

SOTO MISSION OF AIEA
P.O. BOX 926 AIEA, HAWAII 96701
PHONE AND FAX 808.488.6794
EMAIL AIEATAIHEIJI@GMAIL.COM



TAIHEIJI BULLETIN



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2019!

Please join us at the New Year's Blessing Service and Daihannya Service at Taiheiji to offer prayers for a prosperous and safe year, and receive blessings from the temple. **The New Year's Service at Taiheiji begins at 9:00 a.m.** on Tuesday, January 1. During the service, the sutra, Hannya Shingyo, will be chanted to the beat of the taiko. What a wonderful feeling it is to start the New Year by sharing together the wisdom of the Buddha-Dharma with family and friends! Attendees will also be blessed with the *Rishubun*, the holy book containing the Buddha's teachings. Please take this opportunity to also pick up the new *Ofuda* Packets, extra *ofuda*, and *omamori* you may have ordered.

Don't forget to collect all the old *ofuda* and *omamori* from your home and bring them to the temple. It is important to replace them with your new set!

The Komagata family will serve New Year's *gochiso* (delicious food) immediately after the service, which include *ozoni* and *zenzai*...the source of physical and spiritual strength for the New Year 2019. We look forward to seeing you at 9:00 a.m. on New Year's Day!!!

NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE FROM REV. SHUJI KOMAGATA

Happy New Year! I hope you and your family are enjoying the holiday season! 2018 was such a busy year! I must say that I spent several days during this holiday season at home with my family to just relax and "recharge my batteries!" Thanks to everyone's hard work, Taiheiji's centennial celebration in November was a huge success, drawing 600 people to attend the festivities at the Dole Cannery. The Soto Mission of Aiea Commemorative History Book was also released in 2018.

In the Komagata household, we mourned the loss of my mother, Faye Komagata, who passed away on November 5, the day after our centennial celebration. Although we will continue to miss her, we are all very grateful to have been a part of her incredible life. Jaymie and I have been kept busy with our two teenage children. Remi, now a junior, continues to maintain straight A's in school and is now beginning to plan for college. Meanwhile, Reigen is now a freshman at Aiea High School, and is enjoying being the catcher on the JV Baseball squad. Both children continue to play taiko, and we are very proud of Reigen who officially received the Buddhist precepts in the Tokudo ceremony, the first step to becoming a minister.

As we begin Taiheiji's 101st year in Aiea, we look forward to our next BIG project that was introduced at Taiheiji's Centennial Celebration—the Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center—a brand new 5000 square foot building set to be completed in 2023. The current plan is to use the building as a senior care center and multipurpose activity center. This bold project may be the key to ensuring that Taiheiji continues to prosper for the next 100 years. Please read the Taiheiji Bulletins that will be mailed to you throughout the year for more exciting information. In closing, I would like to once again thank you for being part of the Taiheiji family. I look forward to an exciting and prosperous 2019.

In Gassho,
Rev. Shuji Komagata

JANUARY SERVICES

HATSU KANNONKO & DOGEN BIRTHDAY SERVICES OFUDA-YAKI CEREMONY

On **Sunday, January 6, at 9:00 a.m.**, everyone is invited to attend the “Hatsu Kannonko,” or first Kannonko service of the year. Please invite your spouse, children, and friends to attend Kannonko services. A service will be also held commemorating the birth of Dogen Zenji, one of Soto Buddhism’s two founders.

Rev. Shuji will also conduct a New Year’s Blessing service for anyone unable to attend the New Year’s Day Service. At the end of the services in the temple, we will adjourn to the front of the temple for the *Ofuda-yaki* ceremony. All the old *ofuda* and *omamori* from 2018 will be burned during this service. Upon conclusion of the services, light refreshments will be served. Please stop by and join everyone. We look forward to seeing all of you.

