



Buddhist Thoughts

Salt Lake Buddhist Temple: 211 West 100 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101, volume 19 issue 5
web site: slbuddhist.org

May, 2012
Rev. Hirano's contact numbers: Office: 363-4742,
home: 299-8727, emergency 718-5755

Finger Pointing to the Moon

J.K. Hirano

Ananda, for this reason the Buddha of immeasurable life has other names: immeasurable light, boundless light, light free of attachment, unhindered light, lord of lights, serene and glorious light, light of gladness, joyous light, light worthy of admiration, inconceivable light, incomparable light, inexpressible light, light that darkens the sun, light that darkens the moon, light that deprives sun and moon of luminance. That light, pure and immense brings joy and happiness to the bodies and minds of sentient beings everywhere. Further, it enables the beings of all other Buddha-lands-devas, nagas, yaksas, asuras-without exception, to attain delight and exultation.

Collected Works of Shinran, pg. 178-179



There are many names for Amida Buddha as this passage from The Sutra of the Tathagata of Immeasurable Life lists and Shinran Shonin quoted in Kyogyoshinsho. When I read this passage, I feel that we could add other names such as, God, Allah, Mother Earth etc. I don't have a problem with this multitude of names. If you do, you are the one Hotei is laughing at, in the picture above.

Culturally the religions of the world developed under very different circumstances. Christianity, Judaism and Islam were born under the harsh desert of the Middle East. Buddhism, Hinduism, Shinto were born under the fertile lands of the East. The ancient Roman and Greek religions were born from an amalgam of different places and thought. The Mormon religion was born right here in America with our sense of rugged individualism. Why wouldn't we have a variety of ways to see Truth and understanding it's place in our lives. Birth, Death, Sickness, Old Age are not religious suffering, they are about human suffering. Religions allow us to see what is essential in our human life. I have usually seen the word religion's origin listed as (re+ligare) meaning to bind, fasten or tie. The description is of our ties to God. Could it not be that which ties us together as human beings?

The other day, we had a group of Africans visit our temple. They were mostly Muslim and two were Christian. I couldn't help but imagine the three wise men from the story of Jesus Christ's birth had visiting my temple. Some of them were dressed in traditional clothes, both African and Muslim. A couple of them were Sheiks. Only two of them spoke English, the others only French. They had translators for our discussion. As they asked questions about the Buddhist view of life and death, I answered them as best I could. They would often comment on the wisdom of the Buddhist teachings. I kept thinking, "Wow, the wise men are calling the Buddhist teachings, wise."

We are each affected by the cultural landscape of our birth. No matter how I look Japanese, my sensibilities are American. When I first attended a WYBL (Western Young Buddhist League) conference in 1973, I felt a kinship with the Sangha. We had all been raised in BCA temples; most of us appreciated our Japanese ancestry but were searching for answers about Life. We were also young single men and women, looking for other single young men and women, therefore it didn't hurt that there were over 900 of us at the first conference I attended in Fresno, California, to make an impression on me. I still remember the girl and the song for my first dance at the conference, better than who or what the keynote speaker was. However, it encouraged me to take an interest in my temple.

Most of us at the conference had grown up in temples where much of the Dharma was taught in Japanese. We were hungry for hearing the Dharma in English. From this experience, BCA created the RAB (Relevant American Buddhist) program. A number us involved with RAB became BCA ministers. We hoped that the Dharma was something not limited by the Japanese and Japanese American traditions we were born into. We were looking to find that the Dharma was Universal and not something we must limit to Japanese, American or just a fusion. We wanted to find that the Dharma was everywhere.

It has been over 40 years since I first attended that conference. I have gone through many changes in my life and I am now recognizing that these programs and teachings were merely fingers pointing to the moon. The picture I have included in this article is an image I found on the web. The traditional view of this picture used in Shinshu as well as Zen, can be found in the [Ojoronchu](#) which is Tan-Luan's commentary on Vasubandhu's Discourse on the Pure Land. I realize that there are many interpretations of this concept.

My own interpretation is very simplistic, as I am a very simple thinker. Hotei is laughing at us, when we get stuck on the finger rather than see the moon he is pointing at. However, it is not to say the finger is not important, for without the finger, we would not see the moon and without the moon, we could not see the finger pointing the way. They are both dependent upon one another. It's about not getting stuck and seeing the light for what it is, reflecting and shining on us all. Japanese, American, Buddhist, Christian, Muslim, we human beings are bathed in the light of wisdom and compassion. It shines equally within our hearts, melting this foolish vanity of self. Whatever you may call it. Namo Amida Butsu.

