

May 2010

SHINGI

Newsletter of the Tendai Buddhist Institute



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Jushoku's Meanderings

One of my favorite chapters in the *Lotus Sutra* is Chapter 8: Assurance for the 500 Hundred Disciples. Within this text is a parable that speaks to the very essence of a Buddhist life. In this short story Shakyamuni Buddha informs his many disciples that each of them will attain the state of the buddhas in the future. [.cont.](#)

May Events Calendar



Weekly Meditation Services (WMS) are on Wednesday evenings. They begin at 6pm with a discussion or talk (see below for this month's discussion topics). At about 7pm there is a meditation service followed at 8pm by a potluck dinner. All of Wednesday evening's events are open to the public. There is no fee and reservations are not required.

May Wednesday Meditations and Discussions

5th Shakyo - Sutra Copying: History, Benefits, and Practice. Until about 50 BCE all sutra were transmitted orally. Since that time sutra have been transmitted by hand-copying the text. This was much more than a means of providing new copies of text previous to printing presses. It became a practice that combined meditation and scholarship. We will discuss the origins of the practice and how we can do it today as a part of a broader practice.

12th Yakushi Nyorai (Bhaishajyagura, Skt): Buddha of Medicine & Healing. The twelfth of every month is dedicated to Yakushi Nyorai. So we will use this opportunity to study the meaning and practices of the Buddha of the Eastern Paradise

19th Buddhism and Economics Today. We will look at the origins of Buddhist economics from sutra, commentary, and interpretations. This is not an historic perspective as much as it is an examination of teachings, how they were applied, and how we should apply the same teachings in the modern world.



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26th Chapter 5: The Buddhist Cosmos: The Thrice-Thousandfold World, from *Foundations of Buddhism*, by Rupert Gettin (1998 - Oxford University Press) Please read this chapter for discussion on Wednesday. This is an ongoing series of monthly discussions.

Events

April 1st Morning Service and Sutra Class, 8:30 - 10:30 am - We begin investigating the Sutra of Brahma's Net (Fan wang ching (Chin.) The Brahmajala Sutra (Skt.)) with this class. This work has had a profound influence on East Asian Buddhist thought and practice. The ramifications of that effect influence the ways we look at and practice Buddhism in the west. The first week we will examine the first half of the Introduction, pages 1 - 21 of *The Very Mahayana Buddhist Ethics: Introduction and Translation of the Fan-wang-ching* by Shigeru Osuka. We will make these books available to those attending the class for a small donation.

Dana (Generosity) -- Please commit to on-going support for our Dharma Center. Many people support the Center in different ways, but we are always in need of your financial support for our on-going programs and the maintenance of our buildings and grounds. We do not take a collection during the service, but there is a box for giving in the entryway of the hondo (temple). Giving what you can--every week or every month--helps our sangha remain a vital part of many lives. -- Gassho . . . Shoshin

Meanderings (cont.)



The chapter goes on to tell of a poor man who visits a good friend and the two of them eat and drink lots of wine. They both become drunk and fall asleep. The wealthier friend was called away on business. Not wishing to wake his friend he let him sleep, but before he left, the wealthy friend sewed a precious gem into the hem of his poor friend's garment. The wealthier friend then left to conduct his business.

Upon awaking, the poor friend found he had been left alone and he went back to his wandering. The poor friend did not return to the house for many years. He became more and more destitute, with little food and clothing. He

was totally unaware that his wealthy friend had sewn a priceless jewel in the hem of his meager clothes.

After quite some time the two men met by accident and the wealthy friend could hardly believe his eyes. He almost didn't recognize his old friend. He admonished the poor friend for not being more mindful, and he showed him the jewel sewn into his clothing. The poor friend upon seeing the jewel rejoiced. Now he no longer had to live in a state of abject poverty.

Like the poor friend, we wander through life in a state of spiritual poverty. Ignorant that buddha-nature resides just below the surface of our consciousness. Shakyamuni Buddha, like the rich friend, has instructed us in many different means of awakening to this reality. Most of us have read these words, perhaps again and again. But we forget them, again and again.

We sit on the cushion, or engage in another practice, and we experience great joy and love that accompanies this sublime awareness. The practice allows us to perceive this buddha-nature.

Then - we get off the cushion, physically and metaphorically. The farther we move from our practice, the more we become beings of conceptualization and self absorbed awareness. The chapter starts with a prediction of future buddhahood for all. It goes on to tell us that buddha-nature resides in us already. Our challenge is to allow the instant of awareness in our practice to persist longer and longer. Permit the expansion of your mind, the brightness in your heart, to flow

throughout your being. Become a beacon of liberation to all sentient beings, starting with yourself.

Gassho . . . [Monshin](#)

Photo credit Onyou Susan Bues

The Third Jewel--Where sangha members share ideas, poetry, and art to enrich everyone's Buddhist practice.

Haiku by Koho Daniel Beaudry

suburban dogs
bark in the morning frost . . .
deer following ancient paths

before school
worms stretched the sidewalk--
now only question marks

spring cuttings--
forsythia blossoms fall
on my haiku

[spring cuttings](#)

Call for material: Please [send the Shingi](#) photographs, artwork, poems, book reviews, articles, etc. that you have created that you consider an outgrowth of your Buddhist practice or that you think reflect Buddhist themes, ideas, questions, etc. If submitting an image, you may wish to include a short statement sharing some of your thoughts to accompany it.

Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Contact . . .

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