FEBRUARY SERVICES

NEHAN-E, KANNONKO, & SETSUBUN

On Sunday, February 10, the Soto Mission of Aiea will observe Nehan-e (Parinirvana), Kannonko Service, and also celebrate the Setsubun (Bean Throwing) Ceremony. February is the month when Buddhists observe the passing of Shakamuni Buddha. At Taiheiji, the large Nehan-zu (scroll) that illustrates the Buddha’s passing is displayed for all to view. The scroll, painted back in the 1930s, was recently restored to its original beauty in 2008. As followers of the Buddha and his Teachings, it is important that many have the opportunity to see and appreciate the scroll to express our gratitude. We therefore urge all of you to pay a visit to the temple and join others at this annual observance. Although not a Buddhist practice, the Setsubun Ceremony is a Japanese tradition that the members of Taiheiji have adopted. Those born in “the Year of the Boar” will have the honor and privilege of tossing roasted beans while shouting, “FUKU WA UCHI,” (good luck in) and “ONI WA SOTO” (bad luck out). This lighthearted ceremony is a joy for participants of all ages. After the above services, Taiheiji’s annual New Year’s Party will take place in the hall.

WHAT IS NEHAN (PARINIRVANA)?

February 15 is Nehan, the day that Shakyamuni Buddha died near the town of Kushinagara on the banks of the Hiranyavati River. A big scroll depicting the Buddha entering Nirvana is hung in the temple and a ceremony expressing our gratitude to the Buddha is performed.

It is said that at the time of his death the Buddha was sleeping on a bed that had been prepared between two sal trees; his head to the north, his face to the west, and his right hand for a pillow. At that time, white flowers bloomed on the sal trees and fell continuously.

Many of his disciples, the king and his family, men and women of all ages, and even birds and animals gathered, sighing with sadness. The Buddha gave his last discourse, expounding the fundamental truth – even though the physical body dies, the Dharma is eternal; in order to see the Buddha, it is necessary to see the Dharma. In this way, he taught his disciples the precepts and the way they should maintain the practice of Buddha’s Way. This last sermon is called the *Yuikyogyo*.

SOTO MISSION OF AIEA'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE HISTORY BOOK

The Soto Mission of Aiea 100th Anniversary Commemorative History Book, released in November 2018, is available for pick up at the Soto Mission of Aiea. Each temple member family receives a complimentary copy of the book, and additional copies are available for a \$20 donation to the temple. Please contact Rev. Shuji at 488-6794 to schedule a time to pick copies of the book!

TAIHEIJI NEW YEAR'S PARTY

Please reserve Sunday, February 10 in your calendars. The Soto Mission of Aiea will hold its annual New Year's Party, called the Shinnenkai. Each year, the Shinnenkai has been a very popular event. Many of our members and supporters, both young and old, come to enjoy a day of good food, games, and entertainment. Cocktails will be served at 10:30 a.m. followed by the luncheon at 11:00 a.m.

The cost to attend the party is \$16 for adults, \$8 for children ages 6-12, and free for children 5 and under. As a special thanks to our *kupunas*, all temple members 80 years old and above are free! RSVP forms will be sent out in January. Mahalo!

UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

JANUARY

1	Tue	9:00 a.m.	New Year's Blessing Service
5	Sat	8:30 a.m.	Temple Cleanup Day
6	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Dogen Zenji Birthday Service, Hatsu Kannonko, and Ofudayaki
6	Sun	10:15 a.m.	Taiheiji Board Meeting

February

9	Sat	8:30 a.m.	Temple Cleanup Day
10	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Nehan-e, Kannonko, & Setsubun Ceremony
10	Sun	11:00 a.m.	Taiheiji Shinnenkai (New Year's Party)
24	Sun		Hawaii Soto Mission Association Meeting

TEMPLE CLEANUP

We humbly ask for your presence and participation at our January and February temple cleanup days. There are many tasks, such as cleaning the temple, restrooms, and hall. Outdoor tasks include cutting weeds, and tending to the garden next to the temple.

