



Buddhist Thoughts

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If you meet the Buddha, Kill him!

J.K. Hirano

Even a good person attains birth in the Pure Land, so it goes without saying that an evil person will.

Though it is so, people commonly say, "Even a evil person attains birth, so it goes without saying that a good person will." This statement may seem well-founded at first, but it runs counter to the intent of the Primal Vow, which is Other Power. This is because people who rely on going good through their self-power fail to entrust themselves wholeheartedly to Other Power and there fore are not in accord with Amida's Primal Vow, but when they overturn the mind of self-power and entrust themselves to Other Power, they will attain birth in the true and real fulfilled land.

Tannisho Chapter 3, CWS pg. 663

The recent controversy over the book and film The Da Vinci Code has been very interesting. It is very puzzling how much weight has been given to a popular work of fiction. The suggestion that Jesus may have had a child with Mary Magdalen is heresy to some Christians. This would imply that without a perfect Jesus, his teachings would be considered invalid. This is hard for me to understand. If his teachings have relevance in our daily lives, why would the thought of his humanity bring about such intense feelings of negativity? Jesus's teachings were meant for normal human beings, not gods! We are imperfect, why must he be perfect and is his having a child a sign of imperfection?

In the Muslim world it is also considered heresy to defame Mohammed. We have seen how a cartoon printed in a Dutch newspaper has brought up world wide protests, even death. How can any religion promoting love and understanding create such feelings of hate? Would Mohammed condone killing in his name?

In Buddhism, there is a famous koan by the Zen Master Lin Chi which says, "If you meet the Buddha, kill him. If you meet a patriarch kill him"

At the surface it seems shocking to suggest killing anyone, let alone the Buddha or a patriarch. However, Lin Chi is opening our minds with this sharp Dharma sword with this shocking statement. This koan is a way to express that the Buddha or a patriarch should not get in the way of our own spiritual progress or search. The suggestion of killing them is meant for you to kill them from your thoughts, if they are being obstacles.

If it were proven that the Shakyamuni Buddha never existed or that Shinran Shonin were nothing more than a folk tale, this would not negate the fact that their teachings exist to guide us in our lives. Within the Parinirvana Sutra which contains Shakyamuni Buddha's final teaching, he says, "If you only see my body, you do not truly see me." He then further states, "After my death let the Dharma be your teacher." Here the Buddha is explaining that it is the teaching that is important not the form of the Buddha. Buddha is found within the Dharma and visa versa.

To confuse the teacher with the teaching can cause problems for anyone. I know that there are many of you that are agreeing with what I am saying as you read this article. Within your mind

you may think, “I would never have a problem like the Christians are having about the Da Vinci Code or the Muslims and Mohammed.” However, I would have to warn you about what you may inadvertently do.

I recently heard that there was a member of our temple who quit the temple because of the way I said *Namo Amida Butsu*. He believed that the name must be said *Namu Amida Butsu* and any minister that said *Namo Amida Butsu* was wrong, because the Japanese characters are written that way. At first glance I can understand what he was thinking, because if you were to only read the characters letter by letter, the Japanese character used for *Mu* is pronounced *Mu* and not *Mo*. However, if you were to read the characters merely in a common form *Namu Amida Butsu* would mean, “Southern empty Amida Buddha.”

Our *Gomonshu Koshin Otani* and many of the scholars of *Jodo Shinshu* have suggested that the characters written for *Namu Amida Butsu*, should be pronounced *Namo Amida Butsu*. Their rationale is that these first two characters of the *nembutsu* characters are Japanese transliterations of the classical Chinese which is pronounced *Namo*. In Vietnamese they use the pronunciation *Nammo* and in Tibetan it is also *Namo*. The *Gomonshu* in one of his writings suggested that in recognition of *Shinran*’s scholarship and the way *Shinran* often annotated these characters, we should pronounce the *Nembutsu* “*Namo Amida Butsu*” rather than “*Namu Amida Butsu*.”

All of this is fine for scholarship, no matter how you may pronounce these characters, *Namu* or *Namo*. The reason for the saying of *nembutsu* is to express gratitude. The *nembutsu* is not a magical phrase or mantra that suddenly transforms your life. The *nembutsu* is an expression of gratitude for the causes and conditions in your life. The difference between a “u” or an “o” has nothing to do with this.

In Christianity the perfection of Jesus may fall upon whether or not he was human enough to love and beget a child. In Buddhism, the teacher should never be mistaken for the teachings they are

transmitting. Especially in *Jodo Shinshu*, it is our humanity that is the focus of *Amida Buddha*’s compassion. This first passage is a classic example of *Jodo Shinshu*’s emphasis of the teaching called “*akunin shoki*” (The evil person as the object of salvation). We in essence must look to our own karmic evil and realize that we are imperfect and filled with *bonno* i.e. greed, anger and ignorance. It is because of our own evil nature that we are grateful for *Amida*’s compassion that will cut through our karmic evil and allow our salvation.

