



Buddhist Thoughts

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THE PATH OF THE SHIN BUDDHISTS

Rev. Masami Hayashi

When Sentient beings think on Amida
Just as a child thinks of his mother,
They indeed see the Buddha--who is never distant--
Both in the present and in the future.

Feb. 23, I attended the Winter Pacific Seminar at the Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. The Keynote speaker was the famous Shin Buddhist scholar, Dr. Takamaro Shigaragi from Kyoto, Japan. He lectured and led discussion on the subject, "The Path of the Nembutsu." We covered a lot of materials on Shinjin and Nembutsu. This morning I will talk briefly on items of interest to Dharma School teachers and students and express my thoughts on my understanding of the path of Shin Buddhists formulated from some thoughts learned at the seminar.

My path as Shin Buddhist can be sectioned into three parts: Part 1--Initial training in Basic Buddhism, Part 2--Path of the Nembutsu, Part 3--The final stage. In our Sunday Dharma School, children are taught the teachings of Shakyamuni Buddha and that they should do a variety of good acts by practicing such basic teachings as the six paramitas and the eightfold noble paths. The basic teaching of Buddhism is to first follow the Dharma set up by Shakyamuni Buddha and practice all kinds of roots of good. When we become more knowledgeable and aware of the basic truths of life and our imperfections, we realize that from our human perspective it is impossible to attain enlightenment. With the understanding of the difficult self-power approach and the true nature of Amida Buddha, we are then urged to perform the Nembutsu practice of hearing the Name and saying the Name, which are much easier to carry out. In the Nembutsu practice, we become appreciative for all beings and materials that sustain and nurture our lives. With deeper awareness, we become more concerned and appreciative, and work for the betterment of all lives. When this awareness leads to a transformation within us, it is called "shinjin." In Shin Buddhism awakening isn't something we strive for and obtain through our own efforts by studying or meditating. When our hearts are rooted in gratitude and awareness of others glows within us, we express our feelings by saying "Namo Amida Butsu," a phrase called Nembutsu, the Name of Amida Buddha. Amida Buddha is symbolic expression of Shakyamuni's enlightenment. It is fundamentally non-dualistic and subjective in nature. In western terms, the concept of God is very hierarchical in relation to mankind. In contrast, it is a

mistake to understand Amida Buddha as hierarchical, dualistic, objective or objectifying. Instead, we adopt a subjective and non-dualistic perspective which states that Amida Buddha does not exist apart from us as an equal.

Dr. Shigaragi illustrated the Shin Buddhist practice of hearing and saying the Name. When a child calls out “mom,” at a deeper level, the mother is calling out to her child. The mother hears echoes within her child’s heart, and therefore when the child calls out “mom!” there is an intersection of mom’s love for the child.

Likewise as we call out “Namo Amida Butsu!” we become empty and we experience deeply the truth that our saying “Namo Amida Butsu” is itself the Buddha’s calling out to us. When this occurs, it is called the experience of awakening. This is shinjin, which is realized through saying the Nembutsu. It represents ultimate religious experience in Shin Buddhism.

Shinran said that the act of saying the Nembutsu will reverse the direction because the act of hearing is Buddha’s calling out to us. As we say “Namo Amida Butsu,” it is important that we experience the truth that it is the voice of the Buddha calling out to us. Hearing the Name is to realize “shinjin.” Saying the Name and “Shinjin” are identical.

In summary, the Shin Buddhist path consolidates the various dualistic practices such as the paramitas, eightfold path, meditation and other Buddhist teachings into one act that is easy to perform. In the path of the Nembutsu we realize growth and maturity lead us to become true human beings. Then finally in the last stage of the path, when it is time to die, we should truly die and transcend death. To live humbly saying the Nembutsu, then die having the treasure of the Nembutsu is the fundamental way of life and death for Shin Buddhists. Dr. Shigaragi became aware of the importance of the Nembutsu when his mother died. He was looking forward to hearing his mother call his name at the last moment of her life. Instead, she continuously repeated the Nembutsu, “Namo Amida Butsu.” He learned that the ultimate is to return to the Nembutsu.

Through the cultivation of various roots of good, one realizes the experience of awakening. As individual Nembutsu follower, we strive for human fulfillment, casting off the skin of our old selves and realizing the growth of our new selves. As we strive to live as bodhisattvas of shinjin on the path of self-benefit and benefiting others, we realize that we will find no happiness unless the whole world has realized true happiness.

