

The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

BULLETIN



Volume 67 Number 1 **October 2010** (2554 B.E.)

Scheduled Events

(call 773-334-4661 or see www.budtempchi.org)

Dharma Sunday School - Sunday 11:AM - 12:00pm for October, the 10th and 24th

Religious Services

Sunday at 11:00AM - 12:00PM in English Sunday at 1:00PM - 2:00PM in Japanese (only on day of Monthly Memorial)

Monthly Memorial Service - Shotsuki Hoyo, 1st Sunday of each month, except where noted.

Buddhist Studies/Practices

Discussion Group - Open to All, Sangha Q & A, 2nd Sundays, 12:30PM - 2:00PM

Introduction to Buddhism - call temple to confirm dates and time

Meditation Classes - Sundays 9:00AM - 10:15AM Please use parking lot entrance.

Sutra Study Class - 3rd Sundays, Open to All, 12:30PM - 2:00PM

Weekly Study Class - Wednesdays, 7:00PM - 8:30PM

Special Observances/Events

Anniversary Service and Luncheon Sunday, October 3, 2010, 11:00AM

Dharma School Halloween Party, Sunday, October 24, 2010, 12:00 Noon

Activities

Asoka Society - 3rd Saturdays, 1:00PM

Calligraphy - Japanese brush writing class 2nd & 3rd Tuesdays 7:00PM

Crafts Class - 1st & 3rd Saturdays, 10:00AM - 12:00PM, Open to All (call temple for confirmation)

Fencing - Introduction to Kendo, Dojo sessions, Tuesdays, 8:00PM - 10:00PM at Bethany United Church (Bob Kumaki, 847-853-1187)

Japanese Language Instruction - Saturdays, 10:00AM - 12:00PM, children and adult classes, call 773-334-4661 to register

Japanese Swordsmanship - Iaido, Mondays 7:00PM - 9:00PM

Taiko Drumming - BTC Kokyo Taiko Drum Troupe, Fridays, 7:00PM - 9:00PM

Taiko Drumming - Isshin Daiko Group, Saturdays 7:00PM - 9:00PM, call for appointment

Anniversary Greetings

by Rev. Yukei Ashikaga

Every year at Anniversary time, I feel the deepest sense of indebtedness and gratitude toward the late Rev. and Mrs. Gyomay Kubose and the founding members who started this Temple 66 years ago. I also feel grateful to all of you when I reflect on my 51 years at the Temple. Any contributions I may have been able to make have been due to your great patience and generosity. I sincerely hope that Amida's light will bring us together in a deep sense of introspection, contemplating our past together with prospects for the future. Namu Amida Butsu

Note: The following essay is from a chapter in *Everyday Suchness* by Rev. Gyomay Kubose.

INTROSPECTIONS

On my desk I have a little round stone which I picked up along the creek near the Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming, where I spent the early years of the recent war. It is a common stone with no value as a jewel; it could be found just anywhere. Yet, to me this common and insignificant stone is a source of great inspiration, a great teacher and a companion as well as a memory of the camp life.

In the round stone, I feel a peaceful, harmonious and perfect character—a character acquired through many years of hardships.

As I feel its smoothness and roundness, I know that it was not so in the beginning. It must have had many sharp corners when it was cracked off from the mother stone and began its long journey down the rivers and creeks enduring the heat, the rainstorms and the freezing Wyoming winter. For how long, it is hard to tell, perhaps for thousands of years; and as it was rolled and tossed with the other rocks and stones, it was polished and the sharp corners disappeared. And today as I admire its round and smooth beauty, I know that it took many thousands of years, not just one day, to become round and smooth. Beneath its simple beauty, I perceive a wonderful character.

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Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of:

Mrs. Tamako Akune

Mrs. Sumiko Isoda

(Please see Temple News for details)

TEMPLE NEWS

August, 2010

08/01 Shotsuki Hoyo (Monthly Memorial Service) was observed. Rev. Ashikaga delivered Dharma message in the morning service. * * * The 49th Day Memorial Service of the Late Isamu Sakai was conducted at the Temple.

08/04 Invitation letters were sent to Hatsubon Families.

08/08 Regular Sunday Service was observed. Rev. Patti Nakai gave the talk about the Maida Center Seminar.

