

Northern California Koyasan Temple

1400 U Street, Sacramento, California 95818

May Newsletter

"Law of Cause and Effect" and "Emptiness" 2

Last issue explained that every phenomenon is caused as an effect of *In* (a major cause) and *En* (supporting causes or conditions), with the examples given of a seed and a plant and of a mother and child. In addition, everything that corresponds to cause or effect cannot stand alone but can exist only in relation to another. That is called *Kuu* (emptiness). These ideas originate in *Sakyamuni* Buddha's teachings. He offered propositions to followers:

1. If this exists, that exists.
2. If this occurs, that occurs.
3. If this does not exist, that neither can exist.
4. If this does not occur, that neither can occur.

If you apply the seed / plant or mother / child dichotomy to "this" and "that," the relationship is understandable. According to this proposition, *Sakyamuni* Buddha explained *Mujo*, that every phenomenon continues to appear and disappear by the law of cause and effect. That is, nothing remains permanent. He also taught *Muga*, that everything such as "this" or "that" can not exist alone. That is, nothing exists in and of itself, but relies upon something else for its substance. He called such a state *Kuu* (emptiness) in which everything depends upon something else to have substance. However, the idea of "emptiness" was often used in the early Buddhist *Sangha* - the communities of monks as means to practice meditation successfully. It was after Mahayana Buddhism arose that "emptiness" became a major concept of Buddhism.

After *Sakyamuni* Buddha passed away, his followers started to record his teachings, to organize and analyze them and tried to establish a whole system of Buddhist doctrine for the early *Sangha*. In that system the law of cause and effect was always explained that object which appears first is always understood as the "cause" and the object which appear subsequently is seen as "effect." For example, the mother must always be a cause and the child always the effect. Their idea of chronological order, also called simple causality or linear causality, limited the understanding of cause and effect for years.

Later in the third century, it was Nagarjuna who realized the law of cause and effect originally taught by *Sakyamuni* Buddha in broader perspective and developed the concept of "emptiness" as more significant in the establishment of early Mahayana Buddhism in India. He is called *Ryumyo* in the Shigon lineage, one of the 8 masters. A discussion of how Nagarjuna expanded the idea of emptiness will be continued in the next issue.

With Gassho,
Reverend Ichiyo Fukuda

Monthly Family Service on May 18

The Temple will observe the monthly Daishiku Service on Sunday, May 18 at 1:30 p.m. The monthly English Service will be held at 10:00 a.m. Please make every effort to attend this service with your family and friends.

Memorial Day Services at Cemeteries

Memorial Day is a day to remember those who sacrificed their lives for their country, and also for our deceased loved ones. Graves are where our ancestors lie in peace, and should be protected as a source of a family's foundation and prosperity. Memorial services will be held at the following cemeteries:

May 24th (Sat) 10:00 a.m. Park View Cemetery in Stockton

May 26th (Mon) 9:00 a.m. Odd Fellow Cemetery Nikkei Memorial

Summer Pancake Breakfast on June 1

The Temple will hold a benefit Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, June 1 from 7:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Adult tickets are \$4.00 and a child's plate is \$3.50. The Temple is short-handed and we ask all able members to come and help out for this event. Please bring your family and friends for this worthy cause.

Celebration of Kobo Daishi's Birth on June 15

The Temple will hold the annual Aoba Matsuri Ritual on Sunday, June 15 at 1:30 p.m. This is the celebration of our religious founder, Kobo Daishi, and his birthday. Please make every effort to attend this important service.

ACC Nursing Home Visitation

The Temple has scheduled a visitation to ACC Nursing Home on Tuesday, June 17 at 11:00 a.m. There will be a short service. We ask members to make an effort to come and visit old friends with us.

SPECIAL PRAYER SERVICE for MAY & JUNE

Special Service will be held on Sunday, May 25 at 1:30 p.m. *Jizo-bosatsu (ksitigarbha)* will be the deity invited for prayer to lost children, longevity for seniors and for fruitful harvest in the agriculture business. Another Special Prayer Service on June 29 at 1:30 p.m. will feature *Fudo-myoo* for safe driving. Every car will be blessed individually. Please submit your reservation no later than the Wednesday before the service. There is no charge for these prayer services; however, donations are always gratefully accepted. For more information, please feel free to contact Rev. Fukuda at 916/444-0111.

At February 17th Pancake Breakfast benefits, the following donations were received to make the benefit prosperous.

Mrs. Hatsue Kawamura,	Manju
Mrs. Kyoko Yamamoto,	Manju
Mrs. Noriko Asahi	Manju
Mrs. Chiyoko Saiki	Orange marmalade and jams

MAY CALENDAR

6	(Tue)	7:00 p.m.	Meditation session
7	(Wed)	7:30 p.m.	Cabinet Meeting
13	(Tue)	7:00 p.m.	Meditation session
18	(Sun)	10:00 a.m.	May English Service
		1:30 p.m.	Monthly Memorial Service
20	(Tue)	7:00 p.m.	Meditation session
24	(Sat)	10:00 a.m.	Memorial Service at Park View Cemetery, Stockton
25	(Sun)	1:30 p.m.	Special Prayer Service (<i>Enmei Jizo</i>)
26	(Mon)	9:00 a.m.	Inter-Religious Memorial Service at Odd Fellow Cemetery, Sacramento
27	(Tue)	7:00 p.m.	Meditation Session

JUNE CALENDAR

1	(Sun)	7:00 a.m.	Summer Pancake Breakfast
3	(Tue)	7:00 p.m.	Meditation session
4	(Wed)	7:30 p.m.	Cabinet Meeting
10	(Tue)	7:00 p.m.	Meditation session
15	(Sun)	10:00 a.m.	June English Service
		1:30 p.m.	Aoba Matsuri (Birth of Kobo Daishi) Service
17	(Tue)	11:00 a.m.	ACC Nursing Home Visitation
		7:00 p.m.	Meditation session
24	(Tue)	7:00 p.m.	Meditation session
29	(Sun)	1:30 p.m.	Special Prayer Service (car blessing)

Koyasan Pancake Breakfast

Don't be left out!

Adult: \$4.00 Child: \$3.50

Sunday, June 1st

7:00am-11:30am