



# Buddhist Thoughts

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## Rain of Compassion

J.K. Hirano

I am the Thus Come One,  
most honored of two-legged beings.  
I appear in the world  
like a great cloud  
that showers moisture upon  
all the dry and withered living beings,  
so that all are able to escape suffering,  
gain the joy of peace and security,  
the joys of this world  
and the joy of nirvana.  
All you heavenly and human beings of this assembly,  
listen carefully and with one mind! . .

### Lotus Sutra, Dharma Rain

Now that Spring has arrived, my allergies are in full bloom. As I look at the beautiful blossoms in the trees surrounding my home or the various flowers that are beginning to show themselves in the flower beds, I only enjoy them for a split second before I have to rub the junk out of my eyes or blow my dripping nose. As I step outside and smell the blossoming landscape, I feel the chafe around my nostrils. There is a part of me that enjoys the Spring and another part that curses the same things that allow me just what I am enjoying about the Spring. It is a world of contradiction. I need the Dharma Rain to water the seeds of goodness within me rather than my watering the seeds of evil, which seem to come so naturally to me.

I have never been a person that is naturally good. When I look back at my life, I find that the so called "dark side" has fascinated me more than

the "force side", speaking in Star War's vernacular. It sounds surprising that someone who has chosen my particular profession as a Buddhist priest would be fascinated by evil rather than good. Actually someone that is naturally evil, like myself, can probably appreciate how strong compassion in our life can be, since I see it on a daily basis. My natural intentions of moving towards the "dark side" are rewarded with good. It is only a result of the good around me that I have been allowed to become a Buddhist priest. There are people I have met who are naturally good and cheerful. My wife Carmela is someone that I have found to be naturally good. My friend Rev. Marvin Harada is a person I know to be a naturally good person.

Both of them look towards the goodness in people. They believe that people have good intentions. They both rarely complain about what others have done to them. When they become

upset, I know that they first look at what they could have done to bring about those feelings of animosity. These negative feelings are a result of something they did to someone else, rather than someone doing something to them. On the other hand, I would first blame the other person. When I feel bad, I look to see who is disturbing my tranquility with their ego. It is in my nature to complain or become upset by others and not looking to my own ego first. My life has been blessed with having people such as Carmela and Rev. Harada surrounding me, reminding me about the goodness in this world. It is a result of these types of individuals that I have become a priest; it is as a result of these people that I live.

When I was in High School and at the University of Utah, the movies Godfather I, II and III came out. I thought that I would love to be a consigliere for the Mafia. Tom Hagen, played by Robert Duvall, was the consigliere for Don Corleone. I imagined how fun it would be to be an outlaw, playing the legal system for the benefit of my "family". Tom Hagen wasn't evil enough; I identified more with Sonny Corleone, who became the war time consigliere for the Corleone family. I felt more in common with Sonny, than his pacifist brother Michael. It thrilled me when Michael finally realized his destiny to become the Godfather as he allowed his evil side to fully blossom. In some ways, he was my ideal.

The older I have gotten, the more I see how my ego, my bonno (greed, anger, ignorance) has created suffering in my life and the lives of those around me. There are things that have happened in my life that I would never want to live through again. However, it is these dark times that have taught me how lucky I am with the majority of my life. These dark places have taught me to enjoy what I have. The evil I know that is a part of who I am has not been allowed to bloom. Those bodhisattvas in my life have watered the true Buddha nature within me.

The other day, Taylor asked me about what makes me sad. I couldn't think of anything in particular and I asked her what made her sad. She

told me the saddest part in her life were Mondays and Wednesdays when I took her home to her Mom's house and Tuesdays and Thursdays when she didn't get to see me. It had nothing to do with her Mom, for I know how much she loves her. It was just the separation and saying goodbye and not seeing each other in the morning that hurt. She felt the same way when she was with me when she missed her Mom. After I kissed Taylor goodbye and goodnight, she went into her Mom's house. As I drove out of the driveway and started home, I saw her open the balcony door. I stopped in the road and opened the window of my car. She shouted, "I love you Dad, thanks, good night."