If we have the time to look at what others are doing or saying, we are not looking into our own weaknesses. I believe that the beauty of *Jodo Shinshu* is found within the teachings of our focusing upon our imperfections and not worrying about others. This can be found in the words and writings of many of our teachers. *Rennyō Shōnin* said, “The faults of others are easy to see but the faults of our own are difficult to fully recognize. If one sees that he has a fault, he must realize that the fault must be very grave indeed for him to recognize it himself; thus, he must take steps to correct his fault. Because it is difficult for us to see many of our faults, we should listen to the advice of others.” He also said, “If one walks looking far ahead and pays no attention to the ground beneath his eyes, he will stumble. If one gazes critically upon others and forgets to look into himself, he will bring tragedy upon himself.”

Within *Jodo Shinshu* it is the recognition of our own imperfections that is the focus of the teachings in our life. Whether or not the Buddha was perfect is of little relevance. Within the *Mahāvayūha Sūtra* it says, “Some piously affirm: “The truth is such and such. I know! I see!” and hold that everything depends upon having the “right” religion. But when one really knows, one has no need for religion.” I definitely need the teachings in my life. What about you? *Namo Amida Butsu*.

President’s Message

Paul Terashima

As everyone should know, at this year's General Meeting the Sangha decided to stay at our present location. So the Temple Board and the Building Committee decided to start fixing up the Temple. The Temple is 45 years old. We have replaced the roof on the Temple and gym twice. The money in the Building fund is now being used to replace all the old equipment that is breaking down. The Building committee decided that the Temple should replace the air conditioner and heating systems. We got three bids and Manwill Plumbing was the lowest at \$26,522.00, so the Temple board approved this project. The Building committee decided that in order for the Sangha to see what the Building Fund money is going to, we thought the flooring at the entrance, hall, classroom, up-stair restroom and both stairs should be replaced. We got three bids and "Carpet One" was the lowest and best, since they would move everything to replace the flooring. Carpet One will do this for \$10,700.00. The Temple board approved this project. The heating and air conditioner changes will be very cost efficient, but the Sangha won't see it. The new flooring will improve the look of the Temple. This everyone will notice and I hope they will like it. The Temple still needs the money that was pledged. If you haven't contributed, please do so, because there is a lot of improvements that this old Temple needs. Please continue to contribute to the Temple Building Fund.

I've been Temple President from 1996-2000 and 2003-2006. All these years I have noticed that when I ask for chairs of all our fundraising events, Temple committees. The same people are there to save the day. The Temple needs other people to take leadership roles. When these people ask the Sangha for help, the Sangha always steps up and works hard to make our events or projects very successful. To the new leaders, the Sangha will always support you. This is the best group of people that I have the pleasure to work with. That is the reason I am your Temple President. But the Temple needs new faces in Temple's leadership role.

Special Awards winners for this year are January-Linda Omori, February-Byron Watanabe, March-Tom Akimoto, April-Lisa Imamura and May- Dru Sueoka. Thank you for supporting this fund raiser. Good Luck for June.

JUNE Toban-*Jeff Watanabe,*Brent Koga, Silvana Watanabe. Sherrie Koga Mits Fujinami, Terry Fujinami, Takeko Doi, Merry Nakamura, Donna Sato, Jim Eng, Faye Eng and Stephanie Sueoka.

Jr. YBA Bruce Fong

Thanks to all the Jr. YBA members that assisted in various ways with the Nihon Matsuri. Your efforts were appreciated by the temple!

The Jr. YBA is taking their 2nd bus trip on August 4 – 8. The destination is the San Francisco Bay Area with visits to Jodo Shinshu Buddhist temples in Oakland, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Palo Alto. We plan to tour the new Jodo Shinshu Center, IBS, BCA headquarters, and San Francisco Japantown and also participate in the Oakland and Palo Alto Obons. Two full days will be spent at Marine World and Great America amusement parks. The Bay District Jr YBA will be joining us at Great America and has planned a few activities during our visit.

Anyone interested in joining us is welcome. The cost is \$300 per person which includes transportation, lodging, and amusement park admissions. The cost for children under the age of 12 is \$150. A \$100 deposit reserves your seat. For more information, please contact Maya Chow or Bruce or Christy Fong.

Special thanks to Ruby Doi, Yukie Okubo, and Chiz Ishimatsu for their generous donations to the kids for their trip.

The last Scrip order before the summer break will be taken on June 11.