08/11 A Group of Sr. Citizens visited the Temple. Rev. Ashikaga welcomed them and gave a talk.

08/14 Bon Odori was enjoyed by all who attended. Due to the doubtful weather, dance was held inside the Temple. Many people in the audience participated with the dancers for the last few numbers. After the dance, all enjoyed refreshments.

08/15 Obon Special Joint Service was observed. Rev. Patti Nakai delivered the message in English and Rev. Ashikaga in Japanese. Refreshments were served by Asoka members, headed by Mr. and Mrs. Yasuo Mizuuchi.

08/20 Mrs. Tamako Akune passed away at Swedish Covenant Hospital. Rev. Ashikaga conducted the "Makura Gyo Service", at her bedside. * * * Naoko Nakano and her fiancé visited Temple for their wedding arrangements. * * * September issue of Temple Bulletin was mailed.

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The Buddhist Temple of Chicago Bulletin

The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

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www.budtempchi.org

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Rev. Patti Nakai, Associate Minister

Gary T. Nakai, President

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Rev. Patti Nakai

Editor's Note: Comments, corrections, questions, suggestions are encouraged. Submitted material will be reviewed for suitability and availability of space.

Anonymous submissions will not be published, but authors names may be withheld from publication upon request.

Deadline: first Friday of the month.
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BTC 66th Anniversary Greetings

Rev. Patti Nakai

As we celebrate our Temple's 66th Anniversary, we look back to October 1944 as the starting point of our Temple but actually for weeks, months and even years before, Rev. Gyomay Kubose was supported and helped by many people in laying down the groundwork for our Temple's creation. For our Temple to continue to grow and develop through 66 years it took many more people, including two, three and even four generations of some member families. It is a great achievement to be active for so long, but in order to be vital in future years, our Temple must nurture a young spirit of openness and flexibility. With each new seeker who comes into our building, our Temple is born anew as a place of Dharma learning. Let us be grateful to all the past and present members and friends and be welcoming to those who will be participating in and supporting the Temple's activities in the coming decades.

- "Temple News" from previous column -

08/21 Roy and Shuko Akune with Kimie Sugano visited Temple for funeral arrangement of the Late Tamako Akune.

08/22 Kosoki (Rev. Haya Akegarasu's Memorial) was observed. Rev. Patti Nakai was the speaker. * * * The Isoda Family visited Temple for funeral arrangement of Sumiko Isoda.

08/23 Cremation Service for the Late Tamako Akune was conducted at the Lakeview Funeral Home.

08/27 The Memorial and Ashes Burial Service for the Late Sumiko (and Jack) Isoda were conducted at Montrose Cemetery. The late Mrs. Isoda, 95, passed away - on August 20, 2010. She is survived by daughters Jean Sakamoto, June Kadohata, and Candice Wilson, and sons Donald Kaita, Christopher Kaita, Randolph Isoda and Jay Isoda.

08/28 The 49th Day Memorial and Ashes Burial Services for the Late Fumiko Hosokawa were conducted at Montrose Cemetery. * * * The Memorial Service for the Late Tamako Akune was conducted at the Temple. The late Mrs. Akune, 77, passed away on August 20, 2010. She is survived by husband Roy and daughter Shuko (Michael) Pacelli, and sister Kimie Sugano.

08/29 Regular Sunday Service was observed. Rev. Ashikaga delivered Dharma message. * * * Temple Board of Directors met.

Anniversary Greetings!

Once again we find ourselves witnessing another year passing, this time on our way to our 66th year. It is indeed a privilege to be a part of the legacy that is The Buddhist Temple of Chicago. We can't help but feel a special sense of appreciation when we realize that through ups and downs in our lives, the temple remains important. Throughout our memories, we see that our caring parents have always been there for us amidst a changing temple, but none the less, a temple that has been there when we all needed it. Each anniversary is an occasion that leaves us much to be thankful for.

In addition to being blessed with dedicated ministers through the years, we owe a debt of gratitude to the many dedicated individuals who have come and gone before us. Their untiring efforts have given us so much. Within the many plans and promises of our dreams and the struggle to make programs work lies a part of each of us. And through our involvement, the achievements we made together stand as a monument to BTC's character, most significant as we are an administratively independent temple. It is this enduring quality that has brought us to this point in our history, and once again we are challenged to be self-motivated to preserve the tradition for generations to come.

