



RADIANCE

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May/June 2016

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SACRED WORDS

Their minds will become pure, clear, keen and undefiled. They will be able to recognize with their wonderful minds, The superior, mean, and inferior teachings. When they hear even a gatha [of this sutra], They will be able to understand, The innumerable meanings of [this sutra].

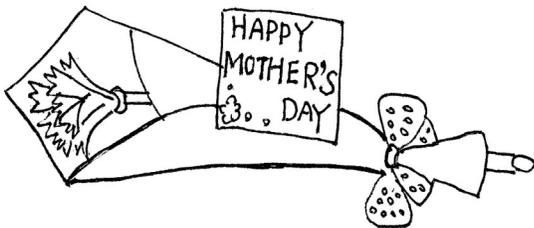
Lotus Sutra, Chapter XIX—The Merits of the Teacher of the Dharma (p. 289)

Izu Persecution and Mother's Day Service May 8th, 10:30 a.m. (Sun)

On May 12, 1261 St. Nichiren was arrested and exiled to Izu Peninsula for disrupting the government. Instead of being dropped off on land, he was left on a rock in the bay. As the water rose, he was saved by a fisherman.

This event is considered the second of four major persecutions. St. Nichiren realized that he was living the Lotus Sutra. Let us commemorate this occasion so that we too can live the Lotus Sutra.

This year also commemorates the 750th memorial anniversary of St. Nichiren's mother, *Myoren*. The grand service will be held in September at Myorenji Temple in Chiba Prefecture. St. Nichiren always stressed filial piety and to show gratitude towards ones parents. Let us also show our respect to our parents, especially to all mothers on her special day. And let us not forget our fathers on Fathers Day, June 19th.



Memorial Day Service at the Veterans Cemetery May 30th, 11:00 a.m. (Mon)

May 30th is Memorial Day! This is the day for all Americans to show their respect and appreciation to all soldiers who sacrificed their lives for this country. The Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery is in Boulder City, southeast of Las Vegas. There are several people who are buried there related to our members of Kannon Temple. Rev. Shokai Kanai will visit each one of their tombs to say prayer starting at 11 a.m. If you can make time, please come to the cemetery and meet him to pray together.

Garage Sale Postponed

We were tentatively scheduled to hold a garage sale to help the Building Fund in May but due to heavy travel schedule, this event will be postponed. A future date has yet to be determined. If you have items to donate, you can drop them off at the temple any time. Please call ahead to make proper arrangements.

The Right Path through the Forest

Rev. Shoda Douglas Kanai

When I meet new people who are interested in Buddhism, I always tell them that Buddhism is not a religion but more a philosophy. The Buddha revealed the profound truth that we all can become Buddhas like himself, so that we can end the cycle of births and deaths accumulated from our evil karma. Buddha never forced anyone to follow his teaching. He laid out a path through the forest and it is up to us to follow that path. Most of the time it seems like we are lost in the forest, getting tied up in the brushes and branches. Salvation is near but also fleeting.

How do we find that path? Buddha will not come down and scoop us up and place us on that path. Only our own effort and realization (awakening) will put ourselves on the path. We do have an advantage though. Since you are reading my message, you are already on the path. By having previously been introduced to the Lotus Sutra and the *Odaimoku, Namu Myoho Renge Kyo*, you are well on your way to enlightenment and becoming a Buddha. Now the next goal is to stay on the path and not get side-tracked and get lost in the forest. With all the demands and stresses of this world, we tend to lose sight of what is important and concentrate on the material world instead of our spiritual well-being. By continuing to chant the *Odaimoku*, the deities and guardian angels will come and keep us on the right path.

Every day we should strive to be better than yesterday. Are we following the Six Paramitas of generosity, discipline, patience, endeavor, meditation and wisdom? After all we are bodhisattvas, here to help others reach their potential and realize their Buddha nature. But before we can help others we must help ourselves. Try incorporating daily morning service and chant *Odaimoku* all throughout the day. Silent meditation helps calm the mind when stressed. Remember to breathe in deeply and exhale deeply. Attend study class to increase your wisdom. Always ask questions no matter how mundane to the priest as he is a trail guide and will keep you on the path.

Continue to keep, read, recite, expound and copy the Lotus Sutra so that we may stay on the righteous path. This will give us strength and ability to help ourselves and others. At times we may need to go into the forest to find those who are lost and guide them towards the path. Some are ready to learn but have no guidance. The rest may not be willing to listen but that is ok. Everyone's understand level is different. Just by talking to them about their Buddha nature will implant the introduction or re-introduction of the Lotus Sutra so that maybe later in life or in another life, that introduction to the Lotus Sutra will be to blossom and they will be drawn to the *Odaimoku*. Peace on Earth will prevail when we all chant *Namu Myoho Renge Kyo*.

