



Buddhist Thoughts

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Rev. Hirano's contact numbers: Office: 363-4742,
home: 299-8727, emergency 718-5755

Celebrating Change

J.K. Hirano

An Old Cherokee elder is teaching his grandson about life.

"A fight is going on inside me," he said to the boy. "It is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves. One is evil-he is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority and ego.

The other is good-he is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith. This same fight is going on inside you and inside every other person, too."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather, "Which wolf will win?" The old Cherokee elder simply replied, "The one you feed."

This is a universal story that I feel embodies and explains the emotions that rage within each of us. It is a story of the fight that we must constantly confront within ourselves everyday of our lives. Within the Buddhist teachings, one of the pillars is the concept of impermanence. On the altar is the flower arrangement set upon the left hand side to represent life's impermanence. During every funeral service, I read Renny Shonin's Letter on White Ashes, which in essence expresses the teaching of how impermanent life is. Last month I titled my article "and yet and yet..." This was in reference to the haiku by Issa, "The world of dew, is only the world of dew, and yet." This haiku is a reflection upon the world we live in being a world of impermanence, a world of dew. The dew symbolizing the ever changing fragile nature of our lives.

When looked at in the wrong way, this impermanent fragile nature can seem rather

negative. We human beings have a way of wanting to hold on to our lives as unchanging. Our loved ones should not get old and die. Our children should remain our babies, listening to what their parents say. We should be able to fit in the same clothes that we did in college. Our relationships are not growing entities. They should remain fixed and static.

When things do not fit these unrealistically conceived notions of how we believe our lives should be. We are often feeding the wolf of evil. It brings out feelings of anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority and ego. In Jodo Shinshu we call these feelings bonno. They are definitely a part of who we are. What I think is important about this story, is how the Cherokee elder recognizes that this evil wolf is a part of himself. In recognizing that we each have this potential within us, we understand who we are and can keep from feeding the wolf.

Recognizing the wolf of evil within us, feeds the wolf of good. By understanding our potential for evil we allow ourselves to be more peaceful, loving, benevolent, empathetic. These are all characteristics of the person of shinjin. A person that accepts their own weaknesses and relies upon Amida Buddha for guidance.

It is necessary for us to view the impermanence in life, the changes that happen in our lives, as a positive aspect of our growth as human beings. By understanding how unrealistic it is to live without change in our lives, we free ourselves to celebrate change. To celebrate change is to feed the wolf of good. To try to hold onto the past and to our narrow minded notions of how I believe life should be, is to feed the wolf of evil. Let's celebrate change. Embrace the fact that you are alive and have the potential for change. It's a good thing.

This month we will be celebrating the birth of Shinran Shonin, our Gotan E service. At this time we will be also holding our Hatsumairi (Infant presentation service). Please join us in feeding our wolves of good by joining us.

President's Message

Paul Terashima

Campaign B.C.A.-The 21st Century. The goal is 30 million dollars. Which is a very big goal. I hope the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple Sangha will help B.C.A. to achieve its goal. B.C.A. is the heart of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in America. Without B.C.A., we would not have Rev. Hirano here. The Campaign has five parts. #1-\$5,000,000. Creating a Thriving Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Ministry. #2 \$10,000,000, establishing the new Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Center/B.C.A.. #3 8,000,000 Strengthen Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in America. #4 3,000,000 Enhancing Membership Outreach to the Greater Community. #5 \$4,000,000 Ensuring Self Reliance. All these programs are necessary to the growth of Buddhism

in the United States. I hope you will find a way to contribute to this worthy cause. There are booklets on the front table that explain everything about the Campaign. If you need more information, please contact me and I will answer your questions. This project is very important for the survival of Jodo Shinshu in the United States. That is why I am asking the Sangha to contribute.

