



Buddhist Thoughts

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Wearing Robes

J.K. Hirano

I first seriously considered becoming a BCA minister when I was about to graduate from IBS and leave for Kyoto, Japan. Initially I had assumed that I would go to IBS for a few years and return to Salt Lake City and enter Law School at the University of Utah. I had always been interested in Buddhism and I thought that understanding Eastern thought would definitely enhance my studies of such Western philosophical subjects as I would find at Law School. Since I was going to IBS I had superficially considered becoming a minister. However, after finishing the course work and thesis at IBS, I felt that if I were to become a minister, I needed further study.

IBS was a great foundation, but I felt that I could learn more by studying further in Japan. This was a very serious decision. I knew that ministers didn't make a lot of money. I knew that I wouldn't be able to relax and go skiing or golfing with friends and family for the weekend. Sunday brunches would also be a thing of the past. I knew that I would probably not be attending raucous New Year's Eve parties, since the ministers had New Year's Eve and morning services. I remember my Bachan (grandmother) telling me that I shouldn't become a minister. She said that ministers may enjoy their work, but their wives and children usually have a hard life. Even the mother of a girl I was going out with wrote me and asked if I couldn't serve my Sangha better as a well-to-do, yet devout Buddhist lawyer, rather than minister.

The reason I initially decided to consider IBS was because of two people: Rev. Haruyoshi Kusada and the late Rev. Russell Hamada. When Rev. Hamada was an IBS student, he would often travel to various areas talking about Buddhism and why he thought it was so important. While he worked for the Japanese Community Youth Council (JCYC) in San Francisco, California, he was also taking classes at IBS. During his spare time, he would organize various activities for young people interested in Buddhism. One Summer he brought a large group to Ogden, Utah and held a retreat at the temple. At this retreat I met Rev. Haruyoshi Kusada.

The retreat that Rev. Hamada organized was quite amazing considering an IBS student did this on his own time, not as paid personnel, but because he felt it was important. Rev. Jay Shinseki, then another IBS student, often worked with Rev. Hamada setting up these activities. At this retreat at the Ogden Buddhist temple, Rev. Haruyoshi Kusada, Rev. Hogen Fujimoto, Rev. Kazumasa Niho, Rev. Masanori Ohata and members of the Kinnara Taiko group, all came to encourage us in our study of Buddhism. We also had other students from Los Angeles, Seattle and Denver join us in this retreat. Some of the people that attended that retreat 25 years ago are active members at our temple and throughout BCA, most serving on their own temple boards. After that retreat, I knew that I had to study with Rev. Kusada. He seemed to embody everything

I had heard about Jodo Shinshu, humility mixed with great wisdom.

After graduating from the University of Utah, I moved to Berkeley, California. I found a job at the Berkeley Bowl Produce market. Talking with the owner and explaining my situation, he agreed to work out my hours so I could take classes and still put in 40 hours a week at the market. Although it took me about three years to complete the course work and thesis to receive my M.A. in Buddhist studies, I was now eager to learn more, but I was also 26 years old. It was basically study to become a minister or go home and enter Law School. During my studies at IBS, I met Rev. David Matsumoto. He was the smartest person I have ever known and he had quit being a lawyer to become an IBS student. He felt that the study of Buddhism was far more important than what he gained from being a lawyer. All of these ideas played upon my mind.

Rev. Hamada had just returned from his studies in Japan and was assigned to the Los Angeles Betsuin. He invited me to Los Angeles for a few days, to see what it was like at Betsuin. During that visit he told me some things that have helped me to this day. The Los Angeles Betsuin at that time was considered the most difficult temple to work for in BCA. The ministers usually worked 12 hour days and if they were lucky had one day off a week. This would change from week to week depending upon the schedule. Yet, in this environment, Rev. Hamada seemed to thrive. He loved what he was doing and just being around him made me want to join him as a minister.

