



# Buddhist Thoughts

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## Teriyaki Priest J.K. Hirano

*A good mind arises due to the influence of past good and evil things are thought and done due to the works of past evil. "We should know that the committing of a trifling sin," said the late Master, "as minute as a particle of dust on the tip of a rabbit's or a sheep's hair, is without exception due to our past evil karma." On another occasion, the Master said, "Yuien-bo, will you believe what I am going to say to you?"*

*"Yes, I will," I replied. The master further inquired, "Then, will you obey anything I tell you to do?" I respectfully gave my assent. The master continued, "Now, kill one thousand persons, will you? Then you will be sure of your birth."*

*"With due respect for your words," I replied, "I feel that, with all that is in me, I cannot kill even one person."*

*"Then," the master asked, "why did you promise me that you would not disobey what I, Shinran, said?" He continued, "From this you should know. Suppose you could do anything just as you please; then, you could kill, if you were told to kill a thousand persons in order to be born in the Pure Land. But you do not kill because there is no karmic condition within you to kill even one person, and not because your mind is good. Even though you have not thought of injuring others, it may so happen that you kill a hundred or a thousand persons."*

*Tannisho, chapter 13*

I peeked into the Hondo to see why the lights had been left on and what was making the strange clucking sound. Upon opening the door, I was assaulted by a strange but familiar smell. It wasn't the perfumed smell of incense or the various flowers upon the altar, but the distinct smell of barbecued teriyaki chicken. Opening the door all the way, to my astonishment, seated throughout the hondo were hundreds, maybe thousands of crying, clucking chickens.

The altar had been set up for a funeral service. However, set before the altar, rather than a casket, was a huge gold imari plate, piled high with our temple's teriyaki chicken. Carefully arranged around the glistening pieces of flesh were small white carnations. A gasp slipped from my

mouth. The hondo was suddenly silent and all the chickens looked in my direction. Suddenly a loud voice came from the altar, "Human, come forward and learn about suffering!"

Fear streamed through my body. My mind raced, "Teriyaki chicken, chickens in the hondo, learn about suffering?!" Was I going to become teriyaki priest? No matter how my mind tried to resist, my feet kept moving me toward the front of the hondo. I could feel the sweat begin to stream down the sides of my face, sticky and warm like teriyaki sauce. Clearing the sweat from my eyes I saw there was a very large chicken standing at the podium where I usually stood. To my surprise he began to speak to me in English not chicken, "Come forward human, I want you to learn about

existential suffering. I have heard you tell your Sangha about suffering, but do you really understand the depth of suffering you and your fellow humans cause not only to yourselves, but to all of us sentient beings?" As this chicken in robes spoke, there was a loud ruffling of feathers and a few harsh shrieks from the chickens that had now begun to form a circle around the plate of teriyaki chicken and myself. I thought, "I knew I should have dieted, so I wouldn't look so appealing as teriyaki priest."

"I.I...didn't know..." I squeaked and pleaded to the group. "Fool! Shut up!" shouted the large robed chicken. "How many times have you used the term 'sentient beings'. How many times have you spoken to your Sangha about the nature of suffering and the life of gratitude? How can you say, 'I didn't know...' so pathetically. WE ARE SENTIENT BEINGS, HUMAN! DO NOT PLEAD IGNORANCE. You insult us with your babbling, I don't know.. SPEAK TO HIM BROTHERS AND SISTERS!"

A large speckled chicken fluttered toward the front of the other fowl and spoke, "Throughout your temples of the Buddhist Churches of America, hundreds of thousands, maybe millions of our parents, grandparents, children and grandchildren, have been sacrificed to keep your temples going. Yes, we have been sacrificed so that you and your Sanghas could listen to the Dharma. You have been blessed to be born into human life. Do you realize the meaning of the threefold refuge, 'hard is it to be born into human life?'"

"Yes, yes, I am grateful for being born into human life." I pleaded with the fluttering crowd.

"Shut up and let her continue, HUMAN!" came a click from the crowd.

"We chickens understand that the Dharma is truth and that to be born a chicken, means that many of us will end up as food for your food bazaars, Obons and various fund raisers. We can only hope that our sacrifice for the temple is better than ending up merely a bucket of Kentucky Fried or worse a chicken nugget. At least our children

die for a worthy cause, the Dharma. But for you to blubber out 'I didn't know' that makes me sick. You, a Buddhist priest, should at least recognize the countless millions of us that have been sacrificed for you and yours to listen to the Dharma. We should peck the ears off your head. If that is all the gratitude you have."

With her words, I could feel the chickens moving in closer to me. "COCK A DOODLE DOO!" screamed some of the more aggressive roosters. "Let's peck out his eyes!" Shrieked one of the chickens. "Henny Penny!" shouted the chicken priest. "Calm down all of you. Henny Penny, remember what happened the last time you got all worked up about the sky falling?" That seemed to settle them down a little.

