
OZENESS

Quarterly Newsletter of the Rev. Gyomay M. Kubose Dharma Legacy

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EQUALITY

By Rev. Gyomay M. Kubose

The Buddhist concept of equality is expressed in a sutra which says, "Difference is equal; equal means different." Buddhism teaches that all beings are equal. However, this equality does not mean that all beings are the same. For example, a table is a piece of furniture on which to put things. The top of the table is beautiful and the legs are underneath supporting the top. The legs are usually not visible but there is no table without legs. The legs are just as important as the top. Each has its unique position to fulfill. There is no actual superiority or inferiority. All are equal. So it is with all things.

We live in a democratic society and this can be taken to imply that we are all equal, all the same. However, there is no democracy in the sense that all are literally equal. We are not equal in the sense of everyone being the same. It is only in a convenient sense that all citizens are considered equal. The President has his duties to perform and so does everyone else - congressmen, city officials, garbage collectors. Garbage collectors are just as important as city officials. If the garbage collectors strike and do not collect the garbage for months, the city would be a stinky, dirty place. Garbage collectors are important and we should respect them just as we do the

mayor or governor. The work is different but the quality, the value, is the same. Difference is equality. This kind of perspective can be seen in the phrase, "byodo soku sabetsu" which says, "equal means different." This view is also present in the Zen saying, "shiki soku ze ku" or "all things are empty." Here, empty means everything. This kind of paradoxical expression is used to try and express the reality of things. Truth or reality is paradoxical. The ideas of right and wrong, for example, are exactly opposite, but right and wrong are equal or the same in the sense that if there is no wrong there is no right. Just as light and darkness exist only in relationship to each other. If there is all darkness, there can be no light. Darkness exists only in relation to brightness. Wisdom cannot exist without ignorance. Many examples can be mentioned. There can be no husband without a wife; no teacher without a student. It is because things are different but equal that there is a oneness of all things.

Husband and wife are different people; they have different personalities and usually have different domestic duties. The children are also different and have their different duties and privileges. Yet, wife, husband,

and children together become one and form a whole. All are different but at the same time one and the same. In a family there are many members, but they are one in the name of the family. To realize this oneness and to live accordingly is the Buddhist way. This teaching is expressed in the Buddhist quotation, "One is many and many is one." This kind of perspective or way of life can be extended to all humans, in all situations - whether people are joined together in a business, church, or country. And fundamentally, there is always a basic oneness because there is universal equality within life itself. (*The Center Within*, pgs 64 - 65)

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President's Message

By Rev. Koyo Kubose

Summer travels... opportunities to experience the Dharma in new ways! July found us on an Alaskan cruise—starting from Vancouver and going to places like Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, Glacier Bay, College Fjord and Seward. Then we took a train up to Anchorage and Fairbanks.

An Alaskan cruise is unique because it combines the luxury of ocean liner accommodations with being able to experience a great wilderness. Throughout the trip we saw wildlife like eagles, moose, bears, sea otters, and whales. At each port of call there were interesting land tours. We learned about the culture of the native people and the importance of their totem poles. We were able to hug Husky puppies where dogs were trained for the Iditarod race. We became familiar with the history of the Yukon gold rush and even panned for gold... combining the flakes we found into a small necklace pendant.

While at sea, there were numerous activities available aboard the ship. It was also easy to find quiet moments to just gaze out at the vast ocean. When passing through the Inland Passage, the shoreline is dramatically backed by a majestic mountain range. There were many moments that made me feel grateful or inspired.

As a practice of mindful awareness, I carried some pebbles from home—picked up from my backyard or from a nearby beach at Lake Michigan. When moved to do so during the Alaska trip, I made “offerings” of pebbles... leaving one here and there. Talking half to myself and half to the sea, I dropped a pebble overboard in a vow to deepen my spirituality. I left a pebble on a glacier, being awed by nature’s grandeur.