He was so kind and generous in mentoring me, that I asked him why he was willing to do so much for my benefit. He explained that being a Kaikyoshi wasn't just about serving in a temple or wearing robes. It was an attitude about the Dharma and insuring its future. We had both been involved with what was called the Asian American movement and had known a lot of others involved in it. This movement was about identity and community. He said that becoming Kaikyoshi was about putting your money where your mouth is. Buddhism is about truly finding out who you are and becoming a Kaikyoshi is about giving your life to your

community. Rev. Hamada had also considered becoming a lawyer. He said, "How many of the people you know that go to Law School and become lawyers remain in it just to serve the community? Most of them begin with good intentions, but sooner or later, they go for the money. As a Kaikyoshi you are really giving your life to the community. How many of us become ministers and how many become lawyers? Our communities need ministers more than lawyers." In this way he encouraged me to go to Japan and study hard. He said not to worry so much about being a minister as just studying the Dharma. He encouraged Rev. Matsumoto and me to learn a lot and be better students than he and Rev. Shinseki. To protect the Dharma was another responsibility of the Kaikyoshi. One way of doing this was to help the ministers that come after you become better trained ministers. This could be done by helping them focus on their studies rather than other distracting obstacles.

With this type of person as a mentor, how could I not become Kaikyoshi. With this deep gratitude and feeling of responsibility towards the three treasures of the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha I have been a Kaikyoshi for 18 years and serve on the board of trustees of IBS. The IBS is at the forefront of Buddhist and Jodo Shinshu studies in America. It is probably the most successful program BCA has ever accomplished. It is recognized throughout the world as a leader in Buddhist Studies. As a result of IBS, the Buddhist Churches of America is the only Buddhist organization authorized by the United States government to recommend Buddhist chaplains to the military.

At this time, with the future of BCA in question as a result of the present campaign and the lack of ministers, alternative paths to the ministry have been suggested. However, in believing in and taking the responsibility of protecting the Dharma as Rev. Hamada explained to me so many years ago, I must support IBS and the campaign BCA-21st century for the future development of ministers for BCA. Wearing the robes of Kaikyoshi is not just about weekends at the temple or studying in a class a few days out of the month. It is about giving your life to your Sangha and studying the Buddha

Dharma to the best of your ability and trying to share it with others. It is about assisting in making the Buddha's voice clearly heard throughout our society and the world. At this time as we wonder about the future of BCA, to pull back from supporting IBS to move forward with other untested programs does not make sense. Through the campaign, I believe we must strongly support IBS. Not only for more ministers, but for the future of Jodo Shinshu in America.

There may have been many mistakes made in embarking on this campaign. Buying a building without funding was a major mistake. I would be one of the first to agree with this sentiment. However, we are now at the point that I cannot see any profit in crying about those mistakes. Each of us must try as best we can to support this campaign if BCA is to survive. I am extremely proud of our temple and recently our Buddhist Women's Association have generously donated to the campaign. Carmela and I have earmarked our donations to the campaign for IBS. I hope that each of you will seriously consider making a donation to the BCA campaign. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me or Paul Terashima. Namu Amida Butsu.

President's Message

Paul Terashima

October 1, was the Temple's Annual Food Bazaar. It was a very successful event. This year's gross was better than last years. Mark Minaga co-chaired for the second year. I have to thank Dot Richeda for co-chairing with with Mark. They both did a great job with this event. Thank you Dot and Mark. The biggest thanks has to go to our Sangha, without their hard work, this event would never materialize. Thank you everyone.

The Temple is looking for tenants for the office building. We have 2,400 sq. feet to rent. If any Sangha member knows of any one interested in renting it, please have them call me.

The winners for the 2005 Special Awards are Jan- Richard Matsuno, Feb-Dr. David A. Lust,

March-Al Tokunage, April-Richard Sekiguchi, May-REEiko Mitsunaga, June-May Matsuda, July-Andrew Kyed, August-kRuby Doi and Sept-Marian Hori. The Temple will be selling 2006 Special Award tickets starting in Nov. This is the easiest way to help the Building Fund. Thank you for supporting this program.

BWA News Yo Uno

We had our monthly meeting on October 16th.