On behalf of the temple, its members and friends, and all of the temple's affiliations that enrich our Way, congratulations to the wonderful, beautiful sum total that is the living legacy of Reverend Gyomay M. Kubose.

Gassho,

Gary T. Nakai
President

- "Introspections" from page 1 -

As I go my way down the creek of life, this stone teaches me patience and endurance. It teaches me to make the best of situations as they come, to accept and ride my waves of karma, for many things that occur are beyond the limit of my power.

In this way, I find peace and contentment from the sufferings of life. As I see many sharp corners and roughness in me, I feel that I am much smaller and inferior to the stone. This little stone on my desk is, indeed, a great teacher to me.

All our sufferings in this world are caused by our ignorance. The very depth of ignorance is not to know oneself. We always feel hindrances and obstructions in our dealing with things and affairs, because we do

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THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

Understanding the Nembutsu through recognizing the Paramitas in others – send in your recognitions!

Sunday Service Participants: Ruth Abbinanti, Bill Bohlman, Paul Cathy, Rachael Conniff, Glenn Fujiura, Anna Idol, Leroy Wiley, and pianist Mrs. Hisayo Ashikaga

Sunday Refreshments: Noreen Enkoji, Emily Fujiura, Merry Hirata, Haru Ito, Kay Schroeter, Elaine Siegel, Victor Zeng and Wendy Lua. Asoka members and others for O-Bon Service Sunday, and Board members for Board meeting.

Temple Bulletin Mailing: Rev. Ashikaga, Antoinette D'Vencets, Noreen Enkoji, Evelyn Inamine, Haru and Tom Ito, Dorothy Kuse, Rev. Patti and Gary Nakai Tak and Tommi Tomiyama, Ruby Tsuji

To Tomio Tademoto for taking care of the Temple – inside and out. To Adam Kellman, April Kellman, Shawn Lyte, Rev. Patti Nakai for emptying the trash bins. To Harky Tademoto for cleaning the Temple every week.

To Nal's Auto Repair – Al Shimizu, repaired Temple car.

To Steve Hamada for taking Hatsumairi Photo.

- "Introspections" from previous column -

not know ourselves, and this is the cause for our sufferings and pains. Many people think that the causes of most of our troubles in many cases are in the other [person] or due to the system of society or to the social environment. But this view considers man as a skeleton, forgetting the spiritual side. Man is not merely existing physically and is not influenced mechanically by other things as physical matters. Our spirit has a power to bring peace and ease upon any circumstance. We can make all existing things, physical and spiritual, to have their worthy places. All persons, things, and circumstances can contribute to beautifying or refining our lives through our introspection and right understanding. We should not live by the irritation or reflex of our peripheral nerves.

If we are clear with ourselves, we will never feel hindrances or sufferings from environmental things and affairs regardless of the condition. Therefore, as the path to alleviate the sufferings of mankind, Buddha tells us the true nature of our character; and to know our character is the highest wisdom. The wisdom to know ourselves is our virtue.

2010 Bon Odori – A History of Gratitude

By Rev. Patti Nakai

The 2010 Bon Odori on Saturday August 14 marked the occasion of Hatsubon (first Obon) for two people who were instrumental to our temple's annual celebration of Japanese folk dances. In September of 2009 we lost George Maruyama who for decades helped our dance teacher, the late Kimi Enta, transfer the music from vinyl records to cassette tapes, and George served as announcer not only at Bon Odori but at all the practices. Roy Kuse who passed in February of this year had brought our Bon Odori music into the 21st century by transferring the songs from the tapes to CDs and helped set up the sound system for Bon Odori. We missed their physical presence yet felt they were there in spirit along with other loved ones who were honored by the many dancers participating in Bon Odori.