"We won't hurt you, human. Nor do we expect that you will change the manner of your fund raising. We just want you to understand that it isn't only the physical labor of your temple members or the donations that you receive, that allows you to hear the Dharma.

We know that there are members of your Sangha who do not understand that to listen to the Dharma and to receive shinjin is of primary importance. They feel that merely working at the Bazaars and various activities is good enough and that, that is Buddhism or being Buddhist. However, we want them to know that our sacrifice is not merely for cultural traditions. For example, Obon is not a folk tradition. It is an opportunity to hear the Dharma! We do not want to die for a folk tradition. We are not sacrificing our lives just for you to have a good time. We give our lives in gratitude for you humans to have the opportunity to hear the Dharma. Listen, please listen is all we ask." I could only bow my head and say, "Namo Amida Butsu."

The large priest and the Sangha seemed to settle down with my recitation of the Nembutsu. "Good, we know that you humans are weak. Yet we are willing to accept our lot as chickens for you to gain the value of the Dharma. I hope that you will try to let your Sangha know our feelings."

“Thank you Sensei, I will try to explain what I can.” The chicken priest clucked and nodded with the others clucking seemingly in agreement. I suddenly found myself, sitting in my office with a translation of Tannisho opened to Chapter 13. It must have been a dream, however, I still can't explain the chicken feathers stuck to the soles of my shoes. Namo Amida Butsu.

## Jr. YBA Christy Fong

The Jr. YBA will be taking their 2<sup>nd</sup> Bus trip on August 4 – 8. We want to thank everyone who has supported our fund raisers and Scrip sales to make this goal a reality.

Anyone interested in joining us is welcome. For more information, please contact Maya Chow or Bruce or Christy Fong.

The Jr. YBA will have their annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Barbecue. Please contact Bruce or Christy Fong with the number of family members able to attend or with any questions.

The Jr. YBA will host/hostess the food area at Obon. Please contact Brenda with the times you are able to volunteer. We also need your help with sales in our Jr. YBA area. Please contact Maya or Christy with times you are willing to assist. Obon is a time to showcase our temple and its celebrations with the community, so please support and participate in every way you can!

Have a great summer!

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## BWA News Yoshiko Uno

Hoping everyone is getting ready and excited about our Obon Festival on Saturday, July 8th and service on Sunday, July 9th. Our members will start preparing some of the ingredients for sushi on Friday, July 7th from 8AM and on Saturday, July 8th from 4 AM. We would like your help on Friday from the morning and on Saturday from about 7 AM. We will start our telephone chain to remind everyone and hope you'll be able to join us.

We didn't have a meeting in May, but met in June. Brenda Koga and her committee announced the schedule for our Healthy Living Through the Dharma Service and Workshop which was held on June 10th. Everyone who attended received some great information and had a good time. On Sunday, June 11th, we had our Eshinniko Service and luncheon following at the Golden Phoenix. This service and luncheon is a time for us to welcome our new members (spouses were invited). Our new members are: Karen Cone-Uemura, Elaine Endo, Christy Fong, Yoshika Hattori (deceased), Gail Minaga, Connie Sakashita, and Karen Seo. We are always encouraging other Temple members to join .

Our next meeting will be August 13th at our annual Steak Fry at Sugarhouse Park. We are looking forward to a great turnout.

See at our Obon Festival and Steak Fry

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## BWA Seminar Brenda Koga

The BWA seminar, "Healthy Living Through the Dharma" on June 10 was a great success, and the planning committee would like to thank all those who attended. Thank you to everyone who donated the refreshments for the break, and a special thanks to the committee members and to the guest speakers, Carmela Hirano and Annette Koga.

Our appreciation is also extended to those who presented and provided information for the participants during the health fair portion. Those involved were Stan Hirai, Shirley Farr, Stephanie Sueoka, Brian Fukushima, Reiko Mitsunaga, Karie Minaga-Miya and Faye Eng. Thanks for sharing your expertise and knowledge.

## Congratulations Sherrie

### Governor appoints new Labor Commissioner

Salt Lake City - Utah Governor Jon Huntsman announced today he has nominated Sherrie Hayashi to head the States Labor Commission.

Hayashi, upon confirmation of the Utah State Senate, will succeed Lee Ellertson as Labor Commissioner upon his retirement in mid-July. She currently works as director of the Commissions Anti-Discrimination & Labor Division.

Sherrie has served the State well and has worked hard to ensure safety and fairness in the workplace for Utahns, Governor Huntsman said. I am pleased she has accepted this challenge and look forward to her perspective in the cabinet.

Hayashi has been employed by the Labor Commissi on off and on for 15 years, working in various departments including working as an associate general counsel, a systems analyst and an investigator.

She received both her undergraduate and juris doctorate degrees from the University of Utah and is licensed by the Utah State Bar.

The Labor Commission does an excellent job of enforcing the law in a fair and impartial way, but another important aspect is ensuring that both employees and employers are educated about their rights and responsibilities, Hayashi said. I am honored the Governor has chosen me for this great post and I look forward to the challenges and opportunities it presents.