Cleanups are from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 5, and Saturday, February 9. Please contact Rev. Shuji if you have any questions.

FUJINKAI MEMBERSHIPS

If you haven't done so already, please submit your Fujinkai membership dues (\$10) for 2019. Please call Rev. Shuji if you need new membership forms. Mahalo!

TAIHEIJI BOARD MEETING

The Taiheiji Board meeting will be held on Sunday, January 6, at 10:15 a.m. We humbly ask that all board members be present at the meeting! Mahalo!

DESSERTS FOR SHINNENKAI

We humbly ask you for your donations of desserts for the upcoming Shinnenkai (New Year's Party) on Sunday, February 10. Please contact Mrs. Jaymie Komagata at 488-6794 and let her know what dessert item you will donate. Mahalo!

SOTO MISSION OF AIEA MEMBERSHIP

Taiheiji strives to serve the social, spiritual, and religious needs of its members through its ongoing mission to provide a place where people are welcomed with open arms to receive the guidance of the Buddha Dharma.

Whether for happy occasions like weddings and blessing services, or for the times to remember departed loved ones during memorial services and funerals, your Taiheiji membership enables you to access the variety of religious services available. We at Taiheiji certainly feel that your membership donation we receive is an encouraging sign of confidence that you place in the temple as an important and relevant part of your life.

Taiheiji regularly receives requests from nonmembers for services. The requests often comes at the time of a wedding or a funeral, or when people know of no other place to call. The strongest confirmation we receive that we have positively impacted someone's life is when they decide to join the temple as new members.

An additional benefit active members receive is the opportunity to use the social hall to host parties and events. With no set rental fee, members make a donation at their discretion for use of the hall. The social hall can comfortably accommodate up to 150 guests.

The membership/donation form for your household to join the temple or renew membership has already been sent to you. Please send your membership in if you have not already done so. **Please also encourage your parents, adult children, and relatives to renew their membership or to join our temple community by becoming a member.**

The annual membership donation is \$100 per household, and is customarily received in December and January. If you have any questions, please call Rev. Shuji at 488-6794.

Soto Mission of Aiea

Memorial Services for 2019

Please contact Rev. Shuji at 488-6794 to schedule services

One Year Memorial Service (2018)

1/2/2018 Kawabata, Michael
 1/15/2018 Aruga, Georgiana
 1/16/2018 Sakaue, Mary
 7/25/2018 Kazama, Shogo
 7/27/2018 Haga, Yaeko
 9/15/2018 Fukuhara, Iris
 9/21/2018 Nakamoto, Hatsuko
 10/9/2018 Tanakaya, Gary

3rd Year Memorial Service (2017)

1/14/2017 Koizumi, Akiko
 1/29/2017 Toyama, Robert
 3/3/2017 Masutani, Masao
 3/9/2017 Toyama, Walter
 3/10/2017 Omiya, Takashi
 3/17/2017 Kazama, Thomas
 5/16/2017 Tango, Frances
 6/6/2017 Kaya, Mabel
 6/20/2017 Uemura, Edward
 6/23/2017 Nakashima, June
 9/15/2017 Kojima, Leslie
 10/17/2017 Okuno, Sally
 11/20/2017 Sato, Takao
 12/17/2017 Takamoto, Elijah

7th Year Memorial Service (2013)

1/9/2013 Omiya, Doris
 1/22/2013 Fujimoto, Gerald
 2/7/2013 Masutani, Misae
 2/24/2013 Matsukawa, Marjory
 3/19/2013 Okuda, Henry
 5/19/2013 Kurosawa, Ernest
 6/3/2013 Seki, Judy
 7/1/2013 Suzuki, Masako
 7/8/2013 Yamaki, Dale
 7/20/2013 Koga, Wilson
 7/28/2013 Mato, Nagara
 7/30/2013 Yoshimura, Fred
 9/13/2013 Odagiri, Toshifumi
 9/21/2013 Komamura, Yasushi
 12/19/2013 Shiraki, Toshio