THANK YOU to all who helped to make the Food Bazaar a great success. We sold all our nigiri sushi and sushis. Our tempura and sukiyaki was in high demand. We need to work out our electrical system. We have had failures with the rice and not able to cook more items because of outlet power limits. We have heard raves on our food. Congratulations to all who volunteered.

Four of us: Brenda Koga, Jane Sakashita, Dot Richeda and I attended the BCA Buddhist Conference in Fresno with Rev. & Mrs. Jerry Hirano. As always the speakers were powerful. We bought tapes of the Japanese and English sermons to share with our members. If you are interested in hearing them, please let us know. They have been ordered and we will be glad to pass them around. It is always inspiring to hear our other BCA ministers.

At the Conference, they were encouraging us to support BCA's Campaign for the 21st Century. They are in need of funds for the building. Please donate to this project. Your support is critical..

We are trying to get a head count of members interested in attending the Federation of World Buddhist Women's Conference in Hawaii Sept 1-3, 2006. Rev. Hirano is heading a tour group that will fly to San Francisco and Cruise to Hawaii, attend the Conference, Cruise the Islands and back. If anyone is interested please let us know. We need the numbers now. Names and money will be collected in March. This should be a fun trip. Our next meeting will be November 13th. after the service.

Dharma School
Karen Tohinaka

The opening Dharma School Picnic held at the West Bountiful Park on September 11th, started out cold but sunny. Families from Salt Lake and Ogden brought salads and desserts with coffee and hot chocolate to warm everyone up along with the fried chicken. After lunch the kids warmed up by playing games and winning fun prizes and candy. Thanks to LaVerne Kyed and Maya Chow for a fun-filled afternoon.

Congratulations to the following newly elected Dharma School board members:

Karen Tohinaka- Superintendent (2nd term)
LaVerne Kyed- Assistant Superintendent (2nd term)

Tina Munson- Secretary
Connie Sakashita- Treasurer

Board Members:

Tracy Akimoto, Lisa Matsuda, Gail Minaga, Sherri Hayashi, Stephanie Sueoka, Karen Seo, Faye Eng, Christy Fong, Cassandra Van Buren, Lisa Imamura

The Halloween party was prepared by the Jr. YBA and YBA this year. It was another day of fun, food, and treats. Thanks to all who assisted in the activity and as always we loved to see sensei in his creative costumes.

Jr. YBA

Christy Fong

The Jr. YBA had their first group activity on October 8th, an overnighter at the temple. The group enjoyed each other's company and talents - karaoke singing, night game competitions, and movies. Thanks to PJ Nakamura for helping to organize the activity and the advisors and members for dinner and breakfast. It was a great time for all!

The Jr. YBA will be holding a Chow Mein dinner on November 5th from 5:00 – 8:00 pm. Tickets are available from any Jr. YBA member at the cost of

\$8.00. Take-out meals will also be available that night. Come for food, fun and fellowship! We will be having Karaoke that night, so come ready to entertain or be entertained!

Scrip orders will be taken throughout the holiday season. Plan ahead for your Christmas gift giving and holiday surprises. Orders will be taken on:

November 13
November 20
December 4
December 11

As always, thank you for your continued support!

The Year Ahead (YBA)

Blake Akimoto

The summer months have come and flown by and here we are once again. October, the beginning of another year full of festivities and sermons. Starting off the year was the annual bazaar, which turned out great, thanks to much of the sangha and the amazing contributions of Annette Koga, and Troy and Judy Watanabe for those scrumptious hot dogs. And also the clean-up crew of Joy, Scott, and Sidney Furubayashi, Michael Iwasaki, Keith Chow, Michael Fong, and Corey Sakashita. Great job guys. The beginning of the church year also means the time of re-election. The YBA has come up with their officers through the raise of hands or by simply electing the only person nominated. And here's who we chose:

President - Corey Sakashita
Vice President - Shawn Koga
Secretary - Blake Akimoto
Treasurer - Michael Fong

The year ahead is sure to be a great and memorable one, full of fun, compassion, and the many teachings of the buddha.