Later, after taking a train to Anchorage, I visited Rev. Tozen Akiyama, who had recently come from the Zen Center in Milwaukee for an extended stay to help further the Anchorage Zen Community. Together we visited the White Lotus Center for Shin Buddhism, started three years ago by Yuho Van Parijs and his wife Jishin (Diane). Rev. Van Parijs, originally from Belgium, is still affiliated with Jikoji Temple in Antwerp. It is always a pleasure to get together with fellow travelers of the Way. What are the myriad causes resulting in a meeting in Alaska? It is said that we see only the tip or 1/10th of an iceberg. The other 9/10ths is unseen under the surface of the water. In life,

whatever is happening in any given moment is just like the tip of an iceberg. The real cause is the unseen, massive interaction of karmic conditions. How nice that the Dharma works in such mysteriously wonderful ways! To Akiyama Sensei and the Van Parijs’ I gave each three pebbles as an offering of gratitude and encouragement. I told them to scatter the pebbles in their backyards or wherever they wanted. The Dharma is alive and well in Alaska!

A significant aspect of our Alaska trip was experiencing icebergs and glaciers. On one tour, we took a helicopter and landed on the Mendenhall Glacier. We drank ice-cold glacier water and walked on blue glacier ice. Blue ice is ten times denser than ordinary ice like in one’s refrigerator. The locals said that when they use glacier ice at parties, the ice in one’s drink will last all night!

Dense ice reminds me of how in Shin Buddhism, Shinran said, “The more the ice, the more the water”—meaning that when the ice of bonno (human defilements) melts, water will flow compassionately. We humans have very deep bonno, so I could identify with the dense glacier ice. Even though there’s presumably great potential, one’s egocentric bonno is so slow to melt, we often get discouraged. Yet, as with glaciers, there’s always some movement, however slow, toward the sea.

When land glaciers eventually reach the sea, they’re called hanging glaciers. When a huge chunk of ice falls off a hanging glacier, an iceberg is born. This is called “calving” and when calving occurs, there is a tremendous sound as ice breaks off and falls into the sea. While our ship was in Glacier Bay, a hanging glacier named Marjorie did a calving and I heard the sound of an iceberg being born. The sound was powerful and unlike any sound I had ever heard before. I’ll never forget that sound. It seemed like Nature was calling out a birth cry to the Universe. At the same time, it was a coming home—a glacier’s long journey to the sea... then an iceberg breaking off with the great sound of enlightenment—knowing ice will become water, water into clouds, clouds making snow to fall in the mountains... and the cycle continues. So, although one’s self-centeredness may be hard as glacier ice, be patient... you are moving to the sea... in a majestic, awesome coming home.



Save Oct 13th Date!

The Kubose Dharma Legacy's Fifth Year Anniversary Celebration Luncheon will be held on Saturday afternoon, October 13, 2001 at the Terrace Garden Restaurant of the Wilmette Country Club.



On this occasion, a newly established Bright Dawn Dharma Award will be presented to Minnie Kubose for her years of supporting her late husband Rev. Gyomay M. Kubose's lifework of promoting Buddhism in America.

Please save the date of October 13th and join us in honoring Minnie Kubose. Formal invitations will be mailed out shortly to everyone on our mailing list. Please invite your relatives and friends; everyone is welcome to attend. Interested persons can also call the Kubose Dharma Legacy at (847) 677 - 8211.

Doggie Dharma Treats

*Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.
Allow the experience of fresh air and the
wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.
When loved ones come home, run to greet them.
When it's in your best interest, practice obedience.
Let others know when they've invaded your territory.
Take naps and stretch upon rising.
Run, romp, and play daily.
Eat with gusto and enthusiasm.
Be a loyal friend.
Never pretend to be something you're not.
When someone is having a bad day, be silent,
sit close by, and gently nuzzle.
Thrive on attention and let people touch you.
Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.
On hot days, drink lots of water and lay under a tree.
When you're happy, dance and wag your entire body.
Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.*

- emailed to us by V.N. (IL)

