

The first of four major persecutions in St. Nichiren's life. An angry mob tried to kill him and burned his hut down. According to legend, he was saved by a monkey.

Please come join us to commemorate this important event.

Heal the World

Shoda Douglas Kanai

On June 6th ~ 7th Japan Time, many priests and followers came together to chant *Odaimoku* for 24 hours on Facebook Live (please join the group "24 hours *Odaimoku* offering to heal the world" to help expand the reach of *Namu Myoho Renge Kyo* and view the videos). With the current climate with COVID-19 and unrest around the world, the world needs healing. Different temples chanted for one hour, with our Head Temple, Minobusan Kuonji Temple starting things off. For my hour, I included *Golden Chain* before chanting *Odaimoku* to help spread and familiarize these words to others around the world. Most followers outside of the U.S. are not familiar with these words.

Golden Chain is something that I remember reading since I was very little. I don't remember Salt Lake City as much, but I do remember reading this during Sunday School in Seattle. Every Sunday when we would read *Golden Chain*, it would leave an impression which had a lasting effect.

Each of us are a link and we are connected together in one giant chain. Some links are bright, others are dull, some are solid, while others are fractured. These links do not break apart or come part as some would think. What we can do is try to keep the link bright and strong. We accomplish this by following the Teachings of the Buddha. The compassion shown towards others is what truly makes the link shine. If one link shines, then we can get the next link to shine as well. This succession will make the entire chain shine, leading to peace for all.

I am reminded that my thoughts and actions will affect my happiness. Simple words of encouragement told to others will lift their spirits. Same goes if someone says something nice to me. We are not perfect and sometimes I do forget the words from *Golden Chain*, but when others show compassion towards me, I am reminded that they too are following the path and encouraging me along.

If I stray too far with negative and hurtful words, I can affect others in a bad way, which in turn hurts me. Sometimes it is easier to lash out in anger, but most times anger only brings more anger, forever spiraling downwards towards destruction. We have to be mindful of what we say and do. This is not easy but do little each day and next thing you know, right thought has become the norm.

The origins of *Golden Chain* come from Jodo ⇨

⇐Shin Shu (True Pure Land Sect), but that is OK. Just because teachings are from one sect or another does not preclude us from using it. There are many teachings from the Buddha that are not necessarily from the Lotus Sutra or St. Nichiren. Just think of it as another expedient teaching to help better understand ourselves and actions that we need to take.

Going forward, work on brightening your link first. Dirty water does not wash away the grime, only clean water can. We can accomplish this by daily reading and chanting of the Lotus Sutra and *Odaimoku*. If need be, do water purification ritual to purify your mind (if you are interested on how to do water purification contact the temple). As we develop our understanding of Buddha's Teaching we are gradually becoming Buddha ourselves.

With our link strong, we can help others. People are searching for some truth. Many have heard Buddha's Teaching briefly and are drawn to it. There are many websites on Buddhism that can help teach, but as St. Nichiren said in *Shohō Jissō Shō*, "Without practice and learning Buddhism will cease to exist. Endeavor yourself and cause others to practice these two ways of practice and learning." Websites can grow our knowledge, but true practice can only be taught person to person. Be an example and show others how to practice Buddhism. To start, use the *Golden Chain* as a simple guide to follow and share. *Odaimoku* is another simple practice that is easy to share. Then gradually expand your teaching. If stuck, introduce them to the temple so that they can obtain further instructions.

We can heal the world one link at a time. If we can get everyone to understand that we are all connected together, then we will all start to figure out that we cannot be hateful towards another. This anger will only dull and weaken the link. The Three Poisons of anger, greed, and ignorance only hinders our progress. Most people do not want to face their true self, thus lash out and create false narratives. With our bright and strong link, we can hold the chain together and make sure that the parts that are failing can repair with our kind words and help them realize the compassion of the Buddha is shown to every living being.

New Building Fund commemorating the 800th Anniversary of St. Nichiren's Birth

649 shakyo tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra offered, **23,730,000** times of Chanting *Odaimoku* offered, As of June 25, 2020

Thank you very much! Please continue your support.

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

Thanks to that Smile

Kumiko Kanai

I heard a wonderful story when the world was panicking about COVID-19.

There is an ironsmith who believed that he could easily replicate his master's handiwork. However, the iron pots and pans that he made displayed in their showroom, did not sell. About five years later, the shop informed him that his pot had finally sold.

He rushed from the factory in back to the shop and caught up with the customer just as he was walking out.

Ironsmith(I): "Excuse me customer..."

Customer(C): "Huh?"

I: "That pot was made by me."

C: "What?"

I: "That's the first time my pot was sold. Thank you very much for buying it. I am so happy!"

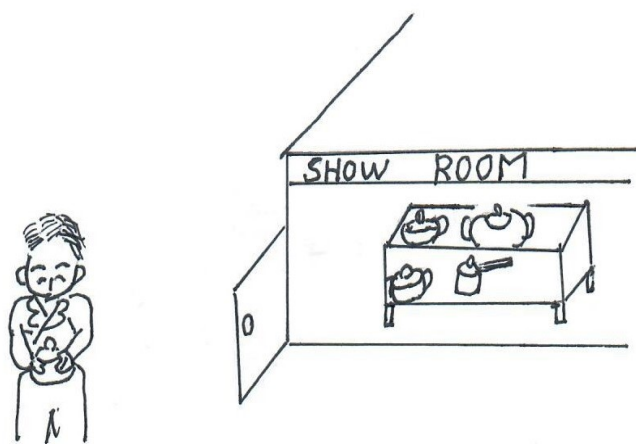
C: "Did you make this?"

I: "Yes. It took me five years to sell my first one."

C: "Is that so. I will use this pot carefully." As he replied with a huge smile.

After that, when he was not feeling well, not able to create good product, and when he was worried that this job was not suitable for him, he remembered the smile of the customer who bought his first pot. If he made good products, the customers will be happy, thus he would have to put in more effort. Then he concentrated on making pots that will be appreciated, be displayed in the showroom, and finally be sold.

This is a story of a smile that a customer gave to encourage an ironsmith.



EVENTS

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

<u>July</u>		<u>August</u>	
5 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing	2 nd (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing
12 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	English Service	9 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	English Service
19 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Obon</i> Memorial Service	16 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)
26 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)	23 rd (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Matsubagayatsu</i> Persecution
		30 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)

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