



Buddhist Thoughts

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Walmart Brand Bonno J.K. Hirano

*“Saved by the inconceivable working of Amida’s Vow, I shall realize birth in the Pure Land”:
the moment you entrust yourself thus to the Vow, so that the mind set upon saying the nembutsu
arises within you, you are immediately brought to share in the benefit of being grasped by
Amida, never to be abandoned.*

*Know that the Primal Vow of Amida makes no distinction between people young and old, good
and evil; only shinjin is essential. For it is the Vow to save the person whose karmic evil is deep
and grave and whose blind passions abound.*

*Thus, for those who entrust themselves to the Primal Vow, no good acts are required, because no
good surpasses the nembutsu. Nor need they despair of the evil they commit, for no evil can
obstruct the working of Amida’s Primal Vow.”*

Notes Lamenting Differences (Tannisho) Chapter 1

“To those who believe and do deeds of righteousness hath Allah promised forgiveness and a
great reward.”

Surah 5:9

“For I have worked harder than all the other apostles, yet it was not I but God who was working
through me by his grace.”

1 Corinthians 15:10

Recently I was asked about the Jodo Shinshu view of salvation: “Is Salvation based upon good works or is it grace?” This is a very important religious question. Not only is this a Jodo Shinshu question, it is a question asked within Christianity and Islam. I am not a religious scholar by any measure, but I have begun this article with three examples of religious verse regarding salvation. Within Jodo Shinshu, I have quoted Tannisho Chapter 1. Without question Jodo Shinshu falls into the category of salvation by grace. There are many Buddhists that don’t like the term “salvation” and will ask, “who/what are we saved from?” The answer is quite simple; “we are saved from ourselves!” For the Islamic viewpoint, I have quoted chapter 5 verse 9 of the Quran and I believe Islam would say that there is no salvation without (meritorious) work; it is a

combination of both work and grace. Within Christianity I know that this a debated topic. Between Mormons and traditional Christians there is a divide as to what constitutes “faith.” Most Christians would fall into the category of a “gospel of pure grace.” However, I believe Mormons would be closer to the Islamic answer of a combination. However, for the purposes of this article, I used the Bible’s Corinthians. As many of you know, this is my personal favorite from the Bible and to compare my use of Tannisho, I’d like to think of Corinthians as the Christian Tannisho.

Most of the arguments within the Christian viewpoint of grace or works depends upon your particular religious view on the resurrection of Jesus. For those of you who may not know, Easter is the Christian holiday that celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. From an orthodox Christian point of view, Jesus Christ was crucified by the Romans and then after he died on the cross, his disciples wrapped him in a shroud and placed him in a tomb. The next morning, when Mary Magdalene went to the tomb, she found it open and empty. Jesus had risen from death and this was witnessed by some of Jesus’ disciples. For Christians, this was proof that Jesus was the one and only son of God. Easter is the celebration of this event and therefore the most auspicious Christian religious holiday.

In the United States, Easter is usually celebrated in April, which is the first Sunday after the vernal equinox (Ohigan). When I was a child, Easter was about coloring eggs, candy, new clothes, and especially a new hat. It had nothing to do with religion. There was a mix in my head as to Hanamatsuri (Buddha’s birthday) and Easter. My Mom would buy me the new clothes for Easter, but they would be worn at our temple’s Hanamatsuri. In many ways, I wish that all of us could bring back how things were done back then. For Hanamatsuri and Easter, we can all share in spiritual celebration with candy, new clothes, food, a party and I would buy me a new hat! As I have written about before, Hanamatsuri was sweet tea on our temple’s defiant baby Buddha, a bunch of plays by the Sunday school classes, Kentucky Fried Chicken for lunch and a Twinkie and banana for dessert. It was one of my most memorable celebrations at the temple. Any holiday that features eating is one that I always enjoy and would consider celebrating.

In regards to my original question as to whether Jodo Shinshu espouses works or grace, I learned a lesson on my last visit to Ontario, Oregon. I had finished a funeral on Saturday afternoon and was preparing to watch the basketball game between University of Oregon and University of Kansas, when the thought popped into my head, “I need to clip my nails.” I got up from the bed, went to the bathroom and checked my little travel kit. No nail clippers. I had about three hours before the game and lying on the bed, my OCD mind took over and I kept thinking about needing to clip my nails. I went out to buy nail clippers.

