



Buddhist Thoughts

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Happy Halloween!

J.K. Hirano

The Buddha's power is without limits, and so even one who is heavily laden with the hindrances of karmic evil is not burdened. The Buddha's wisdom is without bounds, and so even one who is bewildered and wayward is never abandoned. Only faith is of supreme importance, and nothing else is necessary.

Yuishin-sho

What scares you? How do you answer when someone shouts, "Boo!"? I love scary movies and television shows. This is the time of year when there are ghost stories and various scary movies every night. In one magazine, I read about the increase in exorcisms around the country. They asked the question, "When should you call for an exorcist?" The answer was, "When a person close to you begins to change, such as; begins to have an aversion to holy things, speaks in foreign languages that they have never studied and exhibits super human strength." I had to laugh to myself when I read that. I don't think I would stick around too long if my five feet tall, Filipina wife, Carmela started singing in German, picked up the sofa over her head shouting, "Get away from me priest!" I may have to start taking some new medication; I don't know about an exorcist.

I still remember when the first movie "The Exorcist" came out. Many of my friends were terrified of this movie. One of my friend's younger sister went to a drive in movie with some friends to see it. A couple of high school boys and these girls thought they would be brave enough to watch this movie. This seemed like the perfect setting for some fun, so my friends and I thought we would just so happen to go to the same movie. We spotted their

car and in the middle of the movie and during one of the scarier scenes, I tossed a ouija board into the car to see what would happen. The boys screamed louder than the girls. If I remember correctly the boys jumped out of the car, leaving their dates behind.

There is something about scary things that I just enjoy. Carmela hates them and I have tried to explain to her there is nothing to be afraid of. She thinks it might be a remnant of her Catholic upbringing. I explained that since she is now a Buddhist, she doesn't have anything to worry about. From a Catholic standpoint, she is already fallen in with the devil. She's destined for hell anyway, so why would the devil risk scaring her into becoming Catholic again. It's like having a large spiritual warning sign on your head from the devil to all demons or ghosts. "Stay away from this one, she's mine or else! Signed, *The Devil*" From the Buddhist standpoint, it is her mind that is causing her to be afraid. What the mind creates, the mind controls. However, she tells me that the fear isn't rational, it just is.

I try to convince her how as a Buddhist, she shouldn't fear such superstitious things. Yet, I remember the time I met a ghost in my house. About five years ago, it was late at night and everyone in the house was asleep. This is the time I

would relax and enjoy watching anything I wanted, no Disney Channel or Nick at Night. This particular night I was watching some special about haunted hotels or something like that. All the lights were out except for the television. I was sprawled out on the sofa, when I heard a creaking sound. At first, I thought it must be one of the dogs wandering around. However, the noise kept up and I had to look up to see what it was. To my surprise, the recliner was rocking back and forth, on its own. I assumed, one of the dogs had bumped it, so I continued watching waiting for it to stop. To my amazement, it didn't slow down or stop. It began to rock a little faster. As I watched in amazement, in my head, I could hear the little girl from the movie "Poltergeist" telling me, "They're here....."

I jumped up and turned on the lights, staring at the chair rocking back and forth on its own. I called for my dogs, "Sammy! Shoyu!" They both came to me sleepily, not from behind the chair, like I hoped, but from the other side of the room. The little boy from the movie, "The Sixth Sense", suddenly flashed into my mind saying, "I see dead people." Yes, I now knew what he was talking about. I was now saying to myself, "Jerry, be reasonable, chairs do not rock on their own." I quickly went through all the possible explanations, "Dogs, no, Earthquake, no, etc. etc." My heart was pounding and just as I was about to scream and wake everybody up to witness our haunted chair, I spotted the demon. She was hunched in the dark corner behind the chair, rocking it back and forth. It spoke in a whispered voice, "Daddy did I scare you? I can't sleep." It was Kacie, my daughter. She herself seemed a little frightened, probably from the look of panic on my face. I let out a sigh of relief, picked her up and we both had a good laugh.

This taught me, that no matter what we may say or how resolute we are in our opinions about some things. In reality, you just never know. As I have preached to others about not being superstitious, the manipulations of a child had me changing my opinion pretty quickly, believing in the devil's minions. As a result, I know that spiritually, all I can do is rely on Amida Buddha. The answer to "Boo" is "Namo Amida Butsu."

This October 30th, along with our Shotsuki Hoyō service, we will be having our Dharma School

Halloween Party and Luncheon. Please join us and all the other little devils.

President's Message

Paul Terashima

Campaign B.C.A. – The 21st Century is not doing very well. I have received several telephone calls from Mr. Everett Watada B.C.A. Treasurer about how badly the B.C.A. needs each Temple to participate in this fundraising. He even wanted to come to Utah to talk to the Sangha about it. The B.C.A. has put up their headquarters, the Socho residence as collateral for the new Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Center/B.C.A. building. The B.C.A. requires all minister to donate to this fund. I think all the Sangha members should do the same to show that we support B.C.A. Without B.C.A.; we would not have Rev. Hirano here. During this really difficult time, with the Tsunami and the two hurricanes asking for donation for their well deserving causes, I know it's a strain on everyone's finances, but as Buddhist and B.C.A. members, we have to support this fundraiser. I, as the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple President hope that each Sangha member would pledge what he or she can afford. How large or small your pledge will be is that much more help to the B.C.A. Please help. Saturday September 17, a large group of the Sangha came to the Temple and cleaned the inside and outside, so the Temple would be clean for our first Dharma school. I would like to thank all the Sangha members that took time out of their busy schedule to come and help.

