



Meanderings Into Great Silence



Silence is what we experience when talking ceases;
Silence is the landscape of our mind when there are no thoughts.
Of all the great teachers and their volumes of words,
And of all the great lessons that shore up our working mind,
Can any match the truth of silence?

When one is silent things are heard that the busy mind doesn't hear.
It is the teacher and the taught,
The mind and the no-mind.
It is the empty space that lies between and within the formed and the unformed.
Silence is emptiness.

A quiet wood during a gentle snow is silence.
In that silence one hears the subtle murmurs of the natural world, often ignored,
A world of inclusion, of connection.
Silence is in the look between a mother and her child,
Nothing need be said, for in silence there is joy and compassion.

Sitting alone in a quiet place,
Emptying the mind of this is this and that is that, is silence.
For when the mind is in profound silence it becomes a profound mind,
Free of distraction or definition, free of the habitual torrent of chaotic thoughts,
Free of the bondage of attachment and aversion.

How do we reach this silence?
How do we experience this world of no horizons, of no earth, no sky and no self?
Is there a map or a set of directions to help us secure silence?
Or is silence the form the mind takes,
When there is no form at all?

Monthly Bulletin

Tendai-shu New York Betsuin

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Jiunzan Tendaiji and Mahasangha

❖ *Meditation Meetings every Wednesday 6 p.m., discussion, Meditation Service and pot luck dinner*

November Events

- 5 Conversation on Teachings
- 12 Nagarjuna's Teachings on Sunyata
- 19 A Buddhist Teaching on Impermanence
- 26 A Buddhist Thanksgiving, Mushin leads the Service

❖ **8 Morning Service and Sutra Class** We are studying the *Lankavatara Sutra*, Chapter 8. These classes examine the teachings, context and lessons to be learned the specific sutra. The sutra itself is worthy of our attention. But, just as important are the discussions that arise out of the text itself in often surprising ways. The classes can be taken by anyone at any level of practice and understanding. The sutra can be found on-line in its entirety at http://www.buddhistinformation.com/lankavatara_sutra.htm

December Events

3 Discussion to be announced, Shumon leads the Service.

10 Bodhi Day or Rohatsu—Buddha's Day of Awakening. Shakyamuni Buddha sat under the Bodhi Tree for a week entering deeper and deeper states of meditation. On the last day, as the Morning Star rose in the sky, he fully confronted the nature of the self. The nature of reality was exposed to Siddhartha, he become awakened and experienced Nirvana. Siddhartha now became a Buddha or "Awakened One".

17 Buddhism and Nature—Solstice Service. One of the hallmarks of Buddhism, especially in Japan, is its connection to the natural world, the cycles of nature and interpenetration of all phe-

nomenon.

24 No Meditation Service

31 **New Year's Service** 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. This is an especially good time to meditate, contemplating the end of this year and the beginning of the New Year. We will have a discussion beginning about 10:00 p.m.. The meditation service and meditation period will begin about 11:00 p.m. The service will be over about 12:20 a.m. Following the service we will have a New Year's observance with traditional American and Japanese finger foods, champagne, and sake. Join us for this very special service and celebration.

❖ **6 Morning Service and Sutra Class** Continuation of the *Lankavatara Sutra*, Chapter 9. See November's listing.

❖ **New Web-based Format for *Shingi***

This is the last issue of *Shingi* in this format. *Shingi* has been published on a regular basis since the spring of 1995, when Karuna Tendai Dharma Center held its first public services. Starting with the New Year we will be publishing a web page version only. There is a new web site being completed for the Tendai-shu New York Betsuin / Tendai Buddhist Institute. This should be up and running in December. We will send out a notice to everyone by e-mail each month with a reminder to check the web page for Dharma writings, news, events, and schedules. It is our hope that this will serve the mahasangha more effectively.

We are always looking for people to contribute written content, art work, digital photography, poetry, anything that will serve the web medium. You may submit this material to Gonshin@Tendai.us.

Thank you for your continued support.

Gassho . . . Monshin



Nishi Sangha

❖ *Meditation Service and Dharma Discussion every Tuesday, 6 p.m., Friends' Meeting House, Madison Avenue, Albany, NY*

November Events

- 4 What is This?
- 11 Just Sitting
- 18 Gratitude
- 25 The Rise of Mahayana (Part 2)

❖ *Nishi Sangha at the Regional Food Bank*

On October 28, in spite of a driving rain and snow storm, members of Nishi Sangha made it to the Regional Food Bank to work. On that evening, working with other groups, our particular task was to help bag about 1,000 pounds (literally) of dehydrated potatoes into one pound bags for distribution.