We would like to thank all the volunteers who helped with this year's Bon Odori. The set-up crew was Pete Izui, Tomio Tademoto, Alan Kato, Mitchell Kato and Dave Fujii. The dance instructors included Gwen Kato, Linda Tademoto, Karen Kanemoto, Joyce Miyata and Susan Kuse. The taiko players were Kenji Tademoto, Miriam Solon, Jeffrey Tademoto and Roy Yamamoto. Kimono dresser was Jane Watanabe, assisted by Gwen Kato. Refreshments were provided by Jerry and Jane Morishige, with help from April Kellman. Special thanks to the Twin Cities Sangha - Janice Nishimura and the Toronto Buddhist Church - Joanne Uyede for obtaining Bon Odori music for us. The music transfers to CD and setting up the sound system were done by Gary Nakai and Adam Kellman, who also served as announcer.

This year's Bon Odori was held inside the temple to escape the high humidity and threat of rain on that particular evening. Hope you enjoyed the photo collage in last month's bulletin - a few of the pictures can be seen on BTC's Facebook fan page.

The Buddhist Temple of Chicago is saddened to report the passing of Mrs. Kazuko Ito, on August 17, 2010, in Los Angeles. She was a distinguished leader in the Fujinkai and mother of Rev. Noriaki Ito, Rinban of the Los Angeles Betsuin. Our sympathies go out to her family.

Shin Sangha Page
From Disabled to Enabled
By Rev. Patti Nakai

At the Eastern Buddhist League convention this past Labor Day weekend, I was sitting next to Rev. Tomofumi Fujii of the Toronto Buddhist Church at the ministers breakfast and somehow he mentioned that several years ago he did his kyoshi (full ordination) training with Rev. Sonam Wangdi Bhutia, the minister from Nepal recently on a speaking tour on the West Coast. I asked Rev. Fujii what made Rev. Sonam who had been a monk in the Tibetan tradition of Buddhism turn to Jodo Shinshu. Rev. Fujii told me it was Rev. Sonam's encounter with "the guy in the wheelchair," Hiromichi Mukaibo.

On hearing the name of Mr. Mukaibo, I remembered how Rev. Gyoko Saito spoke of him in some of his talks in Los Angeles. (A report of Rev. Saito's meeting with Mr. Mukaibo can be found in the article "Becoming a True Human Being" under "Memorable Sermons" at livingdharma.org.) Hiromichi Mukaibo was born in 1938 in Kitakyushu, Japan and at age 21 a car accident left him paralyzed from the neck down. Besides his physical pain and discomfort, he was depressed for many years, but somehow he came in contact with Buddhism and started attending a Jodo Shinshu temple. I remember Rev. Saito describing him as someone who had despairingly thought he had nowhere to go and then he found his real life and proceeded to travel all over the world, promoting the rights of the disabled and spreading the Nembutsu teachings (until he died of cancer in 2006).

For most of us who travel, we know we have to depend on others to transport us - the pilots and crews of planes, ships, trains and buses. For Mr. Mukaibo, it is just an extension of that transportation network to hire people to carry him and his wheelchair from place to place. Yet we the able-bodied cling to the idea that we can go far on our own and don't need any help. In most traditions of Buddhism, practitioners believe they can go all the way to buddhahood by their own power. In the northern tradition of Buddhism called vajrayana that developed in Tibet, the seekers of enlightenment needed to be in top physical and mental shape to work their way through the various practices such as intense meditation sessions. I can imagine how that idea was completely smashed for Rev. Sonam when he met Mr. Mukaibo who was on a pilgrimage to sites of the historical Buddha's life in northern India and Nepal. Here was a person of hardly any physical ability but spiritual awakening was shining out from his face. How could he have reached such a state without having gone through hard practices on his own?

- "Disabled" from page 4 -

The various talks and discussions at the Eastern Buddhist League served to deepen and amplify this important essence of the Jodo Shinshu teachings. The real obstacle we have in our seeking the way of spiritual liberation is our deluded belief that we are perfectly able to travel the path of Buddhism by our own power. It is humbling when we realize we need the help of others and that we could not have even come this far without the help of so many people of the past. Yet like Mr. Mukaibo in his wheelchair, there is no limit to how far we can go when we allow ourselves to be helped. The nembutsu, hearing the calling of "Namu Amida Butsu," is the expression of overcoming our spiritual disability and being enabled by the immeasurable lives and unbounded wisdom all around and intertwined with our life.