I went to the Walgreens. After looking at the “as advertised on TV” section of the store for about 10 minutes, I quickly found the nail clippers -- two clippers for \$5.99. Getting back to the car, I realized I still had a couple of hours to kill. Across the street from Walgreens was Walmart, the biggest store in town. Carmela and I had shopped there the last time we were in Ontario. I thought I would go get some snacks to watch the game. Surprisingly the place wasn’t that crowded for a Saturday. I nodded to the Walmart greeter; everyone in Ontario is friendly, so anyone of them could be a Walmart greeter. The first section I found myself in was the produce section. The bagged oranges and “Halo” clementines caught my attention. Just as I was thinking how much I wished they had “Sumo” mandarins, I saw a bag of small “Golden Nugget” mandarins, now my new favorite citrus fruit. Thinking how proud Carmela would be of me choosing produce for my snacking pleasure, I put them in my cart. At the end of that citrus shelf

was another shelf that had “sweet pea crisps.” These types of snacks are made to make you think you are eating real chips, but making them out of something other than potatoes or corn. I grabbed a bag of the “red lentil” flavored fake chips. I called Carmela to tell her how good I was doing in making healthy snacking choices. She told me that since I was at the Walmart with time to kill, why didn’t I pick up the carpet deodorizer she needed but didn’t have time to get. I agreed and off I went to the cleaning supplies aisle.

To get to the deodorizer, I passed down the aisle with the real chips. There was a stand with “Lays Potato Chips,” my favorite. The Frito Lays company has been having a lot of new flavors for their potato chips and there was a new “Southwest Queso” flavored bag. Just before coming up to Ontario, Carmela and I had eaten at a Chili’s and I had the skillet queso chips. I brought the left overs with me to Ontario, hoping I could warm them up in the microwave in my room. There was no microwave in the room. I knew that if Carmela were there, she would give me a funny look and say, “Chips?!” However, Carmela was in Bountiful; I had just talked with her on the phone. Into the cart went the chips. Besides, if she didn’t ask me to buy deodorizer, I would never have passed the chip aisle and would have been on my way home, so it was kind of her fault.

I found the deodorizer Carmela wanted on the very top shelf. I had to ask the Walmart girl if she had a ladder so that I could get the deodorizer. It’s bad enough having to buy deodorizer, but telling the girl I was too short to reach the product only added insult to injury. I bought four boxes to make up for her trouble. Feeling a little down for being too short to reach the deodorizer, I began to make my way to the check stand. Just around the corner, I happened to see a special stand, with Oreos! I love Oreo cookies, almost as much as Girl Scout cookies. Although I don’t drink milk to dip my Oreos into, I love them with coffee. If Carmela were there, she would shake her head and say, “Oreos?!” She wasn’t there and it’s her fault I felt depressed because I wasn’t tall enough to buy the deodorizer. There was a “Limited Edition” Peeps Oreos and a special double stuff “Spring” Oreos with daffodil yellow cream. I love Oreos and Carmela wasn’t there, so into the cart went both packs of Oreos. At the checkout stand were little fruit pies. I had also bought Starbucks instant coffee, since the nearest Starbucks was 25 miles away in Caldwell, Idaho, and I needed good coffee to dip my Oreos into. Into the cart went two little pies, an apple and a pecan, my favorites.

The reason I am telling you this story about my recent shopping spree in Ontario, Oregon, was to explain why I am a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist. I’m a person who has very bad self-control. I am filled with enormous amounts of Bonno (greed, anger and ignorance). Although Shakyamuni Buddha reached enlightenment and provided a path to follow in his footsteps, I have difficulty getting through a Walmart without Jiminy Cricket Carmela by my side. How can I become Buddha, without Buddha. As Shinran has said, “*Know that the Primal Vow of Amida makes no distinction between people young and old, good and evil, [with or without self-control]; only shinjin is essential. For it is the Vow to save the person whose karmic evil is deep and grave and whose blind passions abound.*”

I believe this idea of Other Power or “pure grace” is the central tenet of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. Amida Buddha’s Vow which makes no distinction between young and old, good and evil, healthy orange eaters and true chip eaters like myself. I cannot meditate, I cannot do religious practices, just as I cannot make right food choices. Chapter ten of Tannisho states: *Concerning the nembutsu, no working is true working. For it is beyond description, explanation, and conceptual understanding.* This, in essence, is why I cannot be anything other than a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist. Happy Easter, Happy Hanamatsuri, Namu Amida Butsu!