The Regional Food Bank serves 23 New York Counties from Newburgh to Plattsburgh. It handles over twenty million pounds of food a year, distributing it to over 1,000 agencies. Food assistance goes to food pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters and programs for youth, seniors and the disabled. Nearly 50% of recipients are children.

Working together with other groups is a valuable way for our small sangha to contribute to our community. We always enjoy our working evenings and encourage others to join us in the future.

December Events

Discussion topics to be announced. There will be no service on December 30. Join us at the New Year's Service at Jiunzan Tendaiji.

Celestial Drum Tendai Sangha

❖ *Meditation Service and Dharma discussion, every Monday, 6:30 p.m., introductory meditation instruction offered at 6:15 p.m., in Indian Lake, NY. For directions email fitterer@acmenet.net.*

November Events

This month's discussions circle around the the integration of awareness, compassion and wisdom. Does compassion lead to wisdom? Or is it wisdom that leads to compassion? The practice of awareness supports both compassion and wisdom.

December Events

Karma and rebirth are the focus this month when we look to see past the pop understanding of these terms that have become so familiar to our ear, yet so misunderstood.

Washington Tendai Sangha

❖ *The Washington Tendai Sangha meets on Tuesday nights at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, Virginia. See our updated website at www.washingtontendai.blogspot.com for the address and directions. We meet downstairs in The Walden Room. Weekly meditation services begin at 7 p.m. All are welcome*

Danish Lotus Sangha

November and December Events

Meditation Service and dharma talk every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

Meditation every Thursday at 9:30 a.m.

Meditation Class continues on Thursday, November 6 and 20, December 4 and 18, 7:30 p.m.

Retreat November 14–16.

Picnic December 16, p.m.

Metta Meditation December 24, 12 p.m.

New Year's Meditation December 31, 12 p.m.

❖ In October Shoken traveled to London to meet with a former Nichiren group who are interested in learning about Tendai. They have decided to use the Tendai Daily Service at their regular sangha meetings and have begun sitting practice. Shoken will be traveling there again at their invitation to lead a Dharma conference so they can continue to learn.



Jihe, leader of the London sangha, and Kaishin both took refuge during Shoken's London visit. Look for Jihe's article in next month's Shingi on her approach to painting as contemplation.

A second branch of the Danish Lotus Sangha has been formed in Aarhus, the second largest city in Denmark (population 250,000). Shoken takes the three-hour train ride there every two months to lead services and teach. Members from there travel, as well, to attend retreats at the main center.



December 2008

Tendai Buddhist Institute

Tendai-shu New York Betsuin and Karuna Tendai Dharma Center www.tendai.org



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Celestial Drum Meditation Service	2 Nishi Sangha Meditation Service Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service Washington Tendai Sangha Meditation Service	3 Jiunzan Tendaiji Meditation Service	4 Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Class	5 <i>First Quarter</i>	6 Jiunzan Tendaiji Morning Service and Sutra Class
7	8 Celestial Drum Meditation Service <i>Rohatsu</i>	9 Nishi Sangha Meditation Service Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service Washington Tendai Sangha Meditation Service	10 Jiunzan Tendaiji Meditation Service	11 Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service	12 <i>Yakushi Nyorai Day Full Moon</i>	13
14	15 Celestial Drum Meditation Service	16 Nishi Sangha Meditation Service Danish Lotus Sangha Picnic Washington Tendai Sangha Meditation Service	17 Jiunzan Tendaiji Meditation Service	18 Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Class	19 <i>Last Quarter</i>	20
21	22 Celestial Drum Meditation Service	23 Nishi Sangha Meditation Service Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service Washington Tendai Sangha Meditation Service	24 Danish Lotus Sangha Metta Meditation	25	26	27 <i>New Moon</i>
28	29 Celestial Drum Meditation Service	30 Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service Washington Tendai Sangha Meditation Service	31 Jiunzan Tendaiji New Year's Service Danish Lotus Sangha New Year's Meditation			

Jiunzan Tendaiji Nishi Tendai Sangha Danish Lotus Sangha
Washington Tendai Sangha Celestial Drum Tendai Sangha