

Regular Services on YOUTUBE

Rev. Aoki offers virtual services online!

Please consider donating through our temple website.

Sensei uploads weekly services to YouTube and plans to start Zoom services online. Please send a request to Sensei so he can inform you when Zoom services begin.

rev.aoki@gmail.com



SCAN ME

Are you on Social Media?

VBT is!

Stay up to date on temple events, message us and each other by finding us at:

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/VancouverBuddhistTemple2016/>

Instagram

@vancouverbuddhisttemple

Vancouver Buddhist Temple



220 Jackson Avenue
Vancouver, BC,
V6A 3B3

Phone: 604-253-7033

Email:

temple.vbt@gmail.com

Website:

vancouverbuddhisttemple.com



Bodhi Mind



Vancouver Buddhist Temple

July 2020, Issue #438

The Spider's Thread by Ryunosuke Akutagawa

Most Jodo Shinshu Buddhist chants conclude with a verse called “*Ekoku*,” or “Directing Virtue to All Beings,” by the Pure Land teacher, Shan-tao.

Gan ni shi ku doku	I vow that the virtue of this truth
Byo do se is-sai	Be given equally to all.
Do ho 'n bo dai shin	May they awaken the Bodhi mind
O jo an rak-koku	And realize the realm of peace and joy.

Our practice is not only for ourselves, not only for “me.” It is for all beings. Sometimes people ask what it means to say, “I vow that the virtue of this truth, be given equally to all? Is that really possible, or necessary?” And the answer that I give is that this vow is not something we measure or analyze in terms of possible or impossible, good or bad. The vow is aspirational. It is a compass to clarify and remind us of the direction of our practice, that we should also have the mind to help even those beings who are trapped in the deepest hell of mental suffering.

There is a short story about the importance of “other-oriented” practice in Japan. The simple, clear story is entitled, “*The Spider's Thread*,” or “*Kumo no Ito*” in Japanese. It concerns the Buddha and a person named Kandata possessed of very heavy karma, who is lost in deepest Hell. Its content is not “religious” in nature, nor specifically “Buddhist” and not a sutra, but the story does teach moral values. This story was written by Ryunosuke Akutagawa (1892-1927) and originally published in 1918.

One day, the Buddha was strolling along the edge of the lotus pond of Paradise. His eyes fell on a man named Kandata who was struggling with the other sinners at the bottom of deepest hell. Kandata had done many evil things during his lifetime; however, he did have one good deed to his credit. Once, while on his way through a deep forest, he was planning to rob a man who lived in the forest. As he was walking, he saw a spider beside him. Kandata raised his foot, and was about to step on the spider and kill it, but then he stopped. “No, no. Even something this small has a reason to live. It would be truly evil to take its life away,” he mused. So he let the spider live, and went to steal from the man.

Now, as Buddha looked down upon hell, the Buddha remembered this good deed and thought he would like to deliver Kandata out of hell. Looking around he saw a spider of Paradise spinning a beautiful silvery thread on the lotus leaves.



Cont'd on page 2

The Buddha took up the spider's thread in his hand, and let it drop down to the bottom of hell, which held Kandata trapped with the other sinners in the Pool of Blood on the floor of hell.

On this day, Kandata lifted his head by chance and saw this spider's thread slipping down toward him from the high heavens. Kandata grasped the thread tightly in his two hands and began to climb up and up. After climbing for a while, he was finally exhausted and could not ascend an inch higher.

He stopped to rest and looked below him. What he saw filled him with fear.

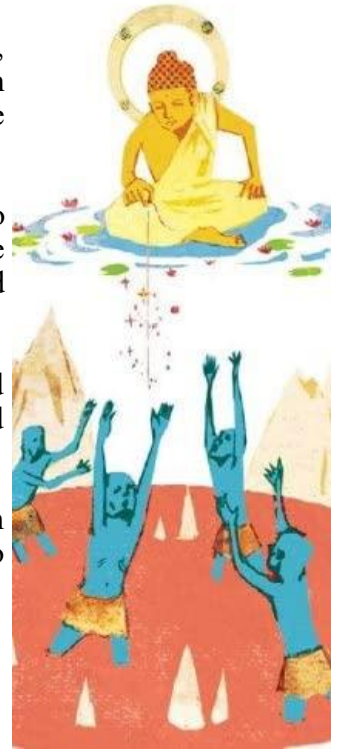
Below on the thread, countless sinners were climbing eagerly after him, up and up, like a procession of ants. How could that slender spider spider's thread, which seemed as if it must break with him alone, ever support the weight of all those people?

