



Buddhist Thoughts

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English Gravity and American Buddhism

J.K. Hirano

As the Buddha said, Just as the dawn is the forerunner and the first indication of the rising sun, so is right view the forerunner and the first indication of wholesome states. Our view of who we are, what we are capable of, what matters in the world, molds our intentions, which in turn mold our actions. How we look at our lives becomes the basis for how we act and how we live and whether our choices are shaped by love and kindness. Transforming our understanding transforms our whole life: our happiness our degree of connectedness, our freedom. None of these are fixed in the particular externals of who we are, they are held in the universal potential of what we might become.

Sharon Salzberg The Kindness Handbook (a practical companion)

The other day I was working out on the elliptical machine at the gym and watching the Price is Right game show. This show was one of my Grandma Kawaguchi's favorite shows. Even when she was extremely weak from the cancer that ravaged her body, she would love to watch Bob Barker on the Price is Right. My mother also loved that show. Now my sister and daughters love to watch the Price is Right. My daughter Kacie is waiting to turn 18 so she can go on the Price is Right wearing a T shirt that says "Fourth generation Price is Right Fan." Even though Bob Barker is no longer the host of the show and some may not consider it the real Price is Right, the basic format is still the same. However, your name gets called out and you run down the aisle to be a contestant. A prize is revealed and the contestants try to guess the price closest to the retail price. If your guess is the closest, you win! I saw a version of the show in Las Vegas, but my name wasn't called. On the show I was watching at the gym, the showcase prize, which is the big prize and the final game on the Price is Right, was a trip to England. I have always wanted to visit England.

Our American culture is so connected to England. The language we speak in the United States is a derivative form of the English language. America was first established as a colony of the British Empire. We Americans have always been fascinated with the concept of British royalty and lifestyle. Look at all the English-influenced media we Americans love, such as Masterpiece Theatre, Agatha Christie mysteries, Shakespeare and even American Idol. How many covers of People magazine have had the feature story about Princess Diana or her relatives? However, more than anything, I have always wanted to experience English gravity.

All my life I have lived with gravity. It is a basic part of who and what I am. I have experienced gravity in America and even Canada, which is connected to England but probably more American than

English. I have experienced gravity in Japan, Mexico and even the Philippines. However, since I have never been to Europe, I assume, I have never experienced real English gravity. I'm sure that some of you are wondering, "What the hell is English gravity?" Well I don't really know since I have yet to experience it. However, I assume that English gravity is the real gravity. I learned in elementary school that Sir Isaac Newton was the one who discovered gravity. When observing an English apple fall from an English apple tree onto English soil, he came up with the theory of gravity. Since Sir Isaac Newton was English and everything involved in his discovery was in England, doesn't that make English gravity the real gravity?

If you believe that my theory of English gravity is a bunch of baloney and that gravity is not cultural or racial but a natural law that affects everybody and thing without discrimination, you would be correct. In the same manner, what we call Buddhism or more correctly Dharma is just a theory of how life works. It is a description of the natural laws that affect our life. The Dharma is not Indian, although Siddhartha Gautama, who only said he rediscovered the Dharma was born in present day India. It is not Japanese, although Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu was Japanese. It is not Tibetan, although the Dalai Lama is Tibetan.

There are many people who speak of Dharma as though it has a cultural bias. Certain countries have had longer histories of talking about Dharma. However, that does not make their explanation any more truthful because of their length of history. Gravity does not get any more real the closer we get to England. It is not necessary to go to India, Japan, Tibet or some other Asian country to discover the real Buddhism. The Dharma becomes real by looking deeper into oneself. By seeing that you are a human being with the same humanity as those in India or anyplace else in the world, you begin to understand the Dharma. To close the gap, the separation of self and other, you begin to understand the universal truth of the Dharma.

This past month our temple took part in Nihon Matsuri. I would like to thank all those who worked so hard for this community event. There were so many individuals who helped -- Reiko Matsuura, our food chairman, Sherrie Koga, Dot Richeda, Jane Sakashita and Paul Terashima on the planning committee. Our various organizations worked so hard -- the BWA as always in the kitchen preparing the food we sell and our YBA and Jr. YBA running around and through the tremendous crowds. Our temple can feel gratified that we have such an active gracious Sangha.