Saturday April 23 was a very busy day at the temple. I was amazed at the number of Sangha members ready to work. We started about 8:30, working inside the Temple and outside. I was working outside. We removed bushes and a tree, trimming trees, bushes and the lawn. Cleaned the shed and the patio. Inside the whole Temple got a real good clearing. We have to thank Maya Chow, Yukie Okubo, Donna Sato, Brenda Koga, LaVerne Kyed and Ruby Doi for supplying a great lunch for all the workers. In the morning there was coffee and donuts for everyone. Thank you to the people who furnished the donuts. All during the day there was plenty of bottle water donated by the Jr. Y.B.A.. Thanks to everyone who was there to spring clean the Temple. Especially all the young children, who really worked hard cleaning.

The Temple Board has decided to post the minutes of each monthly board meeting on the bulletin board. This was if the Sangha is interested in what happens at these meetings, they can read. If you want an E-mail of the monthly meeting, give me your E-mail address. This information is for Temple members, so we will not post it on the Buddhist Temple internet or the Buddhist Thoughts.

The temple board has decided to form a Ministerial Affairs Committee. It will consist of Rev. Hirano, David Sekino, Stan Endo, Ichiro Doi, Ivan Van Laningham and myself. The committee would handle complaints and other issues. The committee can help Sensei with important issues and help with keeping the lines of communication open.

I would like to thank Dot Richeda and Mark Minaga for volunteering to Co-chair our Annual Food Bazaar. Thanks to both of you for

relieving me of my biggest headache. Thank you

The winners for the 2005 Special Awards are Jan.-Richard Matsuno, Feb.-Dr. David Lusty, March-Al Tokunaga, April- Richard Sekiguchi. The best of luck to all of us who have not won yet.

BWA News

Yoshiko Uno

We held our monthly meeting on April 17 with about twenty two members attending. We were treated to refreshments provided by Yuki Okubo, cookies and Tammie Kuramoto, muffins. I also had some orange-date bread to share. Thank you Yuki and Tammie. Last month we had our *Omigaki* (alter cleaning). I want to thank all the ladies who helped. We had our Food Sale on March 27th raising funds for the building and our ladies made *omusubis* for our Hanamatsuri Luncheon. Thanks to all who contributed time and food for our events. A special thanks to Terry Fujinami, Takeko Doi, Yuriko Dennison, Jane Sakashita, Setsuko Nagata, and Jeanne Konishi for making the "*Sakura Mochi*". I also helped but the preparation prior to is intense. They make and freeze the "*an*" and preserving the leaves is a one year process. They gather this year's leaves and preserve them in salt water for a whole year; changing the water in between. I think this may become a lost art. Some of our younger members were discarding the leaves from the *mochi*, but usually it is consumed as part of the *mochi*.

Our Fujinkai choir sang at the Hanamatsuri Program. We will also participate at the Nihon Matsuri. We are enjoying two new members: Kristine Clifford and Carmela Javellana. We welcome others to join us.

We will help prepare the food for the April 30th, Nihon Matsuri. Sherrie Koga & Elaine Endo have planned an *obento*. Preparation will start on Friday and Saturday morning. Some of us will make the *azuki* for the snow cones. Any help in the kitchen or booths will be appreciated.

Our next meeting will be May 15th.

again.

Jr. YBA Christy Fong

The Jr. YBA will be taking their last Scrip orders on May 22 and June 12. Orders taken on those days will be ready for pick-up the following Sunday. Order your gift cards, restaurant cards, and gas cards for the summer break. Plan ahead for birthdays, special occasions, and thank yous. We thank the Sangha for their continued support.

The Jr. YBA will be having a fund raising Chow mein Dinner on June 25, Saturday, from 5:00 – 8:00 pm. Proceeds will go towards funding their next temple exchange trip. Tickets are available from any Jr. YBA member or may be purchased at the door. Take out orders will also be available. The cost will be \$8.00 per dinner. We hope to see you there!

Many thanks to the Jr. YBA for their help with the luncheon at Hanamatsuri.