If it were to break in mid air, even he himself would fall headlong back to Hell. So Kandata cried out in a loud voice, "Hey, you sinners! This thread is mine. Who gave you permission to use it? Get off! Get off!" At that moment, the spider's thread broke with a loud snap, and Kandata was barely able to hang on.

Then suddenly, without giving even a moment to utter a cry, the thread snapped and Kandata fell and shot headlong into the darkness, spinning swiftly around and around like a top into the very depths of Hell.

"The Spider's Thread" shows shows that it is important to bring others along with us, to share with others our own efforts and to support others as we make our way to liberation.

In gassho,
Tatsuya Aoki



How To Make Donations to VBT Online

1. Paypal @ VBT Website www.vancouverbuddhisttemple.com
2. Canada Helps online donation site for charity groups

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/vancouver-buddhist-temple/>

Or simply go to www.canadahelps.org and search for
"Vancouver Buddhist Church"



**Services and activities at VBT are suspended
until further notice.**

We usually combine July and August Bodhi Mind, but we will publish monthly to keep in touch our member.

Next Bodh Mind will be published at the end of July.

*** The following services and activities at VBT are cancelled for July and August:**

Cemetery Site Services (July 5, 8, 11)

Obon Service and Bon Dance (July 12)

Manju Making (July 18)

Powell Street Festival (August 1 & 2)

August Shotsuki (August 9)

Temple Cleanup (August 15)

About our Tradition

Funerals were not originally part of the Buddhist tradition. However, after Buddhism was introduced into China, priests began to conduct this service to mark the passing of a loved one and as a final tribute to the deceased. In the present day, the service, as conducted in Jodo Shinshu temples in North America, consists of the presentation of a Buddhist name, followed by a sutra chanting, offering of incense (Oshoko), personal history of the deceased, messages of condolence and a Dharma message by the officiating minister. The cremation (including cremation service) at the crematory follows soon after. In instances in which circumstances make this order of proceedings difficult, most often a private family funeral service is held first, followed at a later date by a memorial service with the urn (ashes of the deceased) available for a wider audience of family and friends to pay their last respects to the deceased and to offer sympathies to the family. The first memorial service, Shonanuka or seventh-day service, is held a week after the passing, followed by a service every seventh day until the 49th day, at which time the weekly services conclude with the Shiju Kunichi service. In recent years, only the 49th day service is generally observed by family members, relatives and a few close friends. This service is held at the temple and officiated by the minister.

Subsequent services include the hundredth-day service and the first anniversary, followed by the third anniversary (observed at the second anniversary of the passing, not the third year), seventh, thirteenth, twenty-fifth, thirty-third and the fiftieth year services. All the memorial services, regardless of the year, acknowledge the life of the deceased and the importance of the role the deceased person has played in the lives of those who remain. However, more significantly in Jodo Shin Buddhism, the services are meant, as always, for the living to listen to the Buddha Dharma.

Gassho

British Columbia Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples Federation is now accepting applications for the 2020 Post-Secondary Scholarship

The British Columbia Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples Federation awards two Post-Secondary Scholarships. The first scholarship is valued at \$1000 and the second at \$2000, paid annually in \$500 increments.

These scholarships are open to any resident of BC who:

- Is a full-time student attending a recognized post-secondary institution and enrolled for this coming fall semester in a program leading to a degree, diploma, or certificate; and...
- Participates in religious/spiritual events and activities through a church, temple, or other recognized religious group.

For more information, or to have an application emailed to you, please contact Lori at

scholarships.bcjsbtf@gmail.com

Deadline for applications is August 15, 2020.

Greetings From the Valley

Welcome to the valley. Despite the Covid-19 cloud hanging over us, today the weather is beautiful, summer is near, and if you are able to read this, please be happy and grateful for what we have.

We all miss our temple gatherings and getting together with friends; some of us have lost precious friends and relatives during this pandemic. One of the silent slow killing results of Covid is the psychological stress heavy on everyone's minds. Isolation is a form of torture, and over three months many people, especially the elderly, have had to suffer lack of contact with their friends and sadly even their relatives.

