

# RADIANCE

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## SACRED WORDS

When all the people under heaven and the various schools of Buddhism are all converted to the one and true vehicle, and when only the Lotus Sutra flourishes and all the people recited “Namu Myoho Renge Kyo,” in unison, the howling wind will not blow on the branches, falling rain will not erode the soil, and the world will become as good as during the reigns of the Chinese Emperors Fu-hsi and Shen-nung. You will see that such times will come when calamities cease to exist, people live long, men and their faith become eternal, and there is no doubt about the tranquility of life.

Nichiren – *Nyosetsu Shugyo Sho*

## *Higan* Memorial Service

The week of autumnal equinox is called *Higan* week. *Higan* means to cross to the other shore, to the peace and tranquility of the Buddha Land, away from this material world of suffering. It is a time again for you to visit your temple and to hold a memorial service paying your respect to your ancestors. Please write your name and ancestors’ names on the enclosed prayer form and send it back to the temple with your donation. We read the Lotus Sutra and chant the Sacred Title of the sutra to attain Buddhahood for all.

# The Lotus Sutra and Nichiren (No.5)

Rev. Shokai Kanai

*(Continued from the Last Issue)*

## **Odaimoku Spreaded around the World**

While Nichiren was in Sado, the Kamakura government was in dreadful turmoil with civil war brewing amongst the Hojo clan and an unprecedented foreign attack threat from the Mongolians as predicted in *Rissho Ankoku Ron*. So the government needed Nichiren's help and called the exiled priest back to the political capital of Japan. This was a great chance for Nichiren to convince the government towards righteousness. But the authorities were only interested in the timing of the Mongolian invasion. He answered, "Within a year!" As he predicted, seven months later in November 1274, the Mongolians began to invade the islands of southwest Japan and Kyushu.

Since this was his third petition and was not accepted, Nichiren decided to stay away from Kamakura and went into the deep mountains of Minobu (Present Yamanashi Prefecture). There he dedicated himself to educate his disciples and followers around the country. He wrote several important documents and sent hundreds of letters to them. Many of these letters still exist today. His disciples and followers spread the Odaimoku and the teachings of the Lotus Sutra to their local people.

His major wish was that all people around the world chant "Namu Myo-Ho Ren-Ge Kyo" in unison, then the howling wind will not blow on the branches, falling rain will not erode the soil, and the world will be peaceful. You will see that such time will come when calamities cease to exist, people live long, men and their faith become eternal, there is no doubt about the tranquility of life.

The teachings of Sakyamuni Buddha traveled to the Far East and finally to Japan. Nichiren's teachings were condensed in the sacred title of the Lotus Sutra, "Namu Myo-Ho Ren-Ge Kyo." He predicted the Odaimoku as a simple practice that will be brought back to India, where Buddhism started, and then it would spread all over the world. Thus we are able to chant it now.

## Seven Million Times Odaimoku Chanting

There are many benefits when you chant “Namu Myo-Ho-Ren-Ge-Kyo.” You will be grateful to offer, will follow the rules and laws, will be patient, will continue to endeavor, will have a calm mind (no anger), and periodically will have wisdom.

On April 1, 2010, Rev. Shokai Kanai decided to chant the Sacred Title of the Lotus Sutra, one million times, but with other people’s help. One and a half years have passed since then, and 4,800,000 times have been chanted among many followers and supporters of the Kannon Temple of Nevada.

We wish to buy an existing building in a commercial zone and to remodel it for Kannon Temple by early summer. He wishes, by this time, 7 million times Odaimoku chanting will be accomplished with your help. Your help will be greatly appreciated. Please fill out the Odaimoku Sheet and send it back to Nichiren Buddhist Kannon Temple of Nevada. He will send a certificate to you.

### A Point of View

## “Do You Want More Tea”

Kumiko Kanai

Rev. Kanai and I went to Utah for Obon Memorial Visitation to the members’ houses and cemeteries from August 19th to 22nd. It was the first time for me since 2006.

We drove for 8 hours on I-15 North from Las Vegas to Riverdale (30 miles north of Salt Lake City). On the way we passed through Arizona with landscape of red rocks like Grand Canyon and crossed into Utah which had wide fields.

In Utah we visited members in Corinne, Beaver City, Willard, Roy, Syracuse, and Salt Lake City. We also visited 6 different cemeteries and prayed for those who gave us their favor and showed our appreciation.

During the 1970s when we still lived in Salt Lake City, our three sons were born there. Our female doctor’s mother delivered *futomaki* or a fat *norimaki* sushi to celebrate each baby’s birth. Of course we showed our respect to her in front of her tombstone.

Such memories passed before our eyes.

At one of the houses after the service, we enjoyed lunch. When it was about time to leave, a six year old girl approached me and asked me, “Do you want more tea?” “Yes, please!” She poured the tea into my cup. I enjoyed her thoughtful tea.