13th Year Memorial Service (2007)

1/6/2007 Muranaka, Sadamu
 1/31/2007 Awazu, Karen
 2/6/2007 Toyama, Kenji
 3/5/2007 Omiya, Elsie
 3/28/2007 Toyama, David
 4/14/2007 Okihiro, Shogo
 5/4/2007 Takemura, Sumiko
 6/9/2007 Saito, Teruko
 6/16/2007 Kodama, Hideko
 6/30/2007 Uehara, Wallace
 7/2/2007 Taketa, Tomiichi
 7/6/2007 Okuda, Hisayo
 9/27/2007 Saito, Charles
 11/14/2007 Yamaki, Kiyoko
 12/28/2007 Kawauchi, Mary
 12/30/2007 Suzuki, Jerry

17th Year Memorial Service (2003)

3/18/2003 Takemura, Kengo
 4/20/2003 Kobatake, Masato
 4/22/2003 Fujimoto, George
 4/23/2003 Seiji Ng, Hideko
 4/30/2003 Tamashiro, Dorothy
 6/21/2003 Enga, Janet
 7/4/2003 Abe, David
 8/19/2003 Fuchisaki, Nakayo
 8/29/2003 Matsui, Kazuo
 10/18/2003 Fukuhara, Chosei
 11/30/2003 Taketa, Akiko

23rd Year Memorial Service (1997)

1/30/1997 Saito, Shika
 2/24/1997 Kurosawa, Yoshiko
 4/12/1997 Saito, Harue
 5/30/1997 Saito, Minoru
 7/27/1997 Shiraki, Chie
 9/3/1997 Sasaki, Ryosaku
 9/17/1997 Ogawa, Terutoshi
 10/5/1997 Toyama, Kikue
 10/31/1997 Kazama, Tomio
 11/20/1997 Ono, Kawayo
 12/24/1997 Kihara, Jason

27th Year Memorial Service (1993)

1/18/1993 Suzuki, Yujiro
 3/3/1993 Abe, Torazo
 3/12/1993 Tamano, Hatsune
 4/21/1993 Yokouchi, Yukio
 5/24/1993 Yonamine, Unto
 5/30/1993 Watanabe, Shoji
 7/12/1993 Koizumi, Jitsuo
 8/19/1993 Yoshimura, Mitsukiyo

33rd Year Memorial Service (1987)

3/8/1987 Kaya, Kyoko
 4/24/1987 Sugai, Shin
 9/15/1987 Yoshimura, Mitsuru
 9/21/1987 Enga, Tadaichi
 11/8/1987 Okihiro, Haruyo
 12/17/1987 Kaya, Nobuyo

2019 TENTATIVE CALENDAR*

January	1	New Year's Day Blessing Service
	1	Daihannya Services
	6	Dogen's Birthday, Kannonko, Ofuda-yaki Services
February	10	Nehan-e & Kannonko Services
	10	Taiheiji New Year's Party
	24	HSMA Spring Meeting (Hosted by Betsuin)
March	10	Spring Higan & Kannonko Services
April	7	Hawaii Buddhist Council Buddha Day Service
	13-14	UHSSWA Conference (Hosted by Betsuin)
	21	Taiheiji Buddha Day & Kannonko Services
May	5	Fujinkai Tsuicho-e & Kannonko Services
June	20, 22	Taiheiji Bon Services
	23, 24	Taiheiji Bon Services
August	9, 10	Taiheiji Bon Dance
September	8	Autumn Higan, Ryosoki, and Kannonko Services
October	13	Daruma-ki & Kannonko Services
November	10	Keizan's Birthday, Veteran's Day Services
	10	Eitaikyo & Kannonko Services
December	1	Hawaii Buddhist Council Bodhi Day Service
	8	Taiheiji Bodhi Day & Kannonko Services