According to Dr. Shigaragi, the Mahayana Buddhist teaching and Shinran’s teaching on Shin Buddhism can present the Eastern thoughts which can be beneficial to the West. We must change from the materialistic viewpoint to a perspective centered on spirituality and on our hearts and minds. We must discard our attachment to dualistic opposition and adopt an approach that values non-dualistic harmony and the basic equality of all life.

I hope that everyone will, deeply entrusting themselves to the
Nembutsu and firmly embracing prayers for the world in their
Hearts, together say the nembutsu.
-Shinran

BCA National Council Meeting

Aaron Froemming

I would like to thank everyone at the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple for allowing me the opportunity to attend the BCA National Conference. It was a huge eye opener, especially for

someone as new as myself to not only how we run the temple here in Salt Lake, but how we are able to make a community across the nation. I have to say it was very humbling.

Jeff Watanabe and I arrived early Thursday, February 28th in San Francisco so that we could attend a seminar on Jodo Shinshu. Afterwards we attended a get together to meet with others who attended the conference and get to know each other. We were able to share some of what we do in Salt Lake, which surprising to me, is unique to us compared to the other temples in the U.S. But we also came back with other ideas that could help us better help the temple members and new people alike when we have questions, and to help to get to know each other in the temple.

Friday, from early morning to early evening, we deliberated on several topics that were on the table. Two of the topics most discussed were allowing the continuation of proxy voting at the BCA conferences which allows a temple that may have difficulties sending a representative to the conference, to give their voting rights to another temple's registered representative. Also discussed, was allowing the use, if needed, of a portion of the Zidan Fund to help the BCA pay off debt to reduce overall costs in the future.

Saturday was an equally long day, but we continued with some deliberation before voting on the topics from Friday. Proxy voting was upheld unanimously, and the Zidan Fund was allowed to be reduced to help the BCA.

After business was concluded, the BCA hosted a fantastic dinner with entertainment. My only regret was that I couldn't stay longer to explore San Francisco more as I've never been there. But it was a great experience, nonetheless.

Next year the conference will be held in Bellevue, Washington. In 2015, it will be in San Diego. I hope I am able to attend more.

BWA News

Karie Minaga-Miya and Gail Minaga

March and April have come and are practically gone by the time of the publishing of this newsletter.



Many thanks to all the members of the BWA who helped with the annual Omigaki & cleaning of the altar. A few years ago, we had individuals from Japan come to help us learn how to better clean the various altar pieces. The secret is warm water, nothing else! It is a wonderful time for our more experienced member of the BWA to show us how to keep our altar looking clean and sparkling. We are appreciative of Carl Dennison and Brenda Lewis who braved the stepladder to clean and shine in the areas only taller people can reach. Please take a moment and reflect thoughts of appreciation for the hard work of others to keep our altar looking good for all of our services.

We also established a tradition to clean our kitchen. Every shelf was emptied, cleaned and re-

organized. We are ready for the coming year and the various events the Temple or BWA will be cooking.

March 16, 2013 was the BWA sponsored Naikan Workshop: "*Growing your Gratitude Garden*". It is nice to blend the Ohigan services with the Naikan Workshop and reflect on the harmony of nature and the harmony in our inner lives. Naikan, as taught by Dr. Carmela Hirano helped us reflect on the gifts we have received from other to enjoy everyday, things we often take for granted. We had the opportunity to dive down deep within ourselves by asking: 1) What have I received from others? 2) What have I given others? 3) What troubles & difficulties have I caused others. It is a nice exercise for us all to take part of, anytime we are experiencing internal-personal discord of one type or another. It always helps me realize how others contribute to my successes and how I fail to share my appreciation for all others do for me. On behalf of all BWA members I express my appreciation to Sherrie Koga and Elaine Endo who helped prepare a delicious and healthy lunch with salads and fried rice donated from Reiko Mitsunaga, Julie Biner and Junko Mitsunaga. March 17, 2013 started out with breakfast sponsored by the Board and Ohigan service, followed by General Board Meeting.

Upcoming events in April include:

- Saturday April 13, 2013: Nikkei Sr. Center Luncheon at SLBT sponsored by Salt Lake JACL at 12:00 noon.
- Sunday April 14, 2013: SLBT Hanamatsuri- BWA to bring 2 dozen musubi for lunch.
- Sunday April 21, 2013: SLBT BWA Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at SLBT. All members & want-to-be members invited to attend.
- Saturday April 27, 2013: Nihonmatsuri- BWA will be making Chicken Bento Box and Spam Musubi. We will be preparing on Friday April 26, 2013. We invite BWA members and anyone who can help prepare for the cooking on Saturday to come and help.