As a different form of dana, perhaps each of us can phone someone we don't usually speak with, just to be "in touch". Obon 2020, like Graduation 2020, needs to be celebrated in a different way, but it is still very important, so please hold your own Obon service in your hearts to honour those who have passed away.

We hope that our next Bodhi Mind edition will be even more positive as we learn to adjust to this new and perhaps more "yasashii and kyootsukete iru" life.

In gassho, Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple



Message from the VBT Board

British Columbians have doing very well in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. We have been diligent in practicing good health measures to prevent the spread of the virus. We are told we are close to phase 3 in the fight. Yet we cannot gather at the temple for our usual functions. We have cancelled, until further notice, all regular services, events and weekly regular activities such as Karaoke, Shigin, Seniors' and sports and social gatherings at the very least, until the end of July. However, Aoki Sensei continues to schedule small family services such as funerals, memorials and special private services limited to a maximum of 30 people, as well as observing physical distancing, using face masks and sanitizers. We will refrain from allowing any food or refreshments within the temple during such gatherings. Obon Festival is cancelled, Powell St. Festival is cancelled. July Shotsuki is cancelled. However Aoki Sensei is pre-recording these services online via YouTube. Anyone who is interested is welcome to join in. We thank everyone for their donations and contributions in memory of lost loved ones in past years during the months of June and July. Additionally, we continue to accept donations to assist in paying for on-going monthly expenses to our temple. Yoroshiku Onegai Shimasu!

Our board has made the decision that we would allow Aoki Sensei to seek another term of bishop (socho) of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada. Of course, if elected he will continue as he has for the last 4 years, as full-time resident minister of the Vancouver Buddhist Temple. At the annual national general meeting of all member temples (via online conference call) a decision was made to keep the annual dues and assessments at the sum of \$80.00 per member for 2020.

Our hope is that before too long we will be able to freely gather at the temple. Until we are able, please keep well and observe all the protocols as directed by our health authorities.

Gassho,

The Board.

Private and small group Obon, Cemetery, funeral, and memorial service can be arranged with Rev. Aoki

rev.aoki@gmail.com OR Tel: 604-253-7033

July Shotsuki (Memorial) List

1959

YADA, Shige
*TAKEBAYASHI, Tei

1960

*WATANABE, Hiroshi
*NAGATA, Sano

1963

*TANAKA, Masuya
*TSUMURA, Tonoyo

1964

*YOSHIDA, Iwataro
*KOHARA, Tsuneo

1965

MIZUTA, Jisaburo
*OTANI, Shige

1966

TSUJI, Tatsuya

1967

*FUKUI, Chika
*OMORI, Takanosuke
*HINATSU, Shigeru
*SAKAI, Fujie
*TANAKA, Koharu

1969

*NAKAMURA, Yoichi

1970

*NAKAO, Hatsue

1972

*UYENO, Toyokichi
*SAKAGUCHI, Shigeo
*MUTO, Saburo
*HISANAGA, Aizo

1973

OMAYE, Kiyokazu
*KAGAWA, Kuni
*KITASAKA, Tosaburo

1974

*YOSHIDA, Takeshi

1975

MIYASAKI, Saijiro
*YOSHIDA, Kinu

1976

RYUJIN, Takeji

1977

HAMATAKE, Yasu

1978

HORII, Kiyooki
*KURASHIGE, Naoko

1979

*BANDO, Hidejiro
*MURATA, Uno

1979

*BANDO, Hidejiro
*MURATA, Uno

1981

*TAMAKI, Hiroko
OTSUJI, Ito
*NAKAGAWA, Hatsu

1982

*IDA, Kikui

1983

*NAKASHIMA, Yoshito
YOSHIKAWA, Susumu

1984

*NAKAMURA, Takeo
*TANAKA, Harry
*NITTA, Kitaro
*SATO, Shino
*KONDO, Hiroshi

1986

*TAKEUCHI, Masu
*NISHIMURA, Shigeyuki
TATEYAMA, Shinpachi

1988

KODA, Haru

1990

NISHIMURA, Naka
*MURAO, Tokiko

1991

*MIYUKI, Yoko
TATSUMI, Tatsu
*UYENO, Zenzo

1993

*KUMAMOTO, Takayuki
*KOYANAGI, Keiichi

1994

*SEIBOLD, Terry
*TANIGAKI, Toshiko
*MAYE, Shigeo

1995 (25th year)