One of the outstanding speakers at the EBL convention was University of Waterloo professor, Jeff Wilson, who has studied and continues to research the various traditions of Buddhism in North America yet it is the nembutsu path that has found him. Below is a quote from his recent book that articulates the valuable insight that the Jodo Shinshu teachings bring us:

Shinran realized that any practice that strives for individual attainment, individual buddhahood—even practicing the nembutsu—is a possible avenue for further ego attachment. The problem is that we can begin to congratulate ourselves over how many times we've said the nembutsu, or obsess over whether we should be saying it more, or feel pride that our chanting is so beautiful, and so on. Really, there are an infinite number of ways that the ego can spin traps, and spiritual practice is a fertile area for such foolishness. This applies not only to nembutsu but also to meditation, precepts, and virtually any aspect of religious life that we can imagine.

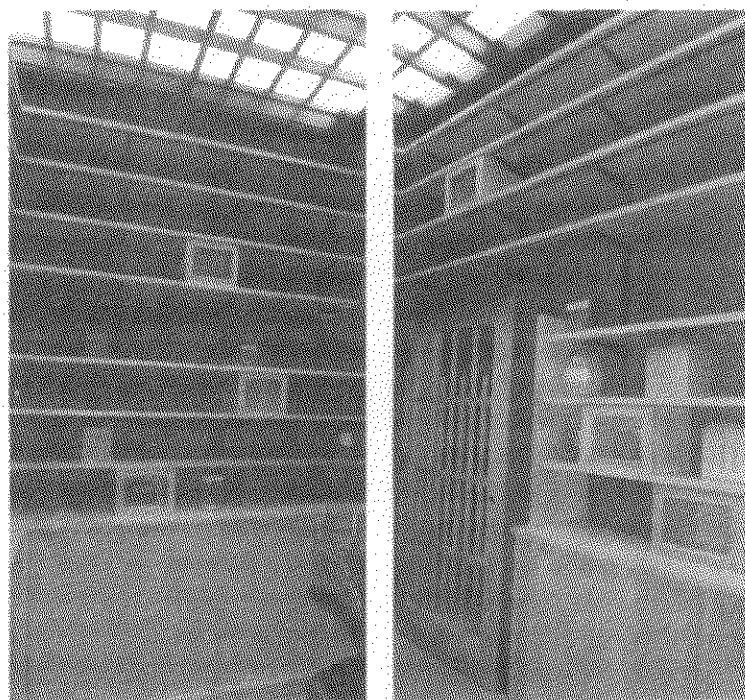
So instead, Shinran taught that we should think of nembutsu as the practice of Amida Buddha [immeasurable life and unbounded wisdom], not as our own. When we say nembutsu, we are allowing Amida's practice to flow through us. Nembutsu is therefore something in which we participate, not something that we produce—it is something we receive from beyond the ego-self.

From *Buddhism of the Heart: Reflections on Shin Buddhism and Inner Togetherness* (Wisdom Publications 2009)

Though you can't see the sun
Don't despair
Clouds come; clouds go.

One sighs, and retreats –
Or, one sighs,
And keeps going.

From *Suiren* by Miyoko Gyoren Nozawa



The BTC Nokotsudo is fully operational. It is configured to accept varied sized urns in varied presentations, for storage periods to fit each family's need. The Nokotsudo will be open for regular inspection each Sunday immediately after service, and by appointment made with Rev. Ashikaga, Gary Nakai, or Kiyō Omachi.

To inter cremains in the Nokotsudo, fill out the application form attached to the Nokotsudo Policy. These documents are available from the temple office or they can be mailed to you by contacting the above.

Whether you have a definite length of time in mind for interment in the Nokotsudo, or whether that time is indeterminate while ultimate plans are being worked out, be rest assured that the beautiful design of the BTC Nokotsudo presents each applicant with a flexible, dignified storage accommodation. Furthermore, the BTC Nokotsudo policy permits the holding of burial certificates when accompanying the admitted cremains.

Temple Anniversary Lunch Plans for October 3, 2010

As we have only three families in Dharma School and one of them has a prior engagement and so will not be present, it would be helpful to have some volunteers to assist with the items noted below (i.e., where it says "[VOLUNTEER?]"). If you can assist or if you can pass the word to someone else who might be able to assist, please let me know.