However, the participation by our temple has been questioned by some. If the Dharma isn't Japanese, why does our temple participate in a Japanese festival? We should not be responsible for the Japanese American community. I would like to share with the Sangha my personal feeling about this issue. Our temple is in the heart of what was once Japan town. Even more important is that our temple was considered by many to be the spiritual center or heart of Japan town and the community it created. To close our temple and not participate, because of the burden it places upon the physical structure and manpower of our temple is to lose focus of our temple's history as one of the pillars of the Japanese American community and of where we came from.

Our Sangha is still at least 80 percent of Japanese ancestry. Nihon Matsuri is held to celebrate and thank the larger Salt Lake community for their support of the Japanese American community. Nihon Matsuri is not separate from our temple; it is not Nihon Matsuri versus the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple. The Salt Lake Buddhist Temple IS a part of Nihon Matsuri. Our temple is supported by our entire Japanese American community, Buddhist and non Buddhist and we thank and support them in return. They are not outside of our temple; we are a part of them.

The second point I would like to express is in the concept of Sangha. We take refuge in the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha. Although the Buddha and Dharma may not be culturally or racially biased, our Sangha is. In recognizing our past, we cannot refute the influence of the Japanese and Japanese Americans who established this physical place where we may listen to the non culturally or racially biased Dharma. One of

the basic tenets of this non biased Dharma is gratitude and selfless giving. When we recognize how and why we have a temple and Sangha, how can we not give back to the community that helped us become who we are? It is my deepest wish as an American Buddhist that in some small way, I can somehow give back a portion of what I have received. The first step in my own understanding of whom and what I am is to try to develop Right View, the first of the Eightfold noble path. I hope that the Sangha in which I take refuge will also work to help me in seeing it. Namo Amida Butsu

President's Message

Dot Richeda

The Temple Spring Cleaning will be held on May 15th at 8:00 am. Please come and support this effort. We are getting into the busy part of the year. Thank you for your support at Hanamatsuri. Thank you to the Dharma School students for the performances. I know you put in long hours of practice. I have happy memories of Hanamatsuri beginning years ago in Hawaii. Thank you to everyone for your support. Nihon Matsuri is April 24th. Reiko Matsuura and Dean Hirabayashi are Chairs. Obon is July 10th. Bruce Fong and Dave Sekino, Chairs. Mt States District Conference is September 18th, in Denver. Food Bazaar will be October 2nd. Chairs are Karen Tohinaka, Dave Black, Dot Richeda. Boutique will be November 20th. Please use the Toban schedule as posted. In Gassho.

BWA News

Brenda Koga

The month of April was a very busy month for the BWA. During the Hanamatsuri celebration on April 11, a core group of members (we like to refer to them as the **secret ladies**) prepared the decorative and delicious sakura mochi for dessert. Hanamatsuri just would not be the same without that annual treat. Also, many of the members donated the musubis that enhance the chicken meal provided by the temple. Thank you to **all the ladies** that provide that extra dish to our luncheon.

Then on April 23rd and 24th many of our members participated in the preparation of all the food served in the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple's booth for the Nihonmatsuri. This year the food preparation chair and co-chair for the event was **Reiko Matsuura**.

Reiko was responsible for organizing the preparation of the great bento boxes. She was assisted by a group

of ladies including **Takeko Doi, Terry Fujinami** and **Setsuko Nagata** who spearheaded the efforts in the making of the tasty somen also sold in the temple's food booth. This group also organized the making of the ohagi desserts, and the spam musubis were prepared under the direction of **Christy Fong and Maya Chow**.

We thank these ladies for their leadership and initiative in making this year's event so successful for the temple. Our appreciation is extended to them and the many others who volunteered their time to help. Since the temple did not have a food bazaar, this event will help compensate the temple in their efforts to cover operating expenses.

It is often stated that the temple would not survive without the efforts of the Buddhist Women's Association. After witnessing the two day effort to prepare the food for this event, it is very evident how that statement bears the truth. We are grateful to you all for your dedication and commitment to the temple.