Please note: The **2019 World Federation of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Buddhist Women's Association** (WFJSH BWA) convention will be held in San Francisco. For planning purposes, the convention planning committee asked that FBWA districts and chapters distribute the attached survey to not only our members but everyone in our Sanghas, therefore, Gail and I ask that you complete the survey and return to BCA by May 20th, 2013. The survey process was also described in the March BCA Update. The surveys (hard copy or on-line) are due to the 2019 WFJSH BWA Convention Planning Committee, c/o BCA Headquarters, 1710 Octavia Street, San Francisco, CA 94109, by MAY 20, 2013.

Infant Presentation (Hatsumairi)

May 19

On Sunday May 19, we will be holding an infant presentation service. This service is for any child born into our Sangha over the past year. This service is to help begin the child's first steps along the Nembutsu path. The child is presented before the Buddha and the Sangha. They are presented with a gift from the Temple. Those interested please fill in the form and return it to Rev. Hirano

Infant's name

Date of birth

Parent's names

Address

Phone

Temple member Yes No

Temple Special Awards Winners

January: Robert Kasubuchi

February: Bob Watanuki

March: Karie Minaga-Miya

2013 MARCH DONATIONS

Nancy & Tom Hohler	20	Special
Geraldine Chappell	25	Memory of Mojiro Tsutsui
Gearldine Chappell	25	Memory of Harry Tsutsui
Eleanor Kobayashi	25	Shotsuki Hoyo - Sakae Kobayashi
Yutako Ikegami	100	Shotsuki Hoyo -Mitsuko Ikegami
Noreen Okubo	100	Memory of Yukie Okubo
Howard Nakagiri	100	1 yr memorial for Shizuye Nakagiri
Craige Mayeda	50	Shotsuki Hoyo - Chieko Mayeda
Stan Endo	52	Employees Charity of Northrop Grumman
Sharon Matsuura	520	Employees Charity of Northrop Grumman
Bruce Fong	110	Employees Charity of Northrop Grumman
Christie Jenn	25	Buddhist Thoughts
Chic Terashima	100	Shotsuki - Masayo Doi & Kay Terashima
Hatsuye Sasaki	50	Memory of Yvonne Sasaki
Pamela Koike-Stillman	100	Shotsuki Hoyo for May Koike
Pamela Koike-Stillman	50	Shotsuki Hoyo for Kazuyoshi Oike
Jeanne Konishi	25	Shotsuki Hoyo for Chiyo & Zinzuburo Matsumiya
Stan & Elaine Endo	50	Shotsuki Hoyo for Noburo Endo
Christy & Bruce Fong	20	Shotsuki Hoyo for Seiko Kasai
Nancy Takagi	25	Shotsuki Hoyo for S Hachisuka
Tom & Fran Akimoto	25	Shotsuki Hoyo for Karie Matsuura
Kathy & Paul Terashima	25	Shotsuki Hoyo for Ada Koseki
Correction to January - Maxine Furubayashi	50	Hoonko
Kiyo Nakamura	20	Buddhist Thoughts
Yutako Ikegami	100	Shotsuki Hoyo for Ben Ikegami

OHIGAN

Maxine Furubayashi	25	Carmela & Jerry Hirano	50
May Akiyama	25	Brent & Sherrie Koga	25

Charlie Sasaki	20	Jeanne Konishi	25
Buster Mayeda	50	Tom & Fran Akimoto	50
Ichiro & Takeko Doi	25	Stan & Elaine Endo	50
Tammie & Henry Kuramoto	20	Ivan Van Laningham	100
Dot Richeda	30	Byron & Reiko Watanabe	25
Dave Sekino	50	Kathy & Paul Terashima	50
Chic Terashima	25	Jane Sakashita	20
Terry & Mits Fujinami	25	Nancy Takagi	25
Nobuo Aoki	25	Masami Hayashi	30
Setsuko Nagata	25	Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	25
Sachiko Tohinaka	25	Karie & Marcus Miya	100

BWA

Tomiye Ishimatsu 50 Special

BWA membership dues

Stephanie Sueoka Jeanne Konishi
Tracy Akimoto Cassandra Van Buren

DHARMA SCHOOL

Craige Mayeda 25 In memory of Chieko Mayeda
Jeanne Konishi 25 Goodie Bag
Richard Matsuda 25 Goodie Bag

