

# RADIANCE

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**Nichiren Buddhist Kannon Temple of Nevada**  
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## **Honorable Archbishop Nisso Uchino's MESSAGE at the Grand Ceremony**

(100th Anniversary of North America Mission)

I am greatly honored and grateful to have officiated at the Grand Memorial Ceremony celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Nichiren Order of North America. It is undeniable that there was a hard time between USA and Japan in the past. Thinking over how many hardships the ministers and members had to go through in those days, I can hardly keep the tears from coming to my eyes.

100 years have passed since ministers, including Ven. Nichimyo Asahi, founder of the Los Angeles Beikoku Betsuin, who came all the way from Japan to North America according as Our Founder Nichiren Shonin made a great vow - to spread the Wonderful Dharma throughout the world as the light in the delusion and darkness shining in the Latter Age of Degeneration.

Those ministers and devotees who gave their whole hearts to spreading the Dharma are to be called "bodhisattvas from underground." The history of Nichiren Order of North America began early in the 20th century, when a temporary inauguration ceremony was held in a small hotel room of Los Angeles. Soon afterwards they had the opening ceremony of the Los Angeles Nichiren Buddhist Temple by enshrining the great Mandala written by Ven. Nichimyo Asahi at a rental house. Further hardships came over; due to the World War II, Japanese Americans were put into custody and temples shut down with their property confiscated. They had to endure the unendurable throughout their history.

We, as a Nichiren Shu Buddhist, must not forget that it is our duty to pass on to the next generation the history of the North America Mission, in which ministers along with their followers have experienced many, many difficulties.

In the Lotus Sutra there are bodhisattvas as many as the sand of 60,000 Ganges Rivers emerging from underground. It was to these bodhisattvas that the Buddha entrusted spreading the Dharma

in the Latter Age of Degeneration. They had four leaders: Superior Practice, Limitless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadily Established Practice. Nichiren Shonin believed himself to be an incarnation of the Superior Practice Bodhisattva.

As the disciples of Nichiren Shonin, who devoted his life to spreading the Lotus Sutra, we should be well aware that we each are ‘bodhisattvas as many as the sand of 60,000 Ganges Rivers.’

I sincerely hope that all of you here today will find that you are the bodhisattvas from underground who can always strive to spread the Lotus Sutra in one mind with others, in order to spread peace in the country by establishing the true Dharma, namely for the realization of the Buddha Land in this world.

In closing, I truly pay respect to the great achievements ministers and devotees made in the past in North America, wishing that everyone present here today will be able to keep a faith devotedly in the Lotus Sutra, and that the eternal peace will come to both countries, USA and Japan, as well as the whole world.

Namu Myoho Renge Kyo

Honorable Rev. Nisso Uchino  
Archbishop of Nichiren Shu  
Chief Abbot of Minobusan Kuonji Temple

### **Quick Report:**

**“Archbishop Nisso Uchino has safely returned to Japan!” was a message from Shumuin on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. The next day Rev. Takano, who was the leader of the entourage, told the Bishop by phone, “Archbishop Uchino returned to Minobusan Kuonji Temple safely and in good health. He gave his best regards to everyone who attended the Banquet and the Grand Ceremony.”**

## **Kannon Temple Contributes to Las Vegas Economy Rev. Shokai Kanai**

Archbishop Nisso Uchino visited our temple with his entourage on June 30<sup>th</sup> after the Grand Ceremony of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the Los Angeles Nichiren Buddhist Temple. Due to his busy schedule, they returned to Los Angeles on the same day.

In addition 151 people in eleven separate groups have visited our temple in Las Vegas from

June 25<sup>th</sup> to July 2<sup>nd</sup> and stayed one, two, or three nights at various hotels. They visited National and/or State Parks near Las Vegas and enjoyed shows, shopping and dining. I realized the existence of our temple contributed to Las Vegas economy with these people's visits to the temple. We will continue to contribute to the community physically, financially, and spiritually in the future.

***Obon* Mass Memorial Service  
& Offertory to Hungry Spirits  
10:30 a.m., July 20<sup>th</sup> (Sun)**

The *Obon* Mass Memorial Service originated as the salvation for Maudgalayana's mother who was in hell with extreme hunger.

Please write your name and ancestors' names on the enclosed prayer form and send it back before July 20<sup>th</sup> with your donation. Together with you, we will pray for your ancestors and all hungry spirits in the hell stage of the Ten Realms.

***Obon* Cemetery and Home Visitation in Utah  
On August 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>**

Rev. and Mrs. Shokai Kanai will make their yearly visitation to the gravesites and homes of members in northern Utah such as Salt Lake City, Ogden, Syracuse, and Corinne. A detailed schedule is enclosed for the members in Utah.