SLBT President's Message

Stan Endo

During the first weekend of March, Rev. Hirano, Vanessa Shiba and I attended the BCA National Council Meeting held in San Jose. The biggest topic discussed and approved by vote was the increase of dues that temples pay per member to the BCA. Our temple and all others in BCA will pay an increase of 17.5% per member to the BCA. The majority of our temple membership dues is used to pay this BCA dues assessment. Along with this increase, we must continue our efforts as a Sangha to increase revenues and reduce costs where possible. A good piece of news is the planned use of the meditation room in the west building for the filming of a few scenes for a movie. The local film company will be making a reasonable donation to the temple for this one-day filming. Also, we have another individual that will donate to the temple for the use of the parking behind the west building. Although not a major donation, every dollar helps.

We will hold our semi-annual temple clean-up and repair day on April 15 starting at 8 AM. We have numerous interior and exterior projects including trimming of bushes, painting and general maintenance of facilities. Please come out and help with this effort.

We have a small volunteer group that mows the temple lawns. Additional volunteers are needed! If we can get a couple more individuals, then a person would only have to mow once every five or six weeks. All of these efforts help us save money and is very much appreciated.

Thanks to Troy Watanabe who will chair this year's OBON celebration. We are still looking for volunteers to chair the Food Bazaar. Please help and volunteer as these two events are our biggest fund raisers.

Our Communications Committee (Aaron Froeming, Mark Minaga & Rolen Yoshinaga) have initiated a Google Group Email system for the Sangha. The goal is to improve communications so more information and details on events, activities and status can be provided by the temple officers and board. This group email system will eventually be "one way" so no replies will be allowed. If you would prefer not to receive these emails, please let me or one of the committee members know.

Buddhist Women's Association (BWA) News

Cindy Yamada Thomas

Hanamatsuri will be Sunday, April 16th. BWA will be providing Sakura Mochi for the Hanamatsuri luncheon. BWA will hold their next meeting on Sunday, April 2nd, after service. We will be making Sakura Mochi on Saturday, April 15th at 10am. We invite anyone that would like to help make mochi, to join us. We will be making rice in the 55 cup gas rice cooker, that the BWA purchased for the temple. We are asking that BWA members bring tsukemono, green salad (such as Chinese chicken, spinach, cabbage, etc), or a side dish on the 16th.

PLEASE COME AND HELP TEMPLE CLEAN-UP AND REPAIR

**APRIL 23, 9AM START
LIGHT LUNCH SERVED
BRING YOUR TOOLS AND GLOVES**

Infant Presentation (Hatsumairi) May 14

On Sunday May 14, 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

Shotsuki Hoyo

April 16, 10:00 a.m.

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 ^[1] _[SEP]
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 Koga	4/9/98	Dean Iwasaki
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/?/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	Hasegawa Family
Chow Choy Lan	4/8/02	Chuck Chow
Sekino Lillian	4/17/02	David Sekino
Aoki Eva ^[1] _[SEP]	4/2/03	Nob Aoki ^[1] _[SEP]
Oishi Tai	4/25/03	Victor Oishi
Shigeru Shimada	4/9/09	Lynn Shimada
Kozo Minaga	4/2/10	Hisako Minaga
Larene Yamashita	4/7/11	Becky Tachiki
Lois Crook	4/5/12	Kathleen Takenaka
Fujie Kunitomo	4/1/12	Karen Sato
Aiko Nishida Okada	4/12/16	Okada Family

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2017 DONATIONS

(February 26 – March 22, 2017)

Dana Campaign			
Sanctuary for Healing & Integration (Carmela Javellana Hirano)	200	Troy & Ashley Holbrook	100
Hoonko Donations			
Ruby Doi	100		
Nehan-E Donations			
Takeko Doi	25	Robert & Tami Tokita	25
Mits & Terry Fujinami	25	Byron & Reiko Watanabe	25
Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	25	Kazuko Yakumo	25
Jane Sakashita	25		
Spring Ohigan			
May Akiyama	25	Jane Sakashita	25
Nobuo Aoki	25	Dru & Joni Sueoka	25
Takeko Doi	25	Nancy Takagi	25
Stan & Elaine Endo	50	Paul & Kathy Terashima	25
Mits & Terry Fujinami	25	Robert & Tami Tokita	50
Brent & Sherrie Koga	40	Byron & Reiko Watanabe	25
Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	25	Troy & Judy Watanabe	25
Setsuko Nagata	25	Kazuko Yakumo	25
Shotsuki Hoyo		In Memory Of:	
May Akiyama	25	Ada Koseki	
Setsuko Nagata	25	Chieko Mayeda	
Paul & Kathy Terashima	50	Elsie Matsuda Doi	
Craige Mayeda	50	Fred Mayeda	
Elsie Doi Family	100	Harry Tsutsui	
Dot Richeda	100	Kay Terashima and Masayo Doi	
Geraldine Cookie Chappell	25	Kay Terashima and Masayo Doi	
Chiyo Terashima	50	Mary Tsuruko Iwasaki	
Paul & Kathy Terashima	50	Masayo Doi	
Sandy Iwasaki	25	Misao Doi	
Takeko Doi	25	Mitsuko Ikegami	
Misao Doi Family	100	Miyuki Hasegawa	
Yutako & Yaeko Ikegami	100	Mojiro Tsutsui	
Eleanor Naomi Kobayashi	25	Rose Mayeda	
Geraldine Cookie Chappell	25	Roy Watanabe	
Buster Mayeda	100		
Byron & Reiko Watanabe	25		