Temple Building Update

Brenda Koga

The temple building committee continues to meet on a regular basis to discuss possible options and explore possibilities regarding the temple facilities in relation to the needs of the congregation. We have attracted some new faces to the meetings, and it is encouraging to note that more members of the congregation are interested in what is happening and how to get involved.

At the last meeting on March 20, 2005, the committee discussed our current situation/status as a temple and directions as to where we might head with our facility. Since much has changed since the inception of the building committee, the group recognized the need for an updated assessment of the temple's needs and the membership's needs.

In order to inform the general membership about the current status of the building project, it was suggested that a general temple forum be conducted. This forum would be open to all temple members to provide information and answer questions in regards to the overall project. At the last temple board meeting, the board established June 26, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. for the forum.

Additionally, a letter will be sent to everyone who has contributed funds to the building project. This letter will discuss the Let' do what we can to promote Jodo Shin, Shu in the 21st Century We just Observed Hanamatsuri. Hirano sensei's message is always so relevant to all of us. Here and now. Hanamatsuri is always about the birth of Buddha, Sensei has been here for over 10 years, but he has something different to say to capture our attention. He said something about,-- when people go the hospital to have a baby, they put you on a bed. The doctor puts you to sleep and miraculously a baby pops out. It's first cry is like, announcing I AM HERE , I EXIST. Each of you are a special unique human being. There is no one else quite like you. Each of you are born with special talents to develop. I hope you will develop your own special unique potential. When queen Maya was about to give birth she stopped as she passed through Lumbini Garden, where the prince was born. He took seven steps and proclaimed , Heavens above and earth below, I alone am the world's honored one. The earth shook, all the flowers bloomed, sweet rain fell. So we have the Hana mido and gassho and pour tea over the shoulder of the statue of the baby Buddha. I could see that all the students sitting in front and around me were listening intently. Then sensei talked about having to practise for the program, some things he did not really want to do. Too embarrassing he thought then. But now he thinks it was all OK .Being embarrassed in front of family and friends is part of life too. I would not expect the student to know the difference, but I am sure that most of their parents will remember, how it used to be. I wonder if that is something they discuss with their children??? When I started taking our children to Sunday School at the old Church in 1955, Ruth Aoki was the superintendent. Michiko Sanada and her friends at West High School were the teachers. There was Alice Sekino, Kimi and Naomi Adachi, Joyce

acquisition of funds, record-keeping process and expenditures of any funds to date. It is projected that this mailing will occur near the end of May or first part of June.

Please be sure to attend the forum on June 26 and voice your questions/concerns.

Special Yukie Okubo

Akiyama, Jo Takehara, Judy Komatsu, Mitzi Okuda, Westeria Nakamoto, I hope I have these names right?? Michiko Sanada greeted us on the front steps, while talking to her friends. She stood there passing out lessons for the morning that had been sent from the BCA. Buddha Nature, Karma, Impermanence, Dana and more, some other printed material were sent out by Seattle Sunday School Dept. Masami Hayashi joined them when he started coming. Most of these girls quit teaching for various reasons after they graduated Hi School, which was after we moved to the new temple. They asked me get acquainted with Michiko Sanada's class for a few Sundays before she left. Then there was Shinzui Sanada who became a teacher Maxine Furubayashi and others. When they started having chapel Tours, Philip Sakashita and Ricki Oishi were helping Masami. I happened to tell Philip that I really did not feel like I knew enough about "Nembutsu The Fulfilment of Life" which was the booklet put out by BCA Sunday School Dept. for 7th Grade that I was supposed to be teaching. His comment was. " Well the Issei's had it in here (placing his hand over his heart), but the Nisei's do not have it". This surprised me. I did not have the background knowledge, of Life of Buddha, His teachings, Life of Shinran ,Appreciation of Our Buddhist Heritage that was taught in the previous grades. I was trying to read and learn what was written in the preceding booklet too. So I doubt very much if my students learned anything from me. His comment did not register on me a all. In retrospect however ,I think Philip was absolutely right. He was very observant and a good student. I also remember an incident , when I went to a Sonenkai meeting. Rev. Watanabe told the members gathered outside the chapel, that we should go in and have a short service first. Several of the key members were