My View Point (As I head and as I read)

**Crystal and Rainbow Reflection**

Kumiko Kanai

We hung crystal balls by the windows in living room, office, and master bedroom. On a nice sun shining days the rainbow colors reflect all over the rooms and purify our rooms, and I feel full of energy. The more lead contained crystal reflects the more beautiful colors.

I am fond of the crystal, so I buy and collect many items. Some of them were given to me. When I open up a box of crystal and place it under the sunshine, it shows shining wonderful colors and energy. I wonder tirelessly myself watching the reflections.

## HELLO FROM JAPAN #14

Rev. Shoda Douglas Kanai

As part of my duties in helping out at Shinnyoji Temple, I am assigned certain days to go to “*Okunoin*” or “inner hall”. All major temples have *Okunoin* which is usually located higher in the mountains (if the temple is in the mountains) or tucked a few blocks away (if in the city). *Okunoin* is usually smaller in nature and may not be as ornate as the main temple hall. This is because *Okunoin* serves as a place where more devout followers can go and have a greater religious experience. For most people it is as hassle going to *Okunoin* as the traveling path may be difficult, such as a rigorous mountain trail. People who on a whim try to ascend to *Okunoin* may regret it later as they were not prepared for such a journey. It could be dangerous and they may get hurt. Because of the difficulty in nature of reaching *Okunoin*, many followers gain more spiritual insight by making this journey. It is a way to cleanse their soul.

Speaking about cleansing oneself, do you enjoy cleaning your house? Your car? Your bathroom? Any public bathroom? What about daily shower/bath? I am sure many of you will say yes, but deep down inside are thinking that cleaning is a nuisance. It is a chore that just does not want to be completed. Well, I am going to convince you that cleaning is not a chore but a very wonderful and joyous experience! It is your attitude toward the task that needs to change. If you view cleaning from a different perspective, I believe that you will, as I do, enjoy cleaning.

As *Okunoin* is up in the mountains and surrounded by many, many trees, leaves are constantly falling. If no one rakes the leaves then *Okunoin* will be buried and lost to the wilderness. So most of the time, I am there raking leaves, sweeping the steep steps and cleaning inside of the halls. This is so that when followers come, they will have a clear path to move about. What do I see before I start? I see clutter, piles of leaves everywhere. What do I see when I finished? A spotless ground. There is a sense of calmness and beauty when I remove the clutter.

This is the same with your mind. Every day you are bombarded with an overload of information and stress. Your mind is like the ground full of leaves, all clutter. But when you remove the clutter, you will have peace of mind. Zen gardens are known for its beauty and serenity. Though it is a nice focal point in meditation, if your mind is cluttered, you cannot enjoy the beauty and serenity. What you need to do is actually create the beautiful garden. By cleaning your house, bathroom, wherever, you are physically doing an activity that in a sense is cleaning your mind. As you are washing away the grime, you are washing away your bad karma and negative thoughts. The key is while you are cleaning, not to think about anything, just do. Concentrate on the movement of the arms and hands. Eventually you will find that this is another form of mediation. Part of being a bodhisattva is Action. Only you can make yourself better. Others may give you advice, but they will not elevate you. You have to do it yourself. Thus looking at the zen garden is wonderful, but if you do not create your own zen garden, then that image is just a mirage.

So the next time you feel like you do not wish to clean, know that your mind will always stay cluttered, creating more bad karma lead to horrible situations. To avoid this situation, think “I must do sweep and clean, sweep and clean.” You will soon realize as you are doing, you will have greater insight. This action will lead to attainment of Buddhahood that much quicker.

## EVENTS

### July

- 6<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Monthly *Kito* Blessing  
13<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m. No Service Because Rev. visits Seattle for *Obon* Memorial Service  
20<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m. *Obon* Mass Memorial Service  
27<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Reading the Lotus Sutra Chapter 3

### August

- 3<sup>rd</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Monthly *Kito* Blessing  
10<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m. No Service Because Rev. visits Utah for *Obon* Memorial Service  
17<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m. *Shodai-gy* ( Chanting and Meditation)  
24<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Reading the Lotus Sutra Chapter 4  
31<sup>st</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m. No Service because of the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday

### Study Class

- Monday 5:00 p.m. Q & A on Buddhism  
Tuesday 5:00 p.m. Japanese Class  
Wednesday 10:30 a.m. Q & A on Buddhism  
Wednesday 4:30 p.m. Introduction to the Lotus Sutra  
Thursday 1:00 a.m. Introduction to the Lotus Sutra