When I pulled up into the driveway of my house, I felt a peace come over me. It was strange because I was feeling sad about Taylor's predicament. Yet, seeing the lights in my home, I realized how really content I was with my life. I was at a place in my life that I never would have imagined I would be at, because of the fact that I was returning to a home that belonged to Carmela and me. Although Taylor's sadness bothered me, I knew I could discuss those feelings of dismay with Carmela. My divorce from Taylor's Mom had brought about Taylor's sadness. However, without having gone through that divorce, I would never have met Carmela. Without having been married to Taylor's Mom, I would never have had Taylor or Kacie. I also knew that Taylor and Kacie have parents who love them very much.

I realize these feelings of contradiction; happiness, sadness, good and evil are a part of life. It made me see that an evil person like myself can still be surrounded with compassion. Each of us has the possibility of good and evil. They are both aspects of who we are. I believe there are some who are more susceptible towards evil than good. The amazing aspect in life is that compassion surrounds both. Just as the Spring rain waters the flowers in the garden, it also waters the weeds. The Sun shines on both, as does Amida Buddha's compassion that rains upon us all. Namo Amida Butsu.

## BWA News

Dot Richeda

**T**hank you to the ladies of the BWA for preparing Onigiri for Hanamasturi. It went well with the chicken. Also thank you for your help in the clean up of the Temple and the West Wing April 12th. Many people have noticed how clean the Temple is.

Our next meeting will be May 4th at 11:30 am. See you there.

Reminder:

May 17th, Movie Night

May 31st, Naikan workshop

The Temple will have a bus going to Las Vegas Obon on the weekend of Aug 8-10th. If you are interested in going, please let me know so we can have a count. We will be sharing the bus with Ogden.

Thank you to the following for bringing salads to the cleanup: Brenda Koga, Yukie Okubo, Christy Fong, LaVerne Kyed, Reiko Matsuura and Maya Chow. Reiko Matsuura prepared and arranged the luncheon donating the chili and chips. Thank you ladies.

Please join us in our Adult study class after service every Sunday in the West Wing.

Thank you for your support.

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## Jr. YBA

Christy Fong

**T**he Jr. YBA has some fund raising events in store for the month of May.

First, we will be selling concessions at movie night on May 17th. Come early for sloppy joes, hot dogs, popcorn, treats and drinks. All proceeds will go to the Salt Lake Temple general fund. Second, we will be holding our Chow Mein dinner on May 31st from 5:00 – 8:00. Tickets are available from any Jr. YBA student or can be purchased at the door. Take out orders will be

available. The next Scrip order will be taken on May 18th, Gotan E service. Orders will be available for pick up at the next Dharma School service, June 8th.

Thanks for all of your support.

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## Infant Presentation

(Hatsu Mairi)

May 18

On Sunday, May 18, 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 nenju. Those interested please fill in the form and return it to the temple.

Infant's name:  
Date of birth:  
Parent's Names:

Address:

Phone:

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## May Shotsuki Hoyo

May 18, 10:00 am

Name	Date of Death	Next of kin
Akita, Sam Hideo	5/17/64	Janet Thomas
Aoki, Michio Mike	5/13/92	Ruth Aoki
Atagi Tomi	5/26/89	June Seo
Fujii Fumiye	5/10	Ritsuko Hayashi