READER REPLIES

At my place of business, I call Dial-the-Dharma (847 - 677 - 8053) and put it on the speaker phone for my staff to hear. Some days they say, "Hey, can we hear one of those messages today?" I say, "Sure!" and I dial it up and we all enjoy listening to the message. E.T. (Chicago)

I love the Dial-the-Dharma. I just wanted to let you know that I call on the computer all the time to save charges on long distance. Maybe those that don't call because they are worried about charges could try that? DialPad, PalTalk, and others work well. M.O. (San Diego)

B u d d h i s t B e a u t y S a l o n



Nothingness Hairdo



ImPERManent Hairdo

Drawn by Adrienne Kubose

W

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W

Words of Wisdom

W

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W

(Sayings from Rev. Gyomay M. Kubose's writings)

"Each time we do something is crucial; Each moment is of unique importance."

"Truth is conveyed not by words or actions but by life itself"

"Do not compare. One's life is good - absolute good."

Dharma Glimpse

by Brooks Iwamoto (10 years old)

It would be really strange if people weren't different. What if everyone was the same? Josh would look like Matthew and Matthew would look like Amir. Everyone would have black hair and brown eyes. What if everyone was the same size? No one would be tall and no one would be short? Would everyone have the same name or would we just be a number? How would we tell who's who?

It would be really strange if people were the same age. Would you be old or young? Would anyone ever get older and die? Will anyone get married? Probably not because everyone is the same and there would be all boys or all girls. No one would be smarter so who would teach? Would anyone have to go to school?

It would be really strange if this would happen. I don't think I would like it. I want to live in a world that has differences. Even though we are all the same, we are all different in our own ways. That's what makes this world great! I like to be able to tell one person from another. It would be boring and not very cool to be like everyone else. I like being me. I like being different. We need to be individuals. What do you think?



Brooks is the son of Glenn and Jill Iwamoto of Valencia, California. The above essay Brooks wrote for school was brought to my attention by his grandmother Amy Taniguchi of Fowler, California. When I read the essay, I thought, "this is exactly the Buddhist teachings." Oneness is expressed through a sutra teaching that says "difference is equal; equal means different."

This is also expressed in Rev. Gyomay M. Kubose's article entitled "Equality" on the front of this newsletter. Thanks for your great essay, Brooks.

Keep going, keep going..

- Koyo

American Buddhist Services

The Heartland Sangha holds services on the first and third Saturdays of every month at the Lake Street Church, 607 Lake Street, Evanston (use courtyard entrance). Service starts at 11:00 A.M. with optional meditation sitting at 9:30 A.M. For more information, please call Heartland Sangha at 773-545-9972.

As a regular speaker, Rev. Koyo Kubose's upcoming Dharma Talk titles are:

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Oct 6 | Jet Planes and Dharma Travel:
Are You Going too Fast? |
| Nov 3 | Beyond Our Conceptual Walls |
| Nov 17 | Metta Sutra of Loving Kindness |
| Dec 1 | After Enlightenment, What? |

Video Loan Program

Dharma talks from past services are available on video tapes for interested persons (e.g. shut-ins, incarcerated persons, people without a nearby Sangha, or to those who simply wish to hear Dharma talks). Contact the Kubose Dharma Legacy to receive a tape on loan. Return the tape and another will be sent to you.

- Yes, please send me a Dharma talk video on loan.

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Legacy Catalog

Books by Rev. Gyomay Kubose

EVERYDAY SUCHNESS. A classic collection of short articles first published in 1967, hailed as one of the most significant books in Buddhism because of its simple explanations and reference to everyday life. 142 pages.

THE CENTER WITHIN. This continues the approach of "Everyday Suchness" and speaks directly to the ordinary layperson. The collection of 58 essays reflects Rev. Kubose's unique, down-to-earth presentation of the Dharma teachings which offer to all people a richer, more meaningful life. 134 pages.

THE CENTER WITHIN audio cassette; 3 hours.

AMERICAN BUDDHISM. Covers a brief history of Buddhism in America, Four Noble Truths, Eightfold Path, problems in terminology and misunderstandings common to Westerners. 29 pages.