BWA NEWS – May 2012

Reiko Matsuura

On April 22, 2012, the BWA held their monthly meeting to discuss the menu items they would be preparing for the Nihonmatsuri that was held on Saturday, April 28, 2012. The ladies prepared chicken teriyaki lunch boxes, gyoza, somen, spam musubi and ohagi. While making Ohagi the morning of the Nihonmatsuri the BWA ladies were spotlighted by Channel 13 by Big Budha who later spent some time visiting with the ladies during their break.

Special recognition and appreciation to the following chairpersons:

Booth- Karen Tohinaka
Cashier - Dave Sekino and Karen Seo
Somen -Setusko Nagata
Teriyaki Chicken – Craige Mayeda, Glen Watanuki and crew
Spam Musubi – Connie Sakashita
Gyoza – Brenda Koga
Rice - Henry & Tami Kuramoto,
Ohagi – Terry Fujinami & Takeko Doi,
Book Store – Kazuko Yakumo & Chris Oki
Co-Chairs & Assistants – Reiko Watanabe, Connie Nakahara, Karie & Mark Minaga-Miya,
Ken Matsuura.
Craft booth – Sherrie Koga & Crew
Calligraphy – Masami Hayashi
Runners – YBA & Jr. YBA

Donations provided by – Gary Matsuura – menus & Utah Bean Sprout – Dru Sueoka, Reiko Watanabe & Reiko Matsuura-chi chi mochi

The most important are the all volunteers who took time out of their busy schedule to help us.

In order for our organization to keep in touch with BWA members who are not able to attend our meetings or temple services because of transportation or are home bound; we will be sending an outreach letter to identify how we may be able to assist them. Our appreciation to Karie Minaga-Miya and Kazuko Yakumo for working on this project.

BWA memberships paid for April are Sachiko Tohinaka and May Akiyama. We invite you to join our organization, send your \$15.00 membership fee to Reiko Watanabe c/o of the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple.

Our next meeting will be held June 10, 2012, at 11:00 am.

Dharma School Happenings

Brenda Koga

Hanamatsuri is behind us already which means the Dharma School year is quickly coming to a close. It is time to think about next year's leadership team and who will take charge and lead the activities and program.

Thank you to all who helped out with the Hanamatsuri program. There were rave reviews from the congregation for the student performances. Our appreciation is extended to **Tracy Roberson** for organizing the program and **Lisa Joko** and **Cheryl Nakano** for arranging and distributing the gifts for the students. Special thanks to **Haley Watanabe** for serving as the program announcer. However, our deepest gratitude to all the **teachers** who worked with their students to create the program numbers and rehearse them to perfection.

Upcoming on May 5, the Dharma School will host the Nikkei Luncheon. **Mary Misaka Jessop** and **Sherrie Hayashi** are chairing that event; however, **Yo Misaka** will be the head chef for the luncheon preparation. The 3rd & 4th graders will once again perform their "Mottainai" song and dance.

As I mentioned earlier, elections for the new Dharma School board and officers will take place in May. A nominating committee will be established at the next Dharma School meeting, and this committee will formulate a proposed slate of board candidates, and subsequently a slate of officers for the next Dharma School year.

Elections will be held on **May 20 on Parents Day**. All adults at the service that day are eligible to vote, so please seek a ballot from Brenda Koga or one of the Dharma School board members. Twelve board members will be selected and they will vote for the officers from the proposed slate in June.

On August 31, September 1 & 2, the Dharma School will host our second annual Mill Hollow Camp Out at the Mill Hollow Center in the Uintahs. Last year was the first year the event was held, and by popular demand the event will be held again.

The cost once again will be \$65 per adult and \$60 for children up to age 12. This fee includes lodging and all meals from Friday dinner through Sunday lunch. The Dharma School has **grants** available for those who are prohibited from attending due to the costs. We encourage anyone who would like to attend to do so using these funds. Please contact **Brenda Koga** if you are interested.

A form is enclosed in this newsletter, so if you/your family are interested in participating, please complete the form and submit it with a \$10 per person deposit to Brenda Koga or Christy Fong. Initial deposits are **due by June 30, 2012**.