*Dates Subject to Change

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GENEROUS DONATIONS RECEIVED

Amy Imaguchi	Kannondo Project
Karate Group	Donation to 100th Anniversary Program Booklet
Troy Fukuhara	3rd Memorial Service for the late Frederick Fukuhara
Fukuhara Family	Inurnment Service for the late Iris Fukuhara
Troy Fukuhara	Book donation
Wayne Nakamoto	Funeral Service for the late Mrs. Hatsuko Nakamoto
Annette Kaneshiro	Burial Plot
George Fukuhara	In Loving Memory of the late Kame Fukuhara
Wayne Nakamoto	Funeral Service for the late Hatsuko Nakamoto
Debbie Tanakaya	Funeral Service for the late Gary Tanakaya
Ellen Sato-Lum	3rd Memorial Service for the late Takeko Sato
Satoru & Gertrude Nishida	Blessing Service
Alayna Kobayashi	Blessing Service

3rd Memorial Service for the late Edith Hasegawa

Richard Hasegawa & family, Colin & Janis Hiranaga, Michael Kamada, Jessica Burns, Lois Kamada, Ronald & Erma Soma, Lance & Nancy Soma & Family, Jennifer Soma & Cody Shishido

Donation to Temple

Araki Hiroya Soroban School
Shizendo
Geraldine Nishida
Shizendo
Elaine Tanaka
Aiea Taiheiji Judo Club
Stephen Omiya
Yvonne Hanato-Wells
Fukiya
Colleen Nakatsu
Sueno Miyasato
Sandra Tanaka
Wallace Kazama
Carl & Mutsumi Kawauchi
Alice Masutani
Loren Odagiri

Operating Fund

Mildred Aisaka
Steven Aisaka
George Akahori
Annie Fujimoto
Chester Fujimoto
Harold Haga
Alice Hirata
Lilly Ihara
Alice Ito
Wallace Kazama
Vernon Koizumi
Alice Masutani
Caroline Masutani
James Matsuoka
Paul Murato
Gail Nagamine
Glenn Nakagawa
Loren Odagiri
Annie Okoji
Elbert Saito

(Operating Fund Cont'd)

Frances Takakawa
Jean Takata
Dennis Tanioka
Paul Toyoshima
Earl Tsuneyoshi
Roy Yamagishi
James Yamaki
Kathleen Tagawa
Candace Tasoe
Ralph Yokouchi

Maintenance Fund

Mildred Aisaka
Steven Aisaka
George Akahori
Annette Distiso
Annie Fujimoto
Harold Haga
Alice Hirata
Joseph Katano
Wallace Kazama
Vernon Koizumi
Karen Maruoka
Alice Masutani
James Matsuoka
Glenn Nakagawa
Loren Odagiri
Annie Okoji
Jean Takata
Glenn Tanaka
Ronald Tanaka
Earl Tsuneyoshi
Wes Wakata
Roy Yamagishi
Yuriko Onaga
Candace Tasoe
Ralph Yokouchi

Building Fund

Mildred Aisaka
Steven Aisaka
Annie Fujimoto
Harold Haga
Wallace Kazama
Carl & Mutsumi Kawauchi
Vernon Koizumi
Alice Masutani
Caroline Masutani
James Matsuoka
Michie Nagamine
Glenn Nakagawa
Satoru Nishida
Loren Odagiri
Annie Okoji
Jean Takata
Thelma Tanaka
Earl Tsuneyoshi
Roy Yamagishi
Harold Yokouchi
Midori Yoshimura
Candace Tasoe Candace

Legacy Fund

Pat Radona
Edwin Oka
George Hokama

Centennial Fund

Myrtle Takiguchi
P. Maki McHenry
Steven Aisaka



Dharma Lei



Bishop's Office Newsletter

Soto Zen Buddhism Hawaii Office

c/o Soto Mission of Hawaii 1708 Nuuanu Avenue, Honolulu HI 96817 U.S.A.