Translations by Rev. Gyomay Kubose

THE FUNDAMENTAL SPIRIT OF BUDDHISM by Haya Akegarasu (Rev. Gyomay Kubose's teacher). Translated by Rev. Kubose, this book gives an idea of Rev. Akegarasu's life (1877-1954) and teachings. 87 pages.

TAN BUTSU GE. (Translation and commentary). This sutra tells the story of Dharmakara who became Amitabha, the Buddha of Infinite Light. 56 pages.

HEART OF THE GREAT WISDOM SUTRA. (Translation and commentary). This sutra deals with the teachings of non-self and nothingness. 35 pages.

Highly Recommended Books

BUDDHISM: PATH OF ENLIGHTENMENT. Simple, concise introduction to basic Buddhism. Teachings are superimposed on beautiful full-color photographs of nature scenes such as water ponds, rock gardens, bamboo grove, etc. 20 pages.

INVISIBLE EYELASHES by Rev. Nikkyo Niwano. Combines time-honored Buddhist teachings and stories with examples from modern life to show how attitude affects happiness and how flexibility of mind helps us grow spiritually, making us more productive at work and better able to relate to others. 175 pages.

OCEAN: AN INTRODUCTION TO JODO-SHINSHU BUDDHISM IN AMERICA by Rev. Kenneth K. Tanaka. Uses a question and answer format to present Jodo-Shinshu Buddhism and to answer questions frequently asked by non-Buddhists. This book can help Jodo-Shinshu Buddhists understand their own religious tradition and also help in communicating it to others. 270 pages.

RIVER OF FIRE, RIVER OF WATER by Taitetsu Unno. Introduces the Pure Land tradition of Shin Buddhism using personal anecdotes, stories, and poetry. The Pure Land practice is harmonious with daily life, making it easily adaptable for seekers today. With spiritual insight and unparalleled scholarship, this book is an important step forward for Buddhism in America. 244 pages.

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River of Fire, River of Water		\$12.00	
The Monk Who Dared		\$15.95	
Zen Therapy		\$17.95	

Shipping - \$3.00 first two books and 50¢ per item thereafter. **SHIPPING** \$ _____

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ZEN THERAPY by David Brazier. "A potent source of inspiration for anyone interested in the therapeutic potential of Buddhism...offers readers in the West a fresh perspective on Buddhist psychology and demonstrates how Zen Buddhist techniques are integrated into psychotherapy... and with the help of vivid case studies, demonstrates how a Buddhist approach can provide a practical path to personal growth." 280 pages.

THE MONK WHO DARED by Ruth M. Tabrah. A historical novel of Shinran, the founder of Jodo-Shinshu Buddhism. Set in 13th century, this story covers the drama and crucial inner changes of Shinran's life. 329 pages.

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Oneness Newsletter

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YES YES		Your Everyday Spirituality	YES YES
SEPT	Theme: Tissue Paper Gassho Purpose: To acknowledge our health. Method: After blowing nose with tissue, gassho. When you or another person sneezes, say "Gasshoo!"		
OCT	Theme: <i>Nen ne</i> (Sleep) Gassho Purpose: To be grateful for one's bed and opportunity to sleep peacefully. Method: Put head on soft pillow with both hands under cheek.		
NOV	Theme: Five Senses Gassho Purpose: To increase awareness and appreciate things more deeply. Method: Pause during your daily activities, place any ordinary item in the palms of your hands; use all your senses to experience it.		

HELP SAVE A TREE!

Our mailing list has welcomed new additions from many sources and referrals. We are happy to continue sending our newsletter to all interested persons. However, we have no way of knowing whether some of you may prefer not to receive the newsletter. So, if we haven't heard from you in the last few years, please indicate your preference below and send to: Oneness Newsletter, Kubose Dharma Legacy, 8334 Harding, Skokie, IL 60076.

Please continue to keep us on your mailing list.

Name: _____

Thanks for including us, but we'd like to save a tree.

Address: _____