PAID 2013 TEMPLE MEMBERSHIP - Call Maya Chow for questions 299-1448

Takeko & Ichiro Doi	Cassandra Van Buren
Terry & Mits Fujinami	Richard Matsuda
Jeannie Konishi	Buster Mayeda
Reiko Mitsunaga	Ivan Van Laningham
Yoshiko Uno	Aaron Froemming
Jeff Watanabe	Gina Mejia
Connie & Phil Sakashtia	Richard & Lynne Doi
Lisa Imamura	Christopher Oki
Nanae Taketa	Alice Ogura
Tammie & Henry Kuramoto	Nancy Takagi
Nobuo Aoki	Byron & Reiko Watanabe
Shigeru & Tom Sasaki	Donna Sato
Setsuko Nagata	Maxine Furubayashi
Nancy & Thomas Hohler	Karie Minaga-Miya
Rose Watamura	Sachiko Tohinaka
Karen & Walter Sato	Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga
Paul & Kathy Terashima	Mark & Gail Minaga
Dave & Holly Black	May Akiyama
Brent & Sherrie Koga	Dean Hirabayashi

Lynn & Marilyn Shimada
Sadie Kato
Ken & Reiko Matsuura
Dru & Joni Sueoka
Haruko Moriyasu
Yoshiko Ninomiya
Hiroshi & Mary Aramaki
Ruby Doi
Merry & Torao Nakagawa
Asako Mori
Craig Mayeda
David & Julia Nagata
Brenda Lewis
Lee Oikle
Tracy Akimoto
Baron & Warren Kihara
Geraldine Chappell
Kyle & Evelyn Matsumura
Bill & Shigeko Mizuno
Stephanie Sueoka
Helen Mitsunaga
Chic Terashima
Bob & Akio Sugino
Elaine Fukushima
Kathleen & Gary Takenaka

Corey Shimada
Sherrie Hayashi
Masami Hayashi
Nick & Ryan Sueoka
Jane Sakashita
Ida Watanabe
Ken Nodzu
Nobue Sudoko
Jun Sudoko
Bob Kasubuchi
Shauna Mayeda
Dot Richeda
Carmela Javellana Hirano
Tom & Fran Akimoto
Keizo Kobayashi
Kazuko & Arthur Yakumo
Aiko Okada
Ernie & LaVerne Kyed
Kiyomi Ryujin
Sandy Iwasaki
Setsuko Schock
Yuriko Iwamoto
Chris & Shelley Taketa
Dave Sekino
Stan & Elaine Endo

Shotsuki Hoyo

April 14, 10:00 am

Deceased	Date of	Next of kin
Akimoto Landon	4/12/92	Tracy Roberson
Akiyama Kiyoshi	4/28/39	Francis Akiyama
Arishita Ayako	4/23/00	Sam Arishita
Fujimoto Rae	4/20/97	Grace Oshita
Hachisuka Shiroku	4/4/69	Nancy Takagi
Imada Shizuye	4/24/51	
Iwasaki Kamesaburo	4/13/67	Dean Iwasaki
Iwasaki Toshimasa	4/9/98	Dean Iwasaki
Koga Ichizo	4/16/62	
Koga Shigeichi	4/20/62	
Konishi Toraye	4/30/88	Jeanne Konishi
Masuda Tatsuro	4/6/91	Hatsuye Masuda
Matsuura Chotaro	4/4/50	Francis Akimoto
Minakawa Harushige	4/13/70	Dean Iwasaki
Mitsunaga Shizuko	4/14/90	Tomio Mitsunaga
Oda Fumi		Shigeru Sasaki
Oda Hayano		
Sakashita George	4/2/75	Jane Sakashita
Sugihara Yoshio	4/12/86	Dorothy Sugihara
Tachiki Kayo	4/2/27	Steve Tachiki
Takenaka Yoso	4/9/95	Takenaka Family
Taketa Shinobu	4/18/82	Nanae Taketa
Okada Hito	4/5/84	Aiko Okada
Terashima Kiyoyuki	4/29/66	Paul Terashima
Mayeda Chieko	4/6/99	Craig Mayeda
Shizue Adachi	4/8/01	Tamiko Adachi
Hasegawa Miyuki	4/7/02	Roxanne Hasegawa
Chow Choy Lan	4/8/02	Chuck Chow
Sekino Lillian	4/17/02	David Sekino
Aoki Eva	4/2/03	Nob Aoki
Oishi Tai	4/25/03	Victor Oishi
Shigeru Shimada	4/9/09	Misuko Shimada
Kozo Minaga	4/2/10	Hisako Minaga
Larene Yamashita	4/7/11	Becky Tachiki
Lois Crook	4/5/12	Kathleen Takenaka
Fujie Kunimoto	4/1/12	Karen Sato