Hirano Ikuye	5/10/88	Henry Hirano
Hirano Kazuyo	5/31/92	Henry Hirano
Ishimatsu Fujie	5/13/80	Chizuko Ishimatsu
Iwasaki Tori	5/28/69	Fujio Iwasaki
Minaga Taka	5/15/96	Kozo Minaga
Miyake Mitsuyoshi	5/31/84	Mary Miyake
Moshizuki Kuniko	5/21/83	Takeo Mochizuki
Namba Jin	5/20/84	Kaz Namba
Ninomiya Tei	5/8/64	Yoshiko Ninomiya
Nishida Seiichi	5/15/64	Aiko Okada
Nishikawa Shigeru	5/18/98	Nancy Wayman
Nakahara Nancy	5/21/99	Lily Nakahara
Okino Masano	5/18/81	Masako Imamura
Shiba Hideo	5/4/96	Ayako Shiba
Sueoka Kame	5/15/89	Rhu Sueoka
Suzuki Saku	5/31/00	Yeiko Nagata
Tanaka Hiroshi	5/6/91	Masahiro Tanaka
Tsuyuki Yoshiko	5/27/91	Mark Tsuyuki
George Nakai	5/12/01	Mary Nakai
Haruo Nakagiri		Shizue Nakagiri
Nishiye Sasaki	5/15/05	Shigeru Sasaki
Sumi Hattori	5/16/2006	Gary Koga
Ben Mayeda	5/20/07	Craige Mayeda

# Resolving Anger Through Naikan

*the gentle Japanese therapeutic  
art of self-reflection*

Please join us for a Day Retreat  
of quiet reflection and meditation  
at the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple

*An offering by the SLBT Buddhist  
Women's Association.*

*Lunch, light snacks will be  
served. Please come as you are.*

To Register: Dr. Carmela@ 268-0333 or  
414-1336, Check us out at

[www.slbuddhist.org](http://www.slbuddhist.org)

Donations are gratefully accepted

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## Major memorials for 2008

If your loved one passed away in one of the following years, you may wish to schedule a memorial service. For more information, please call Rev. Hirano.

Year of Death	Service
2007	1 <sup>st</sup> Year
2006	3 <sup>rd</sup> Year
2002	7 <sup>th</sup> Year
1992	17 <sup>th</sup> Year
1984	25 <sup>th</sup> Year
1976	33 <sup>rd</sup> Year
1959	50 <sup>th</sup> Year
1909	100 <sup>th</sup> Year

**APRIL TEMPLE DONATIONS**

Ivan Van Laningham	50	Special
Jr Jazz Hornets team	375	Gym use
Takeo Iwamoto	225	Special
Yutako Ikegami	200	Shotsuki Hoyo -March
Cassandra Van Buren	100	Special
Masako Suzuki (CA)	20	Buddhist Thoughts
Tracy Akimoto	25	In memory of Landon Nobumasa Akimoto
Tamiko Adachi	25	In memory of Shizue Adachi
Maya Chow	150	Office chair & filing cabinet
Brenda Koga	50	Lamps from West Wing
Lisa Dean	50	Computer Hutch
Ivan Van Laningham	50	Special

**HANAMATSURI --**

Mary & Hiroshi Aramaki	25	Samuel & Akemi Dean	25
Tamiko Adachi	20	Faye & Jim Eng	100
Fran & tom Akimoto	25	Ben & Maurea Terashima	100
Tosh & Michi Aoki	30	Nobue Sudoko	25
Dorthie Conway	25	Karen Tohinaka	25
Carl & Yuriko Dennison	50	Cindy Thomas	25
Mary Doi	25	Ayako Tohinaka	50
Bobbie & Rick Ikegami	20	Misuko & Shige Shimada	50
Thomas Endo (CA)	25	Nancy Takagi`	25
Otome Hasegawa	25	Rev Jerry & Carmela Hirano	50
Jeannette & Kayo Hayakawa	25	Aiko Okada	25
Masami & Ritsu Hayashi	100	Stan & Elaine Endo	100
Lisa & Kirk Imamura	50	Ruth Aoki	35
Masako Imamura	25	Tracy Akimoto	20
Tomiye Ishimatsu	25	Nobuo Aoki	50
Chizuko Ishimatsu	25	May Akiyama	25
Rose & Joseph Kamaya	50	Aki & Neil Chow	25
Grace Kasai	50	Ichiro & Takeko Doi	100
Bob Kasubuchi	30	Misao & Elsie Doi	75
May Koike	50	Richard & Lynne Doi	50
Tammy & Henry Kuramoto	25	George & Ruby Doi	50
Mark & Gail Minaga	25	Christy & Bruce Fong	50
Bill & Shigeeko Mizuno	50	Mits & Terry Fujinami	100
Reiko & Ken Matsuura	40	Maxine Furubayashi	50
Richard & May Matsuda	20	Brian & Tammy Park	200
Hatsue & Walter Masuda	20	Mike & Connie Nakahara	50
Kyle & Evelyn Matsumura	25	Glen & Susan Furubayashi	25
Helen Mitsunaga	50	Scott & Joy Furubayashi	30
Reiko Mitsunaga	50	Henry Hirano	75

Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	100	Kathleen Hirabayashi	20
Karie & Marcus Miya	50	Dean Hirabayasi	25
Haruko & Mikio Moriyasu	25	Mitsuko Hirota	35
Tina & Ed Munson	100	Sandy Iwasaki	30
Alice Ogura	25	Yuriko Iwamoto	25
Ryoko & Gary Okamoto	50	Takeo Iwamoto	25
Setsuko Nagata	50	John Kasubuchi	50
Dot Richeda	25	Brenda Koga	25
Lloyd & Kiyomi Ryujiin	20	Brent & Sherrie Koga	25
Bob & Aki Sugino	25	Jeanne Konishi	50
Rhu Sueoka	100	LaVerne & Ernie Kyed	50
Jane Sakashita	50	Kozo & Hisa Minaga	25
Dave & Erin Sekino	50	Rokuro & Miyuki Nakano	20
Joni & Dru Sueoka	30	Jun & May Sudoko	30
Grace Oshita	25	Takae Nakamura	25
Stephanie Sueoka	20	Nanae Taketa	50
Shizuye Nakagiri	50	Robert & Tami Tokita	50
Paul & Kathy Terashima	50	Sachiko Tohinaka	25
Chie Sugaya	20	Steve & Becky Tachiki	50
Jeff & Silvana Watanabe	20	Byron & Reiko Watanabe	100
Kazuko Yakumo	30	Pamela Sugihara (Ogden)	20
Karen & Paul Seo	25	Emily Rasmussen	10
Arlene Imada Wade	20	Eunice Yamane	20
Mary Nakai	25	Merry & Phil Nakamura	30
Ivan Van Laningham	100	Cassandra Van Buren	20
Floyd & Yukie Okubo	200	Sherrie Hayashi	50
Toshi Mayeda	25	Yoshiko Uno	20
Lisa Matsuda	30	James & Marisa Aoki (Ogden)	25
Linda Oda (Ogden)	20	Troy & Judy Watanabe	25
George & Yuko Aoki (Ogden)	30	Kay & Chic Terashima	50

### SHOTSUKI HOYO

Ben & Maurea Terashima	25	Hiroshi & Mary Aramaki	25
Jeanne Konishi	50	Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	30
Jeannette Hayakawa	25	Linda & Ron Omori (March)	25
Tina Munson	50	Steve & Becky Tachiki	50
Nanae Taketa	25	Nancy Takagi	25
Tom & Fran Akimoto	50	Grace Oshita	25
Nobuo Aoki	25	Kay & Chic Terashima	25
Setsuo Takenaka	50	Jane Sakashita	25
Robert & Tami Tokita	20	Kathy & Paul Terashima	25
Dave & Erin Sekino	50		

**OHIGAN**

Yuriko Iwamoto	40	Ayako Tohinaka	25
Mitsuko Hirota	25	Kazuko Terasawa	25

**BUILDING FUND**

Koyo Restaurant	100		
Jun & May Sudoko	100	Thomas Endo (CA)	1000
Employees charity Organization of Northrop Grumman --			
Donors: Stan Endo	104	Sharon Matsuura	1040
Bruce Fong	260		

**JR YBA**

Akiko Kato (Ogden)	25	Chow Mein dinner
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# Chow Mein Dinner



**SATURDAY**

**May 31<sup>st</sup>**

**Salt Lake Buddhist Temple**

**(211 West 100 South)**

**Time: 5:00 – 8:00 pm**

***Dine In***  
***or***  
***Take Out***

***Sponsored by:***  
***Salt Lake Jr YBA***  
***\$8.00***