



Buddhist Thoughts

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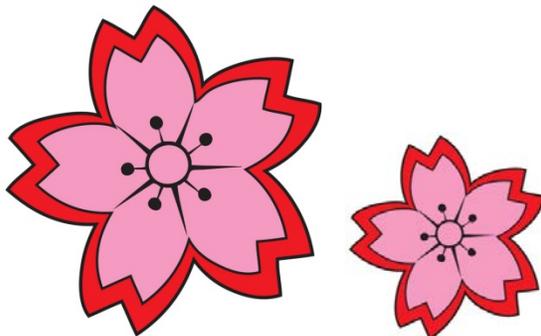
SALT LAKE BUDDHIST TEMPLE

Japanese Food Bazaar

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2016
211 West 100 South, SLC, UT

Food Served from 1:00 - 8:00

Chapel Tours, Raffle, Silent Auction Baskets
Gifts for Sale
Public Welcome!



Venomous Snakes, Scorpions in My Mind, Oh My!

J.K. Hirano

Extremely difficult is it to put an end to our evil nature;
The mind is like a venomous snake or scorpion.
Our performance of good acts is also poisoned;
Hence, it is called false and empty practice.
Hymns of the Dharma Age verse 96, CWS pg. 421

October is my favorite month of the year. I do not like hot or humid. Autumn has always been my favorite of the four seasons. Winter is fun because of Christmas and New Year's but as I get older, it's getting harder to shovel the snow. The Spring is a really amazing time of year, especially here in Utah. We are able to see the world manifest new life from death. This is a wonderful opportunity to witness the teaching of the oneness of all life. Summer was fun when I was a child or my children were living with me because it was summer vacation and Obon. However, now it is just too hot. In the Autumn of my life, "Autumn is just right."

As many of you know, I am now supervising the Idaho Oregon Buddhist Temple (IOBT), in Ontario, Oregon. It is about 400 miles from Salt Lake City, about a 5-hour drive. I must apologize and thank the members of the Salt Lake and Ogden Buddhist temples for their understanding. It will impact the Sunday services I speak at. I will be in IOBT one weekend a month, leaving Friday and returning Sunday evening. Hopefully, this will not be for too long. Currently with the shortage of Kaikyoshi, there are many temples without ministers. Northwest District has seven temples spread over three states: Seattle Betsuin, Tacoma, White River, Yakima, Spokane, Portland and Idaho Oregon Buddhist Temple. There are currently three Kaikyoshi in Washington, two at Seattle Betsuin and one in Tacoma. Rinban Don Castro will be retiring from the BCA ministry at the end of December, leaving two. The Northwest District has about 1050 paid members, which means there are probably close to 2000 active Jodo Shinshu Buddhists in the area. Although we are a part of the Mt. States District, I am the closest Kaikyoshi to the IOBT. The BCA is currently working on placing a Kaikyoshi at the Portland Oregon Buddhist Temple, and that minister will most likely supervise IOBT. Until then, I appreciate the understanding of the Salt Lake and Ogden membership.

On September 23-25, I went up to Boise and Ontario, Oregon for my first weekend there. Boise is about 55 miles from Ontario and there is a small dharma group there. It is run by two IOBT minister's assistants Kathy Chatterton and Anne Spencer. They asked if I would visit some of the group for a lunch on Saturday morning. I arrived in Boise about 6:30 Friday and checked into the hotel. To my dismay the hotel did not have the Fox Sports channel which was televising the Utah-USC football game that began at 7:00 pm. I could watch the game on my laptop, but it's just not the same. The woman at the front desk recommended a sports bar down the street. I went there and the game had already begun. The game was playing on the extra large screen which was made up of nine large screen TVs. I thought to myself, "I am in the right place." For those of you who watched the game, although it was another nail biter, Utah won in the last 15 seconds. What a great way to start my visit in the Boise/Ontario area.

The next morning I awoke about seven and had a light breakfast at the hotel. I checked out and thought I would look around Boise. It was a gorgeous morning. The previous few days in Salt Lake were cold and rainy; there was even a tornado in Ogden. As I drove around

Boise, it was about 65 degrees, blue sky and sunny. I had this strange feeling of once again being in the right place at the right time, just like the night before. As I drove around Boise, I thought, "I'm meant to be here, this is my destiny." My mind was on full New Age spiritual mode. I was listening to Sarah McLachlan sing her hit Angel, "In the arms of the angel, fly away from here.

From this dark, cold hotel room and the endlessness that you fear." I was feeling the angels and bodhisattvas all around me.

As I passed the Idaho State capital building, I stopped and typed "nearest Starbucks" into my iPhone. That's all I needed to make the morning, "just right." As if proof of my destiny was in Boise, Starbucks was less than a mile away. The Starbucks was right on the street I was driving. After getting my coffee and as I walked back to my car, I looked across the street and there was Smokey Mt. Pizza company. I couldn't believe how in tune the universe was with me. I was to meet the Boise group in about one hour for lunch at Smokey Mt. Pizza.

I had been worrying about finding our meeting place and the Universe had answered my dilemma. Yes, this was the place. I was thinking, "I wonder if this is what Brigham Young felt like when he arrived at the Eastern hills of the Salt Lake Valley and declared, "This is the place." I thought, maybe this is my calling to be the founder of the Boise Buddhist temple. As I drove around I looked for possible building sites. Just down the street was a building that looked like a cross between a Tibetan temple and an Adobe redstone house. The sign on the building advertised a variety of New Age stores and a healing center. Yes, this was the place.