## ***Toro-Nagashi* at Sunset Park**

During the early evening of Saturday August 6th, a small group gathered to remember all the victims of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This is the second annual event sponsored by The Atomic Testing Museum here in Las Vegas. With the help of a local Boy Scout troop, many lanterns were sent afloat. Too bad it was windy, as the train of lanterns stayed close to shore. It was a pleasure to read all the wishes written by children. Let us all remember the tragedy and pray for all the souls so that they may rest in peace on lotus petals with the Buddha.

## **Five Hundred Thousand Billion Nayuta Asamkhya Worlds**

Rev. Douglas Shoda Kanai

The other day, I attended a lecture which talked about the sizes of the galaxies and the distances involved. The nearest star is Proxima Centauri along with Alpha Centauri A and B. From the earth, the distance is only 4.3 light years away or 6 trillion miles. To reach this star with current technology, it will take over tens of thousands of years. If we were able to reach 99% of the speed of light, due to Einstein's Theory of Relativity, as we travel closer to the speed of light, time slows down for the traveler, but those back on earth would have aged thousands of years. We are not advanced yet to make this type of travel.

As I sat and pondered the lecture, I started to think about how we fit in this universe. The Milky Way contains about 200 to 400 billion stars. We can assume around these stars, there are planets orbiting some of them. Old stars are dying and new ones are born. This is all happening just in our own galaxy. There are many billions more galaxies that we can see and probably many more billions that cannot be seen. Earth is only a dot amongst all the stars and galaxies. As we move outward, imagining the number of all the suns and other planets can be mind-boggling. This countless number of worlds can be difficult to comprehend. An easier method to be able to relate to the number of worlds in the universe, try counting all the words in all the books contained at any university library. Each library contains tens of thousands of books, each book with tens of thousands of words.

Twenty five hundred years ago, only the stars in the sky showcased the other worlds. With Hubble Telescope, now we can see up to the limit of the visible universe. The vastness of the universe has only recently been understood with the help of various telescopes and

instruments. In chapter sixteen of the Lotus Sutra, *The Duration of the Life of the Tathagata*, Sakyamuni explains how many years ago he became the Buddha. He is discussing about the length of time in terms of something infinitely large to count. But now we can see those worlds he is talking about through all the pictures of the universe.

Suppose five hundred thousand billion nayuta asamkhya worlds, containing one thousand million *Sumeru*-worlds, were smashed into dust, then with this dust, a speck was placed at a distance of five hundred thousand billion nayuta asamkhya world. He again continues to travel the same distance and drop the second speck of the dust. After all the dust has been exhausted, all the worlds, those dotted and those not dotted were smashed, try counting the number of particles. This again is too many to comprehend, just like trying to count all the stars in the pictures taken of all the galaxies. Scientists state that the universe is 13 billion years old. Who knows, the Buddha could be older than the universe or the universe could be older than 13 billion. The Buddha is trying to explain eternity in a way that we can grasp.

Just imagine that you are the one dropping a speck of dust as you move through the universe. Then, imagine that some of these worlds are part of the “world of the ten quarters” and contain a replica of the Eternal Buddha. Now you can start to see the Lotus Sutra come to life. There are many pictures of different galaxies and gas formations that are extremely beautiful. These are the worlds discussed in the Lotus Sutra.

Since we cannot physically visit these worlds, by constantly chanting phrases from the Lotus Sutra and the Odaimoku, those replica Buddhas will hear our chanting and come visit us. Let us keep our home clean and welcome these visitors.

## EVENTS

### September

Morning Chanting (Everyone Welcomed)	Daily 7:00 a.m.
Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing Ceremony	4 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.
Deity <i>Daikoku</i> Blessing	6 <sup>th</sup> (Wed) 10:30 a.m.
Shodai-gyo (Chanting & Meditation)	11 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Service	18 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.
Autumn <i>Higan</i> Memorial Service	25 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.
Study Class on the Lotus Sutra	Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.
Private Japanese Lesson	Sunday 12:30 a.m. / Thursday 4:30 p.m.

Rev. Shokai Kanai will visit his disciples' temple Renkoji 's Dedication in Cereseto, Italy from 7<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>  
He will also go to Boston for Ministers' Retreat and Meeting from 28<sup>th</sup> to Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### October

Morning Chanting (Everyone Welcomed)	Daily 7:00 a.m.
Shodai-gyo (Chanting & Meditation)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.
Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing Ceremony	9 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Service	16 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.
O-E-Shiki (Memorial Day Service for our Founder, Nichiren) (Board Meetings to follow O-E-Shiki Service)	23 <sup>rd</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.
Fifth Sunday No Service	30 <sup>th</sup> (Sun)
Study Class on the Lotus Sutra	Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.
Private Japanese Lesson	Sunday 12:30 a.m. / Thursday 4:30 p.m.

Rev. Shokai Kanai will visit the Seattle Nichiren Buddhist Church for Autumn *Higan* Service form 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>.