My Great Grandfather The Pioneer

Kacie Hirano

(This essay written by our 4th grade Dharma School student was entered in the Sons of Utah Pioneers essay contest. Among 450 students she won first place and a \$500.00 prize, that was presented at a special dinner. Congratulations Kacie!)

My Great Grandfather: Sanichi Nakano was born on July 22nd in 1886 in Hiroshima, Japan. He immigrated to Garland, Utah from Japan in 1906. He was the first Japanese Pioneer in our family to arrive in Utah. He came to Utah to have a better life and make money to send home to his parents in Japan.

His first job was working on the railroad repairing railroad tracks with other Japanese immigrants. He married my Great Grandma in 1909 in Seattle, Washington. She was a "Picture Bride" whom my Great Grandfather had never met till their arranged marriage. He brought her back to Garland, Utah and they farmed for a living. They both worked hard and long hours to keep the farm and to feed their large family. They had eleven children and two of them died while they were babies. My Grandpa, who is 83 years old is named Rokuro, which means the number sixth child in the Japanese language.

The family moved to Syracuse, Utah in 1915. My Great Grandparents and their children farmed the land. My Great Grandfather built and started the first Buddhist church in Northern Utah. The church became a gathering place for many Japanese families to start a new life here in Utah. You can read and see pictures of my Great Grandfather on a rock in the city park in Syracuse. He was one of the "Pioneers" who built the town of Syracuse, Utah.

My Great Grandfather died at an early age

of 49 due to sickness and hard work. This left my Great Grandmother to raise nine children on her own. As I look at my Great Grandfather's picture, I can see my Grandpa in him. They both worked hard and long so I can be here today as a citizen in the United States. My family roots may begin in Japan, but our lives and history were built here in Utah.

I am happy that I got to write this report. I have learned about what "Pioneers" are about and I also got to learn about my Great Grandfather. In the "Children's Dictionary of Words," Pioneer means: one of the first people to settle in a land. This is my Great Grandfather, Sanichi Nakano the "Pioneer."

With Deepest Sympathy

Our temple offers our deepest sympathies for the family and friends of

Yoshika Hattori

11/20/1917-5/16/ 2006

We hope that through the nembutsu teachings and the support of your family and community, you will find comfort in this difficult time. Namo Amida Butsu

June Shotsuki Hoyo

June 11, 10:00 am

Deceased	Date	Next of Kin
Akiyama Uhichi	6/12/67	Francis Akimoto
Fujimoto Kanta	6/7/56	Grace Oshita
Fujinami Tomakichi	6/12/68	Mitsuru Fujimoto
Harada Tsuyono	6/2/85	Amy Enomoto
Imai Fujii	6/28/91	Ruth Aoki
Kobayashi Tsui	6/20/43	Ken Kobayashi
Mayeda Buntaro	6/5/89	Toshi Mayeda
Muraki Sakae	6/24/87	
Nakamura Chogoro	6/28/45	Takae Nakamura
Noda Ben	6/29/92	Reiko Jean Noda

Sakinada Kathleen		
Sasaki Nobuko	6/22/34	Charlie Sasaki
Shiba Eiji	6/30/85	
Suzuki Kiyoji	6/11/69	Masako Suzuki
Tadehara Mary	6/30/84	Rose Kamaya
Tani Hatsuye Mary	6/17/84	Elanor Nakamura
Yokome Roy	6/26/95	Ray Uno
Araki Aiko	6/16/98	
Aoki Fred Toshio	6/17/98	Kay Aoki
Niwa Teruchiyo	6/11/00	Pat Ninomiya
Shiba Haruko Karen	6/17/00	Tosh Shiba
Nakamura Kiyo	6/10/04	Phil Nakamura

Temple Web Site

Cassandra Van Buren

The SL Temple website is available 24 hours per day for your use at www.slbuddhist.org. Sangha members may add Temple-related calendar entries themselves by clicking the "Calendar" link on the site, and then clicking the "Add Event" button on the bottom of the page. I encourage you to add your own entries in order to keep the calendar updated as efficiently as possible.

I request that whenever you take photos at a Temple event you give me a CD or e mail me your photos at temple@mavenwebdesign.com. Thanks to Mark Minaga who provided a CD with wonderful photos for the site. You can view the photos by clicking the "Sangha" link and then choosing "Family Dharma."

Nihon Matsuri

Jane Sakashita

Chairman Scott Mayeda, son of temple members Buster and Rose Mayeda, joins me in thanking all members of the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple and the Ogden Buddhist Temple for their participation in the Nihon Matsuri Festival. As Scott says, "The event went so smoothly and well. It did so because of all your hard work, dedication and sacrifice. You should be proud, not only that you put on a tremendously successful event, but

also because you educated literally thousands of people about the culture of Japan and of those of Japanese ancestry and about the contributions our Japanese community has made and continues to make to the State of Utah as a whole."

