




RADIANCE

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September/October 2021

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SACRED WORDS

*Ignorant people will speak ill of us.
Abuse us, and threaten us,
With swords or sticks.
But we will endure all this.*

Lotus Sutra Ch. 13—*Encouragement for Keeping this Sutra*

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 at: kannontemplenv@gmail.com to obtain meeting ID and password. Donations can be made through [venmo.com](https://www.venmo.com/@kannontemplenv) to: [@kannontemplenv](https://www.venmo.com/@kannontemplenv).

Tastunokuchi Persecution Service September 12th, **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. 19th, **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. 10th, **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 740th 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.

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.

Angry People

Shoda Douglas Kanai

The other day, I received a phone call from an older lady asking if someone at this temple could give her a ride to the bank and grocery store. She used to belong to a different sect and thought that we offered this kind of service (for people without transportation, a volunteer would pick people up to take them to meetings). I do not know this lady; well I sort of do. She called about a year ago, which I will explain later.

I returned the phone call and mentioned that due to the current pandemic, no one could assist her. As soon as I mentioned COVID, she flipped and started to lecture me on the falseness of COVID and how it was all fake. Again, the vileness from her voice came through. She mentioned that she is "smart" that she was tested at IQ level of 333, with genius starting at 300 (this thought is delusional, average score for IQ is 100, with genius starting at 140). That she went to the top prep school in the nation, that she was part of a ballerina troupe second only to the New York Ballet. I tried to get a word in, but she kept on espousing vitriol. She chastised me for believing in "non-sense" and that she knows all this because she is "smart" and I am "dumb." Then she hung up.

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⇐ Ten minutes go by, and she calls back again. I could have let it go to voice mail but decided to hear what she had to say. Supposedly she was a “massage therapist” working at various Las Vegas Strip casinos, which required at least two separate background and fingerprint checks. Medical knowledge was required. Because of this background, she was an “expert” and could properly diagnose the current situation. She remember that we talked previously (I was going to go to her apartment to chant with her, but as soon as I mention that you do not need a Gohonzon to practice, she erupted saying the same things about IQ and such and that she does not need anyone telling her how to chant and that she has been doing this for a long time. The hate coming through the phone was nothing that I have ever experienced before), called me a name, and then hung up.

No one likes to be yelled at, especially when anger and hostility coming through the phone. I had to hold the phone away from my ear so that the negativity would not reach my brain. I could have easily returned her comments with the truth, which would only cause more anger from her. Some people are extremely closed minded that other viewpoints will not be accepted. I just let her vent, as I feel sorry for her and her mental condition. I said a quick prayer for her.

I see that people are suffering. They are not happy with their condition in life, as the Three Poisons (greed, anger, ignorance) has captured them. They create illusions as a coping mechanism to be in control. There is a tendency to feel superior when one has “secret knowledge” thus making them feel “special.”

Reason may not change angry people’s minds. What can change is that you continue your practice and incorporate the *Odaimoku* into your body. What happens is a transformation within you that creates an aura of peace and tranquility. Your aura can affect others, just like how the Buddha was able to calm an angry elephant charging at him. Your calm demeanor can influence the environment around you, affecting those within reach.

There will always be angry people. Do not fall into their traps and be consumed by the Three Poisons. The more you practice and let the *Odaimoku* permeate throughout your body, you will be able to deflect the poisonous arrows. Your wisdom will grow and soon be able to think and act just like a Buddha.

From the High Desert, I Bring you Good News!

Gardening in Las Vegas

Shoda Kanai

When my father was in Las Vegas, he would always be in the garden trying to grow lotus from seeds, various vegetables, and bought a lemon and plum tree. He was very proud of the vegetables and fruits that came from the garden and would always offer to the altar before eating. It is amazing what kind of vegetables can be grown in this heat!

When I moved to my new place, the previous owner had a very large fig tree, which yielded two harvests, one in June and one in August. I had plenty of figs which I gave away to various friends. I thought that I would try growing vegetables on my own, but without success. The poor soil and lack of shade made things difficult.

After visiting a member’s house and seeing the use of large pots that could be move out of the hot summer sun, I copied that idea and tried planting seeds in various pots, but with few successes. Buds will emerge but would not grow any further. Green onion was easy, and I must have planted large roots, which you can see the results in the picture. I have never seen green onion grow so large!

My greatest success though is in growing basil. For some reason, from seed to plant has provided me with plenty of leaves. It has endured the hot summer heat. I now have plenty of homemade pesto sauce to use!

Growing season is over, but I will continue to plan, research, and try to get a vegetable garden growing for next season. I may start with a starter plant next year so that I do not have worry about growing from seeds. Stay tuned and I will inform you of my success and/or failures.



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

705 *shakyo* tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra offered, **24,150,000** times of Chanting *Odaimoku* offered, As of August 24, 2021

Thank you very much! Please continue your support.

EVENTS

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

<u>September</u>		<u>October</u>	
5 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly Kito Blessing	3 rd (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing
12 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Tatsunokuchi</i> Persecution Service	10 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Oeshiki</i> Memorial Service
19 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Autumn <i>Ohigan</i> Memorial Service	17 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)	24 th (Sun) No Service	Instructor @ HI Mission Retreat
		31 st (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	English Service

● Shoda Kanai Shonin in Hawaii as Guest Instructor for Lay Leader Retreat—10/21~25

*** 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 ***