Several BWA ladies were also generous in donating some needed items for our kitchen. **Takeko Doi** was generous in donating some shamojis (rice paddles) and a griddle for our stove top, and **Sherrie Koga** donated a grill which the ladies used for the preparation of the sakura mochi. Thanks to these individuals for their additional contributions.

Just a reminder that **May 15** is the deadline for those wishing to attend the bus trip to the Las Vegas Obon. Please contact **Jane Sakashita** (801-582-0560) if you are interested in attending. Our next BWA meeting will be **May 2 at 9:00 a.m.**

I would also like to thank the Koyo restaurant for always helping us out whenever we need something. They once again made and donated the sauce we used for our Gyoza during Nihon Matsuri. Thank you Baron and Warren Kiuahara,

With Deepest Sympathy

Our Temple offers our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of

Kozo Minaga
Kiyoko "Koko" Watanabe

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

May Shotsuki Hoyo

May 16, 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	Paul Iwasaki
Minaga Taka	5/15/96	Mark Minaga
Miyake Mitsuyoshi	5/31/84	Jim 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	Dru 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	Maryanne 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
Helen Yoshinaga	5/2009	Rolen Yoshinaga

Major memorials for 2010

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
2009	1 st Year
2008	3 rd Year

2004	7 th Year
1994	17 th Year
1986	25 th Year
1978	33 rd Year
1961	50 th Year
1909	100 th Year

Infant Presentation (Hatsu Mairi) May 16

On Sunday, May 16, 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:

Temple Member Yes No

2010 BWA Members

Aiko Okada	Faye Mitsunaga	Lisa Imamura	Sherrie Koga
Aki Chow	Grace Kasai	Lynne Doi	Shizue Tamagawa
Alice Ogura	Grace Oshita	Mary Doi	Shizuye Nakagiri
Ayako Tohinaka	Helen Mitsunaga	Masako Imamura	Stephanie Sueoka
Brenda Koga	Holly Black	Maxine Furubayashi	Susan Furubayashi
Carmela Hirano	Jane Sakashita	Maya Chow	Takae Nakamura
Cheryl Nakano	Jeanne Konishi	Merry Nakamura	Takeko Doi
Chic Terashima	Joni Sueoka	Mitsuko Hirota	Tammara Kuramoto
Chie Sugaya	Joyce Chen	Nanae Taketa	Terry Fujinami
Chiyoko Nishimura	Judy Watanabe	Nancy Takagi	Tracy Roberson
Christy Fong	Junko Mitsunaga	Reiko Watanabe	Yoshiko Uno
Cindy Thomas	Karen Seo	Renee Matsuura	Yukie Okubo
Connie Sakashita	Karie Minaga-Miya	Ritsuko Hayashi	Yuriko Dennison
Donna Sato	Kathy Terashima	Ruby Doi	Yuriko Iwamoto
Dorothy Richeda	Kazuko Yakumo	Sadie Kato	
Elaine Endo	Kristine Clifford	Sandy Iwasaki	
Elsie Doi	Leann Leach	Setsuko Nagata	

APRIL DONATIONS

Henry Hirano	100	Re-dedication
Henry Hirano	100	Nokotsudo
Brenda Koga	500	Special Awards
Aiko Okada	100	Memorial for Hito Okada
Mits & Terry Fujinami	200	Special
Tom & Fumi Tateoka	200	In memory of Lisa
Fusae Nakanishi	200	In memory of Jinzuburo & Chiyo Matsumiya
Hatsuye Sasaki	50	In memory of daughter, Yvonne Katsuyo Sasaki
Yuriko Iwamoto	25	Ohigan
Masako Imamura	20	Ohigan
Misuko Shimada	100	Memorial for Shige Shimada
Harry Taketa	25	Memorial for Shige Shimada
McKinney/Taketa	25	Memorial for Shige Shimada
Harry Taketa	50	In memory of Taichi & Yoshino Oishi