I parked and walked into the building. Nothing was open, but I thought, maybe there was a room to begin the Boise temple. Although nothing was open, I assumed I'd return later after I met with the Boise group. It was 11:00 a.m. and I was to meet the group at 11:30. I quickly returned to Smokey Mt. Pizza. The restaurant had just opened at 11:00 and I explained to the hostess that I was meeting a group of people at 11:30. I assumed that someone would probably be here shortly; after all, it was destiny, wasn't it? The hostess told me that I was welcome to wait.

I took a seat and began playing with my iPhone with images of being the founder of a new Buddhist temple dancing through my head. I thought of Rev. Seki who founded the New York Buddhist Temple, Rev. Kono who founded the Midwest Buddhist temple in Chicago and Rev. Tamai who is credited with establishing the Tri State Buddhist Temple. Midwest Buddhist temple has a bust of Rev. Kono and Rev. Tamai has a statue in the courtyard of Sakura Square in Denver and the temple's senior housing is called Tamai Tower. I wondered what I would look like as a statue. I don't even like photos of myself; I didn't think I would want a statue, maybe just a plaque with an etching or something. Something distracted me from my daydreams and I looked at my watch and it was 11:30.

Something must be wrong. Didn't the Boise group even know their own meeting place? "I'm their destiny, so where are they?" I had better talk to them about punctuality and how it is important to respect the other person enough to try to be on time or even a little early, just like me. After about five more minutes, I asked the hostess if there was a room or something, where a group of people were waiting. She told me there was nothing, I then showed her the message, I had received from Kathy the Minister's assistant. The hostess smiled explained to me that we were on State Street and the Smokey Mt. Pizza on the message was the Parkcenter store about ten minutes away. "POOF!" There goes destiny. I did make it to the Parkcenter Smokey Mt. Pizza about fifteen minutes, too late for the destined leader of the Boise Buddhist Temple and Northwestern Buddhist Education center. When I daydream why not dream big.

The passage I began this month's article with is from Shinran Shonin's Hymns from the Dharma Age. It is one of my favorite poems of Shinran. During this Halloween season it's a good reminder of the greatest thing to fear is our own mind. Our ego is probably the biggest part of our mind that can cause us problems, as this experience from Boise has once again shown me. Arrogance and ego will cause more problems in your life than any ghost or goblin. In "The Wizard of Oz", when Dorothy entered the forest she chanted, "Lions, tigers and bears, oh my." We should each be saying, "Scorpions, snakes in my mind, oh my!" This is what we should really fear.

As I have explained to my daughters when they were young, "Demons, witches, ghosts and all the scary monsters you see in the movie will not bother Buddhists." According to Christianity, the leader of all these scary creatures is the devil. According to the Christians the devil is trying to scare you into some type of evil deed that will make you lose faith in God. Then you will be his and go to hell. As a Buddhist, according to the game rules, we are already going to hell, since we are Buddhists and not Christians. If the devil or his minions pop up and scare you, they might scare you into becoming Christian, which means, he loses your soul. I'm sure the devil doesn't want that to happen, so he will make sure nothing scares you or bothers you on Halloween, so you're safe.

However, the problems of arrogance and an inflated ego will cause you much more difficulties than any devil's minion. If any of you saw the movie "The Exorcist", remember when Megan was possessed and her head was all puffy, scary and turning around. Then she threw up that pea soup. If you believe the voice in your head that is telling you how great you are and how you deserve this or that, just because you are you, your head will do much more than just turn around and get green. Your arrogance and ego will make all your friends and family throw up. So when you are in a scary situation, say, "Namo Amida Butsu!" and remember, "Scorpions, snakes in my mind, oh my!" Happy Halloween!

October Shotsuki Hoyo

Service will be October 30

Deceased	Date of death	Next of kin
Akita Sakae	10/25/36	Janet Thomas
Iwasaki Ritsuko	10/25/61	Dean Iwasaki
Kano Gunpei	10/13/65	Marilynn Shimada
Masuko Kyushiro	10/25	Robert Kasubuchi
Mitsunaga Ruth	10/30/95	Faye Mitsunaga-Eng
Muto Chiyo	10/15/83	
Ninomiya Katsuji	10/20/42	Yoshiko Ninomiya
Nishihara Alice	10/20/90	Greg Matsuura
Oda Mitsuji	10/9/31	Mumatsu Sasaki
Ogawa Fusaye	10/19/31	Bob Sugino
Ogawa Kuma	10/6/19	Bob Sugino
Oike Katsuye	10/14/74	May Koike
Saito Shizuno	10/26/21	Yoshiko Ninomiya
Sasaki Sukeichiro	10/19/68	Charlie Sasaki
Shiba Yoshiro	10/19/52	Yuri Uyeda
Sugiyama Unosuki	10/27/84	

Tadehara Masami	10/9/87	Tadehara Family
Tohinaka George	10/28/95	Tohinaka Family
Tokunaga Shigao	10/27/90	Tokunaga Family
Tsuyuki Ikuzo	10/3	Mark Tsuyuki
Wakayama Gerry	10/7/94	Wakayama Family
Yamamoto James	10/25/71	Eleanor Nakamura
Tamagawa Frank	10/18/95	Fred Tamagawa
Hisae Tsutsui	10/15/01	Geraldine Chappel
Frank Ling	10/02/02	Elaine Fukushima
Betty Yamaguchi	10/8/04	Jeannie Yamaguchi
John Imada	10/24/05	Imada Family
Otome Hasegawa	10/11/10	Roxanne Hasegawa
Takashi Nagasawa	10/21/11	Yaeko Nagata
Masako Morinaka	10/22/2012	Glen Morinaka
Margene Nagasawa	10/2/2014	Craig Nagasawa