My View Point (As I heard and as I see)
Unseasonal Bloom of Chrysanthemum
 Kumiko Kanai

At the fall *Higan* Memorial Service last September, we offered two potted chrysanthemums. After the service, I cut two stems and place them into a small bamboo basket flower vase in an alcove in my home.

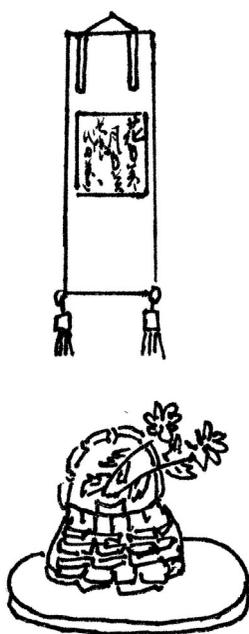
This bamboo basket was a gift from a friend when I visited Japan last May. It is said that the Japanese bamboo cultivated in cold winter and hot summer has good quality in elastic force, especially those from Kyoto. I kept adding water even after the flowers were gone because the leaves kept fresh. I talked to the chrysanthemums when I give water.

During the spring *Higan* season last month, I was surprised to see many tiny roots coming out from the stems soaked in the water. So I planted the stems in a pot outside.

A tiny bud began to grow; in April two tiny flowers started blooming. The cute chrysanthemum flowers filled my heart with joy.

“Thank you, flower for blooming!” I said.

By the way, the Inventor King, Edison used the bamboo from Kyoto for filament of incandescent electric lamps. So as I read.



New Building Fund commemorating the Nichiren’s 800th Anniversary of Birth
\$73,859.13

452 *shakyo* tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra offered, 16,290,000 times of Chanting *Odaimoku* offered, As of April 18, 2016

Thank you very much! Please continue your support.

Promote Your Good Health and Upgrading Your Soul with Great Universal Energy

Rev. Shokai Kanai

I would like to share what I am doing early in the morning almost every day. I place my palms together in *gassho*. The right palm is my father while the left is mother. The father and the mother come together, I was born. “Thank you, Mother and Father! Namu Myoho Renge Kyo.” I chant it once.

Then I bring my right palm to the side of my body. The palm is facing up with a form of a satellite dish and imagine that the palm is receiving the abundant energy from the father universe while my left palm facing down in the form of satellite at my left side of my body and receiving the great energy from the mother earth. I feel ticklish in both of my palms. Then put both palms together in *gassho*.

This time I think the right palm is high pressure while the left is low pressure. When H and L meets, rain falls. The rain water washes off all dirt and purifies everything. With the *gassho* pose, I rub my palms vigorously 36 times (a circle has 360 degrees meaning perfect and harmony).

Then, I image that I am holding a balloon filled with air between my both palms. Try push it in and out! I feel something going on between both palms. This is my healing energy.

Bring my palms wider while feeling the energy and spread them to the sides of my body. Bring the energized palms up to the sides of your head but not touching any parts of my body. I say, “Cleanse and purify my head.” Repeat it to all parts of your body such as “Cleanse and purify my eyes, cleanse and purify my ears.” Continue to do so to the nose, mouth, face, throat, neck, shoulders, upper arms, elbows, wrists, fingers, finger nails so on all the way to the soles of my feet. Cleanse and purify even my organs, blood vessels, bones and so forth.

After I cleanse and purify whole parts of my body, appreciate all of them this time with hand-healing therapy. “Thank you my head, thank you my brain, thank you my skeleton, ...” Continue to do so all the way to your toes.

After this energy build-up exercise, I pray for others by sending this universal energy to them by imagination. It is the theory of the “Three Thousand Worlds Exist in One’s Thought.”

If you would like to do this exercise, send your energy to your family and friends. The more you pray and send the energy to someone else, the more you feel happy!

EVENTS

<u>May</u>		<u>June</u>	
1 st (Sun)10:30 a.m.	Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing	5 th (Sun)10:30 a.m.	Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing
8 th (Sun)10:30 a.m.	Izu Persecution & Mother’s Day	11 th (Sat)10:30 a.m.	Deity Daikoku Blessing
15 th (Sun)10:30 a.m.	English Service (Chapter 15)	12 th (Sun)10:30 a.m.	Japanese Service
22 th (Sun)10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)	19 th (Sun)10:30 a.m.	English Service (Chapter 16)
29 th (Sun) No Service	5 th Sunday	26 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)
30 th (Mon)11:00 a.m.	Cemetery Visit in Boulder City		

- Rev. Shokai & Kumiko Kanai will be traveling to Japan 5/9 ~ 18
- Rev. Shoda Kanai will be traveling to Japan for the International Priest Conference 5/23 ~ 6/7

*** Those interested in Study Class & Counseling, please contact the temple to make arrangements ***