Ellertson was appointed as commissioner in 1996. We appreciate the hard work and dedication Lee has given to the Labor Commission during his tenure, Huntsman said.

## Recommended Reading

Yukie Okubo

SUCCESS; I have come to learn that WHAT WE BECOME is more important than what we get. Don't just get made over; become made over "regardless of age". What you have become directly affects success in life, rests squarely on the shoulders of your own personal development. Monetary income seldom out steps personal development. Personal development is a lifelong challenge, because it is a lifelong pursuit. NEVER GIVE UP!

I also read an article in August issue of "Writer's Digest". DO MEN READ?? Yes they do read , they need conviction that what they are reading is worthwhile. They do not read fiction. So I went over the list of recent books and picked out a few that might be worthwhile. Beginning with for men; then for either: then women. You may not agree with me?? but I needed to arrange some sort of order, this my list.

Most recent books are listed first. Then goes back in publication date, These Books are in your local public library. I usually call and ask them to locate them, sometimes they need to find them in the library system elsewhere and call me when they get it in and call me. They have them at the front desk. I can just have Floyd drop me off long enough to just pick it up.

2006- CHI WALKING by Danny and Katherine Dryer.

2005- Being Japanese American by Gil Asakawa

2005- The Art of being truly present by Jean Smith  
Jean Smith is author of many successful books. including Everyday mind. etc

2005- Rich Dad Poor Dad by Richard Kiyosaki  
Blue Jean Buddha voices of young Buddhists by Sumi Loudon

2004- Diamond Cutter by Geshi Michael Roach  
also author of the Tibetan Book of Yoga philosophy of practise of yoga

2003- Why Buddhism by Vicki McKenzie.

2002- Faith Trusting Your Own Deepest Experience by Sharon Salzberg  
2002-Shin Buddhism Bits of Rubble Turn into Gold Rev.Dr.Taitetsu Unno  
1999- Art of Happiness Howard Cutler MD  
1998 River of Fire River of Water Rev.Dr. Taitetsu Unno  
1998- Inner Revolution Dr. Robert Thurman  
2006- With Death on My Shoulder by Bonnie Joia  
2006--Japanese Women do not get Fat or Old by Naomi Moriyama & Robert Doyle  
2005- Leaving the Saints by Martha Beck Also Expecting Adam and Finding your own North Star.  
2002 Dreaming Waters by Gail Tsukiyama.  
Her mother is Chinese and her father is Japanese, I enjoyed this book which is a novel based on history. I enjoyed this so much that I read several of her books. I think I became interested in the outcome of the very different medical conditions of the main character in each book. I also learned much about Chinese and Japanese history and culture. She mentioned John Gunther's DEATH BE NOT PROUD in her book DREAMING WATERS so I also read that book.  
When Dharma School resumes in September, I would be happy to hear positive or negative comments from anyone who reads any of these books. These are book that are available from your local Public Library.

## Shotsuki Hoyo

Service will be held in conjunction with the Hatsubon/Bon Hoyo on Sunday, July 9, 1:00 pm

<u>Deceased</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Next of kin</u>
Beppu Yoshi	7/25/55	Jane Sakashita
Fujii Daiji		Amy Tomita
Hasegawa Masuta	7/1/81	Otome Hasegawa
Kameda Tasaku	7/14/91	
Konishi Becky	7/14/91	Jeanne Konishi
Konishi Lawrence	7/14/91	Jeanne Konishi
Matsuda Kanji	7/1/63	Dick Matsuda
Matsumiya Kaoru	7/1/54	Sego Matsumiya
Matsumori Tome	7/12/86	
Matsuura Yosaku	7/31/40	Greg Matsuura
Mochizuki Jiro		Jerry Mochizuki
Ogi Seiji	7/16	Tomoko Ogi
Ogi Takeshi	7/22	Tomoko Ogi
Nishida Roy Kazuo	7/10/03	Aiko Okada
Okino Shoichi	7/31/89	Kazuko Okino
Sanada Shintatsu Rev.	7/6/82	Tracy Roberson
Sasaki Shozo	7/73	Charlie Sasaki
Satomura Tome	7/20/86	Kimiko Mizuta
Sugino Kizo	7/28/52	Bob Sugino
Tohinaka Heizo	7/15/53	Sachiko Tohinaka
Yamaguchi Hoshiro	7/14/91	Mitsue Yamaguchi
Sumida Kimiyo	7/9/95	Barbara Mitsunaga
Tadehara Yukiyei	7/22/98	Amy Tomita
Tachiki Naosaburo Roy	7/16/01	Hanako Tachiki

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## Hatsubon

John Imada  
Sumiko Hattori  
David Lew  
Frank Nakai  
Yoshika Hattori

We hope that the families of these Sangha members will join us for the Hatsubon Service which will be held on July 9 at 1:00 pm