October 1, was the Temple's Annual Food Bazaar. I want to thank Mark Minaga for chairing this event for the second year in a row. I would also thank Dot Richeda for volunteering as co-chairperson. With these Sangha members as chairs and the hard work that all of the rest of the Sangha do to make this Temple's fundraising event will be successful. Thank you.

The winners for the 2005 Special Awards are Jan-Richard Matsuno, Feb-Dr David A Lusty, March- Al Tokunage, April-Richard Sekiguchi, May-Reiko Mitsunaga, June- May Matsuda, July

Andrew Kyed, August- Ruby Doi and September- Marian Hori. Thank you all for supporting the Special Awards.

Jr. YBA Christy Fong

The Jr. YBA held a meeting on September 25th and the following were elected as officers for the 2005-2006 year.

President: PJ Nakamura

Vice-Pres.: Kenny Fong

Secretary: Emily Rasmussen

Treasurer: Katherine Seo

The members established goals of performing two community service projects and continuing their fund raising efforts. Funds raised will go towards their donations to the temple, their next bus trip to meet other Jr. YBA/YBA members, and other activities planned for the year. On November 5th, they are planning a Chow Mein dinner at the temple. Tickets will be available from any Jr. YBA member at \$8.00 per dinner. Take out dinners will be available. Please come for an evening of food, fun and friendship! As always, we appreciate the on-going support the members have given us throughout the year.

Jr YBA members should contact PJ Nakamura for more information about the church overnighter scheduled for Saturday, October 8th.

Temple Web Site Cassandra Van Buren

The Temple website will soon include a photos section. Please email Temple-related digital photos to Cassandra Van Buren at cvb@dadabase.org. Because I am new and don't know many names and faces yet, captions with names and dates are most appreciated.

Temple Building Comm Update Brenda Koga

Since the membership indicated their desire was to remain at the current site and upgrade/remodel the current structure, the building committee has been examining the needs of the facility. Ernie Kyed is spearheading a committee to prioritize needs and develop a plan to pursue this endeavor.

Tim Jessop, an architectural student at the University of Utah, has volunteered his expertise and resources to assist with the project. During the most recent meeting, he shared his perspectives and provided information on the direction the committee should take.

The committee and board is still attempting to lease office space in the west wing building. If anyone knows of someone who may be in need of leasing a small office space, please contact Paul Terashima or Brenda Koga.

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for October 26, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. at the temple. Anyone is welcome to attend.

October Shotsuki Hoyo *Service will be October 30*

Deceased	Date of death	Next of kin
Karo Matsuura	9/29/97	Doris Matsuura
Akita Sakae	10/25/36	Ruby Ushio
Iwasaki Ritsuko	10/25/61	Dean Iwasaki
Kano Gunpei	10/13/65	Tai Oishi
Masuko Kyushiro	10/25	Matsue Kasubuchi
Mitsunaga Ruth	10/30/95	Hiroshi Mitsunaga
Muto Chiyo	10/15/83	
Ninomiya Katsuji	10/20/42	Yoshiko Ninomiya
Nishihara Alice	10/20/90	Doris Matsuura
Oda Mitsuji	10/9/31	Mumatsu Sasaki
Ogawa Fusaye	10/19/31	Sugino
Ogawa Kuma	10/6/19	Sugino
Oike Katsuye	10/14/74	May Koike
Saito Shizuno	10/26/21	Yoshiko Ninomiya
Sasaki Sukeichiro	10/19/68	Nishiye Sasaki
Shiba Yoshiro	10/19/52	Shiba
Sugiyama Unosuki	10/27/84	
Tadehara Masami	10/9/87	George Tadehara

Tohinaka George 10/28/95	Ayako Tohinaka
Tokunaga Shigao 10/27/90	Utako Tokunaga
Tsuyuki Ikuzo 10/3	Jerry Tsuyuki
Wakayama Gerry 10/7/94	Mary Wakayama
Yamamoto James 10/25/71	Eleanor Nakamura
Tamagawa Frank 10/18/95	Shizue Tamagawa
Hisae Tsutsui 10/15/01	Geraldine Chappel
Frank Ling 10/02/02	Elaine Fukushima
Betty Yamaguchi 10/8/04	Jeannie Yamaguchi

October Toban

*Paul Terashima	*Byron Watanabe
Kathy Terashima	Reiko Watanabe
May Akiyama	Elaine Fukushima
Ken Nodzu	Troy Watanabe
Judy Watanabe	Ken Matsuura
Reiko Matsuura	