Tel & Fax: 808-538-6429

E-Mail: info@sotozenhi.org WEB: <http://global.sotozen-net.or.jp/eng/>

First Quarter, 2019

Issue No. 27

Bishop's Message: Bishop Shugen Komagata

Happy New Year from the Hawaii Soto Mission Bishop's Office. I wish for a bright and happy 2019 for everyone.

2019 is the Year of the Boar. The boar is the last of the twelve Japanese zodiac symbols. According to legend, when the zodiac symbols were summoned for the first time, the boar outran the ox but didn't stop at the finish line. By the time the boar returned, it was twelfth, the last of the zodiac symbols.

People who are born in the Year of the Boar are said to be honest, helpful, and full of a fearless pioneer spirit. They emphasize fair play and do not like to play tricks on others. Conversely, though, they are said to be short tempered and often view things in black and white.

Boar people are said to be most compatible with rabbits and sheep. Together, these three zodiac symbols generate great positive energy. They are also compatible with those born in the Year of the Tiger. Snakes are the least compatible with boars.



Looking ahead in 2019, I invite you to join other Soto Mission members and supporters at the 9th U.S. Soto Zen Members Conference to be held on October 26 in Las Vegas, Nevada. This gathering, hosted by the Soto Zen Buddhism North America Office, will be held at the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

In closing, I would like to thank all the Hawaii ministers, members, families, and supporters of the Hawaii Soto Mission. I look forward to another exciting year in 2019!

In Gassho,

Bishop Shugen Komagata



Blueberry “Buddha” Muffin

The “Courage” to change the toppings

By Rev. Hirosato Yoshida



Aloha Hawaii Soto Mission Ohana

I was asked to write an article introducing myself and my family as a new minister at Betsuin. But to think of it, I am not that new and most of you already know me, my wife Aika and my son Skyler. So, I decided to write about my aspiration for the future instead. But before I start writing my aspiration, let me just cheat my way by writing just a little about how I came to Hawaii in the first place, so I can say it's also a greeting.

My life in Hawaii began many years ago. When I was 7, my father became the resident minister at Hilo Taishoji. At that age, I had no idea where I was going, the only thing I was told by my parents was, we are going to a town called Hilo. As a 7 years old, I was really excited because I was going to a town with the same nickname as me. Hirosato “Hiro” Yoshida. Of course, when you write it in English, spelling is different but when you write in Japanese, they are pronounced same. The “R’s” and the “L’s.” But since that moment, I have been living here longer than I have lived in Japan. Never did I thought that I would be calling this place “Home.”

Okay so enough talking about my past, what is more important is about the future of our Hawaii Soto Mission. There are long history and tradition that we valued and treasured for the past 100 years. It is important to keep what we all know and how we do things so that the next generation of people know the value of our tradition. But the reality is, when Buddhism crossed the land from India to China, the form of Buddhism changed. When it crossed the sea to Japan, it also changed. When Buddhism crossed the Pacific 100 years ago, it also changed. But once it arrives, it shouldn't or can't change? I think that we need to constantly update our Buddhism. This leads me to think about the importance of what the new generation of people value.

In the 18th Century and 19th Century during the Industrial age, the world value was based on 3 things. That was “**Human resource, Material resource, and Money.**” The world judged individuals on these three things. So, if you were to become a successful entrepreneur, one needed a hard-working individual to work for them, how your business outcompete other rivals based on the product quality you could produce, and to show your wealth and to grow your business, you needed more money. As we approached the end of 20th century, there was another thing added to this list. That was “**Information.**” Sometime, information became more important than any other things.