Eleanor Naomi Kobayashi	25	Sake Kobayashi
Byron & Reiko Watanabe	25	Shige Nodzu

Dharma School

Chris & Shelley Doi-Taketa	25	Bowling
Robert & Tami Tokita	25	Bowling
Chris & Shelley Doi-Taketa	10	Jackie's Birthday
Robert & Tami Tokita	10	Alex's Birthday

Temple General

Utah Japanese Language School	50	
Brent & Sherrie Koga	100	For Special Awards win, from Ty & Eric Koga
Takeko Doi	25	Pet Memorial service
Mits & Terry Fujinami	25	Pet Memorial service
Byron & Reiko Watanabe	25	Pet Memorial service

2017 PAID SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIPS

These members contributed \$1200 per member in this premier membership category.

Richard Doi	Marcus Miya
Lynne Doi	Karie Minaga Miya
Carmela Javellana Hirano	Kenneth Nodzu
Buster Mayeda	Dot Richeda
Craige Mayeda	Paul Terashima
Reiko Mitsunaga	Kathy Terashima
Tomio Mitsunaga	Yoshiko Uno
Junko Mitsunaga	Rolen Yoshinaga

2017 PAID MEMBERSHIPS

Children (under 18) are not listed.

Tracy Akimoto-Roberson	Asako Mori
May Akiyama	Haruko, Mikio Moriyasu
Robyn Anderson	Tina Munson
Nob Aoki	David & Julia Nagata
Hiroshi & Mary Aramaki	Setsuko Nagata
Jason Befort & Heidi Jensen	Merry Nakagawa
David & Holly Black	Takae Nakamura
Susan Nagata Brown	Ray Nishikawa
Robert Bottom	Alice Ogura
Andres Calderon	Chris Oki
Geraldine Cookie Chappell	Lee Oikle
Neil & Aki Chow	Gary & Ryoko Okamoto
Carl & Yuriko Dennison	Linda Omori
Ruby Doi	Grace Oshita
Takeko Doi	Jane Sakashita

Rachael Elliott
Stan & Elaine Endo
Jim, Faye, Marisa, Kyle Eng
Jeri Aramaki Freedman
Mits & Terry Fujinami
Elaine Fukushima
Masami Hayashi
Sherrie Hayashi
Dean Hirabayashi
Troy & Ashley Holbrook
Trey, Mitchell Imamura
Chizuko Ishimatsu
Tomiye Ishimatsu
Tak Iwamoto
Sandy Iwasaki
Bob Kasubuchi
Keizo, Fumina Kobayashi
Brent & Sherrie, Ty, Eric Koga
Henry & Tammie Kuramoto
Craig Lamanna
Pam Lancaster & Michael Maccarone
Gina Mejia
Richard Matsuda
Kenneth & Renee Matsuura
Shauna Mayeda
Hisako Minaga
Mark & Gail Minaga
Helen Mitsunaga
Bill & Shigeko Mizuno

Phillip & Connie Sakashita
Charlie Sasaki
Tom Sasaki
Donna Sato
Walter & Karen Sato
Setsuko Schock
Dave Sekino
Steven & Vanessa Shiba
Lynn & Marilyn, Corey Shimada
Jamie Doi Slade
Jun Sudoko
Nobue "Nancy" Sudoko
Dru & Joni Sueoka
Stephanie Sueoka
Bob Sugino
Nancy Takagi
Christopher & Shelley Doi-Taketa
Nanae Taketa
Chiyoko Terashima
Cindy Yamada Thomas
Kathryn Timm
Sachiko Tohinaka
Robert & Tami, Eric Tokita
Byron & Reiko Watanabe
Troy, Judy, Haley Watanabe
Robert Weitzel
Arthur Yakumo
Kazuko Yakumo
Rolen & Dawn, Collin Yoshinaga