The following Committee members and their helpers are to be commended:

Elaine Endo assisted Sherrie Koga in the preparation of the food booths.

Alice Hirai of Ogden BT assisted with the exhibits, fashion show and participated on the program.

Camela Javellana Hirano chaired the Fashion Show with 39 models in beautiful kimono, assisted by committee member Jeanie Painter who organized the models.

Marion Hori from the Ogden BT and the Nihon Matsuri treasurer sewed all the happi coats for volunteers as well as participated on the program.

Ellen Kato also from Ogden assisted Sherrie Koga.

Sherrie Koga orchestrated the various food booths with the assistance of the BWA, Dharma School, YBA and Jr. YBA members who also were trash pickup volunteers.

Steve Koga, one of the unsung heroes who assisted Paul Terashima in multiple aspects of the festival, including the outside facilities, as well as the setup of exhibits inside the temple, etc.

Dot Richeda has the tremendous task of acquiring the talent of the 27 program entertainment.

Paul Terashima with his presidential expertise was in charge of the outside facilities, getting permission to use parking lots from the Salt Palace and Royal Woods Associates, obtaining licenses, etc.

Silvana Watanabe without whom a program booklet would not have been published; getting all the ads months in advance of the festival, proofreading, etc. was a Herculean task. The program booklet financially supports the Nihon Matsuri operations.

Cassandra Van Buren did the layout of the booklet.

The above were the Volunteer Planning Committee from our temples who met for several months, sometimes weekly, with committee members from other organizations in the production of this event. We are grateful to Reverend Jerry Hirano for his generous comments in the booklet and participation. We met with committee members from the Japanese Church of Christ whose members prepared food; provided the refrigerated truck; accumulated and identified the photo exhibits of sports activities, Topaz, and old Japan Town; acquired the captivating TV media and radio advertising; all around assistance on the grounds; communicating with the honored dignitaries; the tea ceremony; the flower arrangements and doll exhibits; decorations of the outside tents; etc. The Ogden Japanese Church of Christ assisted with the food and helped with cleanup and volunteered wherever needed. The Dai Ichi Ward of the LDS Church had a food booth as well as provided student volunteers from the University of Utah for trash pickup and other outside jobs, conducted the flag ceremony, assigned the Mcs, etc. The Nikkei Senior Center, the Salt Lake JACL, Mount Olympus JACL, Wasatch Front JACL, and the JAYS all participated in various facets of the event. With the continuous commitment of Terrell Nagata and the National JACL Credit Union, we are grateful for their volunteering as the communication center. Temple member Friends of Nihon Matsuri donors and sponsors included Steve Tachiki's Docu Prep; Tom Hori's Redcon; Art Suekawa's Janitorial Services; Jeff and Silvana Watanabe; and Rolen Yoshinaga's Viranim Tech; Mas Akiyama for Mt. Olympus Water.

This festival was extraordinary and tremendously well accepted by the people of Utah. Without the assistance of all the Japanese organizations, an event such as the one held this April 29, with an overwhelming attendance, could not have been accomplished. The magnitude of

the event caused many stresses, headaches and hard work from everyone in our temples and all organizations, but from my personal experiences, nothing is accomplished easily.

Charles Schwab said, "When you put a limit on what you will do, you have put a limit on what you can do."

Everyone's effort in producing this Nihon Matsuri was limitless, and Scott and I are profoundly grateful to all of you. "Dohmo arigatoh gozaimasu."

In Gassho,

Jane Sakashita, Co-chair
Nihon Matsuri Planning Committee

Healthy Living Through the Dharma BWA Seminar Salt Lake Buddhist Temple June 10, 2006

Guest Speakers: Carmela Hirano &
Annette Koga

Schedule:

- 12:30-1:00--Registration
- 1:00-1:30—Opening Service
- 1:45-2:30—Workshop I
- 2:45-3:30—Workshop II
- 3:30-3:45—Break
- 3:45-5:00—Health Fair (blood pressure, nutrition & diet, exercise, hearing test and more!)
- 5:30—Dinner at Pagoda (Cost: \$15,

collected at registration)

Sunday, June 11, 2006 will be the Eshinniko service at 11:00 a.m. with the above guest speakers. This will be followed by a luncheon at the Golden Phoenix restaurant. Cost will be approximately \$15 per person.

Reservations for both the dinner and/or luncheon must be made in advance by contacting Jane Sakashita (582-0560) by **June 3**.

Further questions can be directed to Brenda Koga , 466-6552.

BWA Donations

Yuriko Dennison

Shigeru Sasaki	\$100.00	Special
National JACL	\$100.00	Thank you for Helping in Nihon Matsuri