This became prominent during this age, having the information became the key ingredient to success. Companies bought information as they tried to expand their network. However, when internet became public in 1990's, another revolution took place. This time, they added "**time**" as a necessary ingredient to success along with the other four things. If you could get the same amount of information accurately with less amount of time, customers were happy. If a client sent you an email, if you could respond to the email within that day vs few business days, your company would be much reliable than your competition. With the current younger generation, their way of thinking is very spontaneous. Every minute, every second needs to be considered and valued. This is why, when we ask the younger generation what they are doing, most often they are using their smartphones to check Facebook, Instagram or Twitter for constant update of information. This is the world we live today, a very spontaneous and a very speedy world. In such world, how can our temples keep the tradition and values to fit the way younger generation accepts to be efficient.

What do we need and what direction do we need to point for the future? Maybe it is time that we get rid of old tradition that is outdated. But before I make any conclusion, let me say that in 2016, when apple released their new iPhone 7, they removed the headphone jack and they said this was "**Courage**." At that time, many could not understand why they took away that important traditional style. However, today, there are over 20 smartphones without a headphone jack and no one complaints when they released another model without a headphone jack. It became the global standard. But let me say that it wasn't that they just took away the whole experience of not having any private music/sound environment, they just switched from analog to digital. A physical cable tying the phone and ears together to wirelessly tying the phone and the ears together. They still kept the traditional value of listening to music but made it a whole new way of experiencing the same thing.

I think that we need to change the way we present ourselves. We can still keep the tradition and have a strong base foundation. I am not suggesting to start fresh by getting rid of the way we are. Think of it this way, let's say we are making blueberry muffins from our grandma's recipe. 10 years ago, we all enjoyed having that chocolate sprinkles but maybe it's time to change things around because we are getting bored of the same taste. We can still keep the foundational elements like the batter and how we cook the same muffin, but maybe what we need to do is just change the toppings from chocolate sprinkles to whip cream instead.

As we race in this competitive world, I hope with the support of my wife and my son and the guidance of our temple member ohana, to create a new topping for our temples. We can still keep the traditional value but present it in a new way. It will take "**Courage**", but for us to find a peace of mind that our tradition will continue to live on, **we need to change the toppings on our blueberry "Buddha" muffin**. To express the same tradition in a whole new way.



Shushogi, Chapter 1 : Verses 4 - 6

By Rev. Myoshin Kaniumoe



Aloha everyone!

Rev. Fukugawa discussed Shushogi Chapter 1-Verses 1-3 in the last edition of the Dharma Lei so this time we would like to continue that discussion and talk about the next 3 verses from Chapter 1, numbers 4-6.

From Shuhogi . . .

4. Avoid associating with deluded people in this world who are ignorant of the truth of causality and karmic retribution, who are heedless of past, present and future, and cannot distinguish good from evil.

Dogen often stresses the shortness of life, how precious it is and how we should not waste it. In Fukuan Zazenki he tells us: Do not pass your days and nights in vain. You are taking care of the essential activity of the buddha-way. Who would take wasteful delight in the spark from a flintstone? Besides, form and substance are like the dew on the grass, the fortunes of life like a dart of lightning - emptied in an instant, vanished in a flash. Associating with deluded people who do not understand the truth about causality and karmic retribution is a cautionary note so that we don't get ourselves caught up or influenced by the results of their misguided actions and resultant unfortunate karma. Do you really want to be around people who do not know the difference between good and evil? This is not about judging others but about making choices that lead to better outcomes.

The principle of causality is obvious and impersonal; for inevitably those who do evil fall, and those who do good rise. If there were no causality, the buddhas would not have appeared in this world, nor would Bodhidharma have come from the west.

This statement would seem like common sense but how often do we overlook the obvious in our lives? The principal of cause and effect is really evident for all to see and not some closed off secret. Doing good deeds results in good things happening and likewise when we do evil deeds the result is an evil outcome. This principle does not discriminate. Rich or poor, whatever station in life you are at, where ever you come from, if you endeavor in good or evil there will be a karmic result to your actions. The principle of causality shows that we are all connected, the interconnectedness of all things and all beings. Great teachers have appeared through time because they understand about causality and interconnectedness and wish to follow the bodhisattva path to save all beings thus Bodhidharma came from the west to teach in a country that already started to receive the Buddhadharmā.