HANAMATSURI

Misao & Elsie Doi	50	Paul & Kathy Terashima	50
Grace Kasai	75	Reiko Mitsunaga	20
Kiyomi Ryujin	25	Kristine Clifford	25
Bill & Shigeko Mizuno	50	Karen Tohinaka	25
Nancy Sudoku	25	Tomiye Ishimatsu	25
Sadie Kato	30	Chizuko Ishimatsu	50
Kayo & Jeannette Hayakawa	25	Yuriko & Carl Dennison	50
Thomas Endo	25	Nobuo Aoki	25
George & Ruby Doi	50	Nanae Taketa	50
Brenda Koga	25	Ayako Tohinaka	50
Henry Hirano	50	Richard & Lynne Doi	50
Takeo Iwamoto	30	Grace Oshita	50
Dorthie Conway	25	Brent & Sherrie Koga	25
Jeanne Konishi	50	Joni & Dru Sueoka	25
Maxine Furubayashi	50	Nancy Takagi	25
Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	100	Masako Imamura	25
Jane Sakashita	50	Ichiro & Takeko Doi	100
Terry & Mits Fujinami	100	Chic Terashima	25
Reiko & Ken Matsuura	50	May Akiyama	25
Aki & Neil Chow	50	Sachiko Tohinaka	25
Charlie Sasaki	20	Dot Richeda	30
Tamiko Adachi	20	Masami & Ritsuko Hayashi	100
Lisa Imamura	50	Byron & Reiko Watanabe	50
Karen & Paul Seo	25	Tammy & Henry Kuramoto	25
Donna Sato	20	Alice Ogura	25
Buster Mayeda	25	Troy Holbrook	50
Tracy Akimoto-Roberson	50	Masakazu & Shizue Shiba	30
Merry Nakamura	25	Rise & Dean Hirabayashi	25
Chie Sugaya	25	Brian & Tammy Fukushima	200
Yoshiko Uno	20	Sherrie Hayashi	50
Holly & David Black	25	Dave Sekino	50
Tom & Fran Akimoto	40	Jerry & Carmela Hirano	100
Sandy Iwasaki	25	Lisa Matsuda	25
Aiko Okada	25	Max & Kathleen Hirabayashi	30
LaVerne & Ernie Kyed	100	Kyle & Evelyn Matsumura	50
Mark & Gail Minaga	25	Robert & Tami Tokita	25
Helen Mitsunaga	50	Kazuko Yakumo	50
Karen & Dave Cone	20	Lynn & Marilyn Shimada	30
Misuko Shimada	25	Ayako Tohinaka	50
Steve & Ellen Kato	25	Pamela Sugihara	20
Thomas Endo	25	Mr. & Mrs. George Aoki	30

Tom & Eiko Kishimoto	25	Faye & Jim Eng	100
Ruth Kawashima	25	Kunie Oda	20
Mr. & Mrs Tom Hattori	20	Stan & Elaine Endo	50
Gerald Iseda	25	Ryoko & Gary Okamoto	25
Kazuko Terasawa	30	Otome Hasegawa	25
Yuriko Iwamoto	25	May Koike	50
Joseph & Rose Kamaya	50	Ben & Maurea Terashima	50
Yukie & Floyd Okubo	50	Mariko & Shirley Farr	50

HANAMATSURI LUNCH

Chizuko Ishimatsu	5	Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	10
Sachiko Tohinaka	5		

APRIL SHOTSUKI HOYO

Jeannette & Kayo Hayakawa	25	Dave Sekino	50
Tom & Fran Akimoto	45	Craige Mayeda	25
Chic Terashima	25	Grace Oshita	25
Nancy Takagi	25	Pamela Sugihara	20
Aiko Okada	25	Nanae Taketa	25
Tamiko Adachi	25	Tom & Kimiko Hattori	25
Jeanne Konishi	50	Nanae Taketa	25
Setsuo Takenaka	50	Ben & Maurea Terashima	50
Hatsuye Sasaki	50		

MEMBERSHIP DUES –

Brent & Sherrie Koga, Tyler, Eric		Grace Kasai	
Rokuro & Miyuki Nakano		Kiyomi Ryuijin	
Sandy Iwasaki		Jason Fahrni	
Helen Mitsunaga			

BUILDING FUND

Dru & Joni Sueoka	100
May & Jun Sudoko	200
Thomas Endo (CA)	1000

JR YBA

Chizuko Ishimatsu	50 Special
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