Thank you.

Dave Leshuk, Call: 847-656-5071

Or Email: dleshuk@solartwister.com

10:30 SETUP

TABLES (9 + 2-3 SERVING)/CHAIRS: Dave L., Bob S., [ONE MORE VOLUNTEER?]

TABLECLOTHS (11-12): Yulian, Wen Qing, Anna

FLOWERS (9): Yulian, Wen Qing, Anna

11:50 SET OUT BUFFET: Dave L., April, Bob S. [ONE MORE VOLUNTEER?]

12:00 REV. ASHIKAGA ON P/A

12:00 SERVE BUFFET: Dave, April, Bob S.

SERVE TEA: [TWO VOLUNTEERS?]

1:30 CLEANUP [ONE MORE VOLUNTEER?]

FOOD CLEANUP: April, Dave L.

KITCHEN/DISHES CLEANUP: Dave L., April, Bob S.

TABLES/CHAIRS: Dave L., Bob S. others

TRASH OUT: Dave L.

FLOOR WASH: Dave L., Wen Qing

WHO WILL BRING/PREPARE BUFFET ITEMS (serving for 75):

JUICE: Diana (drop off week before)

POP: Diana (drop off week before)

TEA: [VOLUNTEER?]

SUB SANDWICHES: Bob S.

HOT MAIN DISHES: Dave L.

RICE: Dave L., April

SALAD: [VOLUNTEER?]

FRUIT: Dave L., April

CAKE: [VOLUNTEER?]

FLOWERS: Dave L., April

願慧

二〇一〇年十月
第九九号
発行人 足利祐敬
編集 志原伸也

「聞く心」

久保瀬 曉明

聞くという事は大変大切なことでもあります。私はこの頃、人の心をよく聞かなければならぬと思っております。よく聞くことによつて心が豊かになり、世界が広くなり、親しくなり、仲よしくなります。

頑固な人は聞かない人であります。聞かないから頑固になります。よく聞けば喧嘩はたらないのに、相手の心を聞かないで自分の事ばかり主張するから喧嘩になります。あまり聞きません。

大教巡拝は道に進む心

持、即ち教にほまき大切なる事を説いて聞慧、思慧、修慧の三つとせうなりました。方一はよく聞く事、方二はよく思ひ考へる事、方三は身にかけてよくやってみる事、これによつて智慧の眼が開かれますと教へられたのであります。

法蔵菩薩が二百十億の諸仏の事を聞かされたのは十方衆生の心をよく聞かされたのであります。善財童子はどうしたら道と得らんやと云うかといふことを聞く為に五十三の智識と尋ねて廻りまわりました。雪山童子は法をよく為に自分の全身を投げ出す事と誓せられませんでした。本當に仏の道はよく聞かして行く道であります。

観音採即ち観世音菩薩

は世の一切の事をよく内親し、聞かせるので観音様といふのであります。

近代人はあまりよく聞かぬといふ事はない様であります。殊に或る主義の人や形式的信仰と一かんでいふ人は聞く事に一とめい様であります。

自我に閉じこもつていふ人は他人の言葉に耳を貸さずとほしません。そして自分の事を話さぬにはかりかたりはして、他の人の心を聞かぬといふは、かういふも窮屈な小さな自我に閉じこもつていふ事、よく話して自分と明かにする事も大事とみるか、同時によく他の心と聞く事も大切であります。よい友はよく聞かせる友であります。

一家の主人は家内中の者の事をよく聞く事から、まてこそよい主人であります。

一回の宰相も一回の人々の思ふをよく聞く人にしてその資格があるのであります。

一切衆生の父と仰がれる仏陀は一切衆生の心をよく聞き取つて味方方であります。心を静かにして一切の人、一切の事に聞き入る時にそのすべのまな中に正覺の音が響いていふ事。

聞くという事はその音や声だけを聞く事ではなく、その心と聞く事であり、その心と聞く事によつて直つて解明し、悟り合ふ事から生まれてあります。聞く事によつて一つにやります。

私はよくよく聞くという事によつて何処にでも、仏の御名を聞き、仏の声を聞く事から生まれてあります。

(「外より内へいふ」)