5. The karmic consequences of good and evil occur at three different times. The first is retribution experienced in our present life; the second is retribution experienced in the life following this one; and the third is retribution experienced in subsequent lives. In practicing the way of the buddhas and ancestors, from the start we should study and clarify the principle of karmic retribution in these three times. Otherwise, we will often make mistakes and fall into false views. Not only will we fall into false views, we will fall into evil births and undergo long periods of suffering.



Here Dogen is not speaking about reincarnation. To be clear when he speaks about different lifetimes he is still referring to our one and only life. Dogen is saying that a "lifetime" can be understood to mean the lives one has as a child, a teenager, a son or daughter, a young man or woman at work, a father or mother, or as a senior citizen. These can all be considered to be our various lifetimes. The mistakes we make as a younger person are often repeated as we get older unless we take the time to step back and observe why this is so and endeavor to change our behavior. By realizing the truth and reality of this principle of cause and effect we can go along way to living a life that is free from the effects of karmic retribution. Conversely if we develop a habit of doing good deeds the world will experience the benefit not just ourselves.

6. Understand that in this birth we have only one life, not two or three.

How regrettable it is if, falling into false views, we are subject to the consequences of evil deeds.

Because we think that it is not evil even as we do evil, and falsely imagine that there will be no consequences of evil, there is no way for us to avoid those consequences.

Even though we may speak of living different lives as described in the above comments, we really only live this one life. In Genjo-koan Dogen very clearly explains what he means about living this one life when he is describing the life of firewood. "When firewood becomes ash, it cannot become firewood again". In the life cycle there is clearly a "before" and an "after" but one cannot go from the beginning to the end and back to the beginning again.

If we do not grasp and come to see the truth of cause and effect we can certainly come to feel that we are above its effects. However, no matter what we falsely believe the truth of this matter will always teach us that we cannot avoid the consequences.

When Dogen wrote the fascicles of the Shobogenzo from which these 3 verses were taken I think he could see clearly all around him and in his own life the very real consequences of cause and effect about which he so clearly writes about.

Today in our society we see result of our inaction in decades past with climate change, the widespread drug addiction problem as well as other health issues. Science has shown us that there are consequences to despoiling the Earth's ecology. The suffering in Flint Michigan and around Chernobyl are a direct result of our actions. If we allow the Earth's temperature to rise over the 2 degree Celsius mark future generations will be dealing with the consequences of our lack of foresight and some might even say outright greed.

Many people, myself included are dealing with a delay in karmic retribution. Those of us who smoked cigarettes in our younger years are now coming to grips with all kinds of lung ailments including emphysema, asthma and lung cancer. When you are young you think you are invincible and can do whatever you want with no consequences only to find out that the thing that made you seemingly look cool and feel good only served to make you very ill and shortened your life. Dogen's words about cause and effect are extremely wise and all we have to do is look around us to see that.



In Memoriam: Faye Naomi Komagata

By Rev. Shinsho Hata



It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Mrs. Faye Naomi Komagata, on Monday, November 5, 2018. She passed away peacefully, surrounded by family and friends at Saint Francis Hospice in Honolulu. She was 72 years old.

Faye bravely fought pancreatic cancer for over two years, undergoing numerous rounds of chemotherapy and radiation. With her strong will and determination, she continued to do the things she loved, traveling to the mainland and the neighbor islands, teaching taiko, and remaining active in the many activities at the temple.

Faye's funeral service was held on Saturday, December 15, 2018 at the Soto Mission of Hawaii. Nearly 1000 people went to Betsuin to pay their respects and offer condolences to Bishop Shugen Komagata.

With hands together in gassho, Bishop Komagata expresses his deepest appreciation to everyone for all the love and support the family has received during this difficult time.



**Soto Mission of Aiea
P.O. Box 926
Aiea, HI 96701**

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