May Shotsuki Hoyo

May 6, 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 2012

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
20011

Service
1st Year

2010	3 rd Year
2006	7 th Year
1996	17 th Year
1988	25 th Year
1980	33 rd Year
1963	50 th Year
1911	100 th Year

Mill Hollow Camping Weekend

August 31, September 1&2, 2012

Registration Form

Please join us for a great weekend in the Uintahs. All you need is a sleeping bag and your personal items. All meals are included from Friday dinner until Sunday lunch...hiking, fishing and sporting equipment are all available. The cost is \$65 for adults and \$60 for children up to age 12.

Please complete this form and submit with a **\$10 per person deposit** by **June 30, 2012** to make your reservations. Full payment due by **August 10, 2012**.

Questions...contact Brenda Koga (801-466-6552 or Christy Fong (801-451-4516)

Further details will be in the next Buddhist Thoughts.

Name of Adults:

Phone:

Name of Children and Ages:

If parent is not accompanying a minor; name of adult responsible:

In case of emergency, list 2 contacts:

Name:

Phone:



LONGMONT BUDDHIST TEMPLE
Highway 287 & Pike Road
Longmont, Colorado

Longmont Buddhist Temple invites you to the Mountain States Conference

August 4 – 5, 2012 at the YMCA of the Rockies

Cool mountain breezes and brilliant sunshine create the perfect environment for refreshing your spirit and enjoying the natural beauty of the outdoors. Come join us in Estes Park, Colorado!

Extend your stay and make it a family vacation. You'll always remember your special time here.

Schedule of Events

Saturday

9:00am Registration begins (snacks and beverages)
10:00am Welcome and opening service
10:30am Workshop
12:30pm Lunch

Afternoon free. There are many complimentary activities available at the YMCA with room rental such as swimming, tennis, hiking, mini-golf, game room, roller skating, basketball, volleyball and fishing (see a complete listing at www.ymcarockies.org/estes-park-center-colorado.html). There are also many activities for an extra charge such as rafting, climbing wall, zip line, archery, mountain biking, horseback riding and golf. (Tee times are booking fast refer to www.estesvalleyrecreation.com) Plus you can shop in Estes or go for a drive or hike in Rocky Mountain National Park. Or choose to relax and soak in the beauty around you!

5:30pm Business meeting
6:30pm Dinner
7:30pm Mixer

Sunday

7:00am - 9:00am Breakfast available
9:00am - 9:30am Meditation service
9:30am – 10:30am Closing service

We hope that you will join us for this special mountain retreat. All events will take place at the Central Lodges of the YMCA Estes Park Center.

Please see the Registration Form for accommodations and rates. We have a limited number of rooms reserved in the Central Lodges, and they will be assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis. Additional

rooms may be available in other lodges once the Central Lodges are full, but space cannot be guaranteed. Therefore, we urge you to sign up early!



LONGMONT BUDDHIST TEMPLE
Highway 287 & Pike Road
Longmont, Colorado

Registration Form for Mountain States Conference
August 4 – 5, 2012

Name of Participants: _____

(please include ages
of children) _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Email: _____

Conference only fee: \$ 15.00 per person. The YMCA will impose a \$15.00 per person fee (13 years old and above) for people **not** staying at the YMCA. This fee entitles the participants to enjoy the activities designated as "included." Individual meals may be purchased from the YMCA for \$7.00 (breakfast), \$9.00 (lunch), and \$13.00 (dinner).

Conference fee including accommodations at the YMCA

We have a limited number of rooms reserved in the Central Lodges. Each room has two queen beds and one single floor futon mattress, and will accommodate up to 5 people per room. Other amenities include full private bath, all linens and towels, and free wireless internet access. There is an elevator in the building. (Rates are per person and include one night room, plus 3 meals and activities outlined in the schedule)

2 sharing a Room \$110.50
3 sharing a Room \$ 84.00
4 sharing a Room \$ 70.75
5 sharing a Room \$ 62.80
Child's rate \$ 19.00 (This rate for children ages 6-12 who are sharing a room with their parent.)

- Sales Tax is not included in rates. It will be added to your final bill.
 - Check-in is 3:00pm or later/Check-out is 10:00am. Pets are not allowed.
- Cancellation policy: Cancellation fee before June 1st is \$50 per person. Cancel on or after June 1st: Fee is 100%

Deadline for YMCA room registration is June 1st. Deadline for conference registration is July 1st. Please forward your completed application and full payment by check made out to Longmont Buddhist Temple to:

John Hughes
6648 Scenic Ct.
Firestone CO 80504
John.hughes@ace-sols.com

Staying at the YMCA provides the best value. The YMCA is very busy in August, so sign up early for best rooms.