

RADIANCE

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May/June 2023

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SACRED WORDS

*Therefore, I expediently expounded to them
The teaching of the Three Vehicles, And caused them to know
The sufferings of the triple world. I opened, showed, and expounded
The Way out of the world.*

Lotus Sutra Ch. 3—Parables

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 to obtain meeting ID and password. Donations can be made through **Zellepay.com** to: kannontemplenv@gmail.com.

Izu Persecution and Mother's Day Service May 21st, **10:30 a.m.** (Sun)

On May 12, 1261 Nichiren Shonin was arrested and exiled to Izu Peninsula under the indictment of disturbing 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 to be the second of four major persecutions. Nichiren realized that he was living the Lotus Sutra. Let us commemorate this occasion remotely so that we too can live the Lotus Sutra.

We will also commemorate Mother's Day a week late. We cannot forget our mothers. Nichiren Shonin always stressed filial piety and to show gratitude towards one's parents. Let us also show our respect to our parents, especially to all mothers on her special day a week late. And let us not forget our fathers on Fathers Day, June 18th.

Memorial Day Service at the Veterans Cemetery May 29th, **11:00 a.m.** (Mon)

May 29th 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 soldiers who are buried there related to our members of Kannon Temple. Social-distancing permitting, we will continue the tradition began by Shokai Kanai Shonin, with Shoda Shonin visiting each one of their tombs to say prayer starting at 11:00 a.m. If you can make time, please come to the cemetery and meet him to pray together.

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.

Triple World

Shoda Kanai

In a recent Lotus Sutra study class on Chapter 16, I was asked to explain what the Triple World was. The Triple World consists of the realm of Desire, Form, and Formless. Let us investigate each one.

Desire: This is the world where there is appetite for food and sex. This is where humans reside and continually return because of their karma.

Form: This is a world without the trappings of desire which individuals have left behind but are still bound by material restrictions. Also, things such as rock and metal are considered to be Form.

Formless: This world has no substance or physical form, like the spiritual realm. They have transcended both Desire and Form.

The Triple World can each be divided into subcategories within each world. To explain it all will be time consuming so instead, I will try to simplify the explanation.

First, let us examine each of the three worlds in a different way. Desire is like the earth. It has a physical form from the mountains to the sea to the living beings contained. Form is like the atmosphere. The elements of "air" range from nitrogen to oxygen to carbon dioxide. We cannot see these elements and these elements do not have desire, but they still have a physical structure. Formless is like the sky. What is the sky? Can we really describe it? It has no substance, just a perceived appearance.

All three, earth, atmosphere, and sky are part of our existence. We can travel between each level when we concentrate our minds, but also when we pass through the cycle of birth and death. We are constantly trying to create good karma through accumulation of merits to reach the next subsequent level. We also can move backwards as well when we create conditions of bad karma.



⇐ So, even though we may have reached highest ⇐ world of Formless, we are still bound by the cycles of birth and death. In Lotus Sutra Chapter Three, “Parables,”

The Triple World is not peaceful.
It is like the burning house.
It is full of sufferings.
It is dreadful.

Because we are still too attached to the trappings of the Triple World, we continue to think that there is no escape.

But in the *Parable*, Buddha offers a way out using the teaching of the Three Vehicles (*Sravaka*, *Pratyekabuddha*, and *Bodhisattva*) to escape the burning house. However even when we think there are three paths, in actuality there is only the One Vehicle (everyone is a Buddha). Out of Buddha’s compassion, He teaches us according to our capacities. For us believers in the Lotus Sutra, we can skip the Three Vehicles and concentrate only on the One Vehicle.

By our continued faith in Buddha’s Teaching, we can escape bonds of birth and death and attain the Enlightenment of the Buddha. Through the continued practice and studying the Lotus Sutra, we can realize the Buddha within ourselves. Each time we chant *Odaimoku*, we are building a spaceship piece by piece so that we can leave the confines of earth, atmosphere, and sky (Triple World). We can escape the gravitational pull of worldly matters and blast off into space where we can be free and view the world just like the Buddha.



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

749 shakyo tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra offered, **24,454,000** times of Chanting *Odaimoku* offered, As of April 24, 2023

Thank you very much! Please continue your support.

From the High Desert, I Bring you Good News!

Dessert Wildflowers

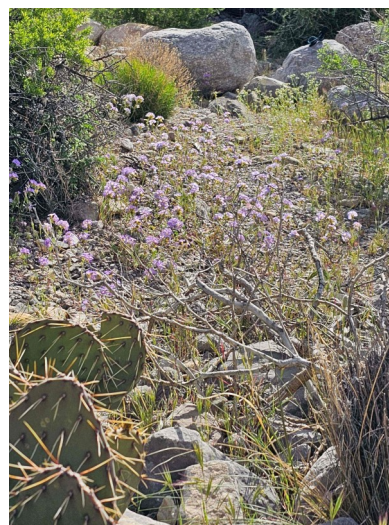
Shoda Kanai

This past winter has been very wet. There were many rainy days with storms coming through the valley almost on a weekly basis.

Because of the rain, some areas of Nevada are no longer in drought condition, with other areas at a reduced risk. Plus, the snowmelt from the Rocky Mountains that supply Lake Mead, where Las Vegas get 90 percent of its water, is set to rise by 22 feet by the end of September!

With all this rain, means dessert bloom. Dormant wildflower seeds that had laid in waiting over the past couple of years are now ready to blossom. This is a spectacular site to see a once barren land and now full of color! I tried to make trips to a couple of places to see for myself these once every few years event.

Keep in mind everyone you meet has their own Buddha seed. And just like the dormant dessert wildflower, it will bloom when the time is right. Let us all pay homage to everyone so that their seed will blossom soon.



EVENTS

<u>May</u>		<u>June</u>	
7 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly Kito Blessing	4 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly Kito Blessing
14 th (Sun) No Service	Business Trip	11 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	English Service
21 st (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Izu Persecution/Mother’s Day	18 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)
28 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Shodai-gyo (Chanting Meditation)	25 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shakyo</i> (Sutra Tracing)
29 th (Mon) 11:00 a.m.	Cemetery Visit in Boulder City		

*** 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 ***