Bake Sale

We would like to thank everyone for donating the homemade baked goods to the annual Buddhist Church Bazaar. Many compliments about how delicious everything looked and tasted were heard throughout the day and night. It was fun to see Reiko Watanabe's manju sell in about 20 minutes and watch Yukie Okubo's pop treats being grabbed for a late night snack. The breads were especially a favorite. The different varieties of zucchini and pumpkin cakes along with candy and cupcakes kept everyone wanting more. Marilyn Shimada's caramels could give SEES Candy some mighty competition. We wish that we could list everyone, but just know that your donation was greatly appreciated. Again, thank you to those of you who volunteered your time and efforts for making this a successful bake sale.

Bake Sale Ladies!

Letter From Board

Dear Temple Members and Friends of the Dharma:

Due to the increasing number of requests for services performed at the temple for non-members and extended family of members, The Salt Lake Buddhist Temple Board of Directors would like to remind everyone of appropriate protocol for such events.

It is generally an accepted tradition that for weddings, funerals and memorial services that an orei or donation be offered to the temple and an ofuse or honorarium be given to the minister for performing the services. The amount of the offerings are left to the discretion of the donor. Temple members can be consulted for suggested amounts.

The board appreciates your consideration and further information regarding these and other traditions can be found in Traditions of Jodoshinshu Hongwanji-Ha written by Rev. Masao Kodani and the late Rev. Russell Hamada. This publication is available through the temple library.

Gassho,

Salt Lake Buddhist Temple Board of
Directors

November Toban

*Steve Tachiki	*Shirley Farr
Becky Tachiki	Robert Farr
Brent Shimada	Jolene Shimada
Ernie Kyed	Laverne Kyed
Paul Seo	Karen Seo
Brian Fukushima	Tammy Fukushima
Dick Matsuda	May Matsuda

November Shotsuki Hoyo

November 20, 10:00 am

Deceased	Date of death	Next of kin
Fujii Bunzo	11/26/81	Ritsuko Hayashi
Fujii Shigeno	11/24/99	Amy Tomita
Hachisuka Toma	11/15/87	Nancy Takagi
Hasegawa Fumi	11/19/85	Jane Sakashita
Ikegami Torako	11/18/93	Hiroshi Ikegami
Imada Mitaro	1/24/51	Matsuyo Imada
Imada Wasaburo	11/17/67	Shizuko Imada
Kaizumi Maki		Craig Kaizumi
Kashima Sawaki Kiyoko	11/23/93	Hitoshi Suenaga
Kobayashi Naoki	11/13/71	Ken Kobayashi
Koga Sue	11/16/74	Sachiko Koga
Koseki Toraji	11/22/79	Kathy Terashima
Matsuura George Iwao	11/11/29	Doris Matsuura
Mitsunaga Tsurukichi	11/24/25	Hiroshi Mitsunaga
Muraki Yachiyo	11/21/87	Sam Muraki
Oishi Umeko	11/3/78	Taichi Oishi
Okubo Kiyotaro	11/30/71	Harry Okubo
Omura Michiko	11/27/83	
Omura Toyome	11/13/94	
Sako Yoshimitsu	11/7/84	Sako Koko

Sekino Takasaburo	11/21/79	Lillian Sekino
Sugino Mitsuye	11/29/91	Bob Sugino
Takagi Tami	11/25/89	Nancy Takagi
Watanabe Hikomuni	11/7/93	Ida Watanabe
Yamane Kazuo	11/12/81	Eunice Yamane
Yakumo Ryujin	11/10/80	Kazuko Yakumo
Tohinaka Masayoshi	11/29/70	Sachiko Tohinaka
Iwamoto Kiyotoshi	11/11/02	Yuriko Iwamoto
Furubayashi Masato	11/9/03	Maxine Furubayashi
Matsuura Doris	11/1/04	Ken Matsuura
Akiyama Genevieve	11/2/04	Francis Akimoto
Shimizu Keiko Kae	11/6/04	Kerry Shimizu Lee
Namba Kumeno	11/21/05	Kaz Namba
Sudoko Taro	11/29/04	Nobue Sudoko