saying, no sensei, lets just go in there , just have a meeting, everybody followed the leader,so did I. We all went into the classrooms. There was no going into the chapel before a meeting before the Temple Board meeting either ,when I was asked to be their secretary. The Nisei's were a fun loving hard working group. They have been the back bone of the temple all these years and still are. Even the BWA would gather in the kitchen to cook but shunned going into the chapel until Rev. Yakumo came, and took steps to change that. In 1976 when Rev H.Watanabe (our previous bishop) was our resident minister He accompanied our BWA on a chartered Bus trip to attend the BCA NFof BWA convention in San Jose . It was the first experience for Susie Nakai and I. For workshop sessions they had 12 Topics for 12 different minister's speaking in English ,(most of whom were Issei's) For those women who wanted to listen in Japanese. they had 12 other ministers speaking on the same 12 topics in a different room. Each speaker was timed for 20 minutes only. I still remember Rev. LaVerne Sasaki's talk on NEW HORIZONS. He asked the Issei ministers?? is it chi qu sen or chi hei sen? In talking about BWA he said, he really appreciated them for being such good cooks famous Teriyaki Chicken and wonderful crafts. Not criticizing but FujinKai should be more than just that, BWA need to do more toward Buddhist Education as well.---- So there were ministers who were telling us some 30 years ago, not criticizing what BWA was famous for, but looking into the future, BWA NEEDS to CHANGE.This same topic was covered in Japanese. Did we BWA here do anything about it??? I was one of the bus load of BWA members from Salt Lake who attended that conference. What a regrettable past for all of us. We can't change the past. But if we ,who are here now, just as we are, feel the debt of gratitude to our predecessors (no okagesama de)enjoyed fun memorable times here. Then, we can motivate ourselves and pull together in the positive direction, we can help make a difference. Our new Shocho sama with positive vision is guiding us into the 21st century for Jodo Shin Shu in America. I feel a very deep sense of O Kino Doku to all the BCA ministers for all their years of service. We niseis as a whole have been too complacent in our comfort zone, while years have zoomed by all too quickly. Nisei's as a whole have neglected to wake up to pass on the traditional respect for our ministers and the deeper level of gratitude for the

nembutsu teaching that our Issei parents had in their hearts. For us here in Salt Lake City when I feel choked up with O kin doku to our sansei , minister, who grew here with questions about Jodo Shin Shu, thus went to Japan in search for answers. As a youngster in Sunday School he seemed to be in deep thought, and still does. I do not have words to express my gratitude for Hirano sensei. He has been sharing his unique wisdom so that all of us can live with pride in our heritage of the Nembutsu teachings in this City. He has shown us the way to live with an open hearted sincere minds. I take liberty in taking from a printed report of the BCA National Council Meeting In San Jose Feb 2005. It states that Shocho Ogui shared his three basic principles, which were; 1. Don't be too serious. 2. Always be sincere. 3. Do not loose your sense of humor. He also encouraged ministers and lay members to not be afraid of making mistakes. His straight forward manner and sense of humor set the tone for the entire week end. The meetings were very efficiently run with more substance and positive feeling than I've ever experienced in the past.

Infant Presentation (Hatsu Mairi)

May 2

On Sunday, May 22, we will be holding an infant presentation service. This service is for any child born into our Sangha over the past year. During the ceremony, the child will be brought to the front of the naijin. This service is to help begin the child's first steps along the Nembutsu path. The child is presented before the Buddha and Sangha. The child will then take part in the three treasures and be presented with a monto shikisho and nenju.

Those interested please fill in the form and return it to the temple.