OKAZOE, Susumu
KARIYA, Isamu
MORI, Akiyo
OYE, Yasukichi
MORI, Nobu

1996

TANAKA, Junichi
NISHIMURA, Taro
INOUE, Teiji

1997

UYEDA, Toshiko
UYEDA, Hisakichi

TANAKA, Shigeo
YASUDA, Minoru

1998

*MARUYAMA, Sharon
YAMAOKA, Nobue

1999

HIKIDA, Masaharu
MARUNO, Satoshi

2000

NAKATANI, Takao

2001

YAMAUCHI, Takashi

2002

*TAKAMA, Akira

2005

TANAKA, Douglas Takeo

2006

HATTORI, Motoharu

KOJIMA, Joe Ju

KARIYA, Fumiko

2007

KIMOTO, Haruye
KIKUCHI, Tomi
KITANO, Yoko

2008(13th year)

NAKAGAWA, Toshio

2009

TAKENO, Masuko
KAWAMOTO, Makoto,
ISHIKAWA, Sadako

2011

TANAKA, Kaoru

2012

TAMAKI, Shigeharu
SUZUKI, Tamako

2013

OKADA, Kazuko
TANIZAWA, Fusako

2014 (7th year)

SATO, Kimihiko
TAJIRI, Helen
TAMAI, Miyoko
SAKATA, Mieko

2017

UYEYAMA, Yoshiko

2018 (3rd year)

KOJIMA, Raymond
KOMATSU, Kazuko
ANDO, Mark

2019(1st year)

TANAKA, Alice
HATTORI, Sayo
IMAZUMI, Seiichi
YOSHIKAWA, Hikaru

Passings

Our deepest
condolences go to the
families and friends of

Mr. Shizuo Tanaka
(92) June 9

**"Ingo (Posthumous Honorary Title) was presented to Mr. Tanaka to acknowledge and appreciate his contribution to the VBT. Mr. Tanaka was Naijin Gakari (service preparation committee chair) and struck the Kansho bell prior to services. He served as a temple board member for many years.*

Mrs. Hideko Yoshioka
(100) June 14

2020 Online OBON Service

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this year's Obon services (Hatsubon, July Shotsuki and Bon Dance), as well as cemetery graveside services, are cancelled. In their place, we will offer multiple online Obon services. Please join us at a time that is convenient for you.

Sunday, July 5

10:30 AM YouTube Live, with Rev. Aoki & Sensei Bob Akune

*Please visit the temple website for the YouTube channel.

Sunday, July 12

10:30 AM YouTube Live, with Rev. Aoki & Sensei Bob Akune

*Please visit the temple website for the YouTube channel.



You can use your phone or iPad camera to read this QR code. It leads to Youtube Live.

Saturday, July 18

10 am ZOOM (Canada Joint Obon Service)

- * The service is for members of JSBTC affiliated temples, held via Zoom.
- * All attendees need a computer with an internet connection.
- * Please set up in a quiet area free from outside disturbances or distractions.
- * Please bring your onenju if you have one.
- * Service lasts approximately 40 minutes.
- * Online Registration is required.

⇒ Space is limited for Zoom Service; please register as early as possible.

If you have any question, contact Rev. Tatsuya Aoki at: rev.aoki@gmail.com

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZYPfuGurjlsG9K1aohUDx8Kr-VzrMRPST->



You can use your phone or iPad camera to read this QR code. It leads to the Zoom registration.



2020 Hatsubon (First Obon Service)				初盆芳名録			
2019	JUL	Sayo Hattori	服部サヨ	2020	JAN	Minoru Oyama	小山 実
		Seiichi Imaizumi	今泉清一			Saburo Nishimura	西村三郎
	AUG	Miyoshi Tanaka	田中ミヨシ		FEB	Hitomi Uyeyama	上山ヒトミ
		Hisako Maruno	丸野ヒサコ			Masako Yoda	矢田マサコ
		Michiho Mimoto	味元倫保		MAR	Akiko Sakata	坂田昭子
	NOV	Tsuru Shibata	芝田ツル			Noboru Hayashi	林 昇
	DEC	Teru Hayashi	林テル		APR	Otokazu Matsui	松井オトカズ
		Donald Nakano	中野ドナルド		JUN	Shizuo Tanaka	田中静夫
		Mitsuru Asaoka	朝岡 満			Hideko Yoshioka (FVBT)	吉岡秀子 (フレイザーバレー)