



【To Contemplate Our Teacher's Wish】

Lately, the fall colors have deepened with additional lovely colors and we have had continuous days of unusually warm weather here in Manhattan. Yet, we are in the season when, day by day, the nights become increasingly cold.

The autumn winds are extremely cold now. Perhaps the first snow is imminently approaching?

Now, this month we celebrate the Founder's birthday.

Members who do not know the Founder have been increasing. However, in May of this year, when the World Sangha Assembly took place at the Great Sacred Hall in Tokyo, I believe there were members who were able to commemorate the Founder by visiting and paying respects at places such as the Founder's Memorial Museum where one could see various movies of the Founder.

During the birth month of the Founder, we wish to experience the Founder's virtue which was bright and warm like the sun.

The Founder established Risho Kosei-kai in 1938 at the age of 31 years.

It was because of his wish and sense of mission to "liberate people and rebuild society" according to the Lotus Sutra that the organization was founded.

And his earnest pursuit on how to guide lay people to feel at ease walking the Buddha Way was the very image of a great teacher trying to spread the teachings of the Lotus Sutra throughout the world.

Particularly, for the latter half of his missionary life, the Founder focused on activities for world peace through religious co-operation. He dedicated his endeavors toward realization of religious co-operation in which people of various faiths, across the differences of all faiths • religious denominations or sects, join hands in united efforts to guide all people throughout the world to true liberation. In the long history of religion, conflicts frequently resulted from differences in faith • religious sects or denominations. However, the Founder continuously and steadfastly appealed for religious co-operation • religious dialogue with belief that they all share common wish for people's happiness.

Thus, he devoted his fullest efforts to the foundation • operation of WCRP (World Conference of Religions for Peace – now Religions for Peace) and ACRP (Asian Conference of Religions for Peace).

Furthermore, at the "UN Special Session on Disarmament," held three times in the past, he repeatedly addressed the world politicians for peace by demilitarization. In such ways, the Founder dedicated himself to building world peace. And on October 4, 1999, at the age of 92, he entered parinirvana.

The Founder's path to peace was...wishing for all people to find happiness... and without any reservation, he gave his life to disseminating the teachings.

It was because of this ardent wish that the Founder's place of bodhisattva practice extended worldwide. And the Founder, who cherished his encounters, shared his belief saying, "Religious co-operation starts by getting to know one another. When we meet and speak with one another,





understanding begins. Once we understand one another, we can work together in co-operation. Through mutual understanding and co-operation - one can say that is where peace can develop and spread.” Just as he had said, he met with religious people in Japan as well as overseas and exerted his efforts toward building peace based on religious co-operation. As result, he was able to work beyond the barriers of different sects, and encountering the Dharma with many “companions for peace.” It was through such encounters that the Founder opened the way for the “Great Way of One Buddha Vehicle”

Our compassionate father, the Founder, was revered by so many people, both within and outside of Rissho Kosei-kai. There must have been numerous people who found peace of mind seeing the Founder’s smile and felt the warmth of his words...in fact, I am one of those people.

It was when I was in my mid 30’s. At the time, I had been assigned the role as a member of the education committee at Suginami Church. During my duty at the Great Sacred Hall, I had been assigned to greet the Founder in front of the 7th floor elevator on his way to entering the *Eijyu-den*. On that day, in Tokyo, there was a rare accumulation of snow of about 20 centimeters. When the Founder exited the elevator, he put his palms together, looked out the window overlooking the trees and rows of houses blanketed with snow. His face beaming with a smile he said, “Today it is snowing...It is completely white. Completely white heart~~~~” before entering the *Eijyu-den*. In my recollection, I think there were 7~8 people there. And I feel each of us received his words in our hearts according to our own roles and perspectives.

I thought: “a completely white heart” is “like the Buddha’s heart”; I want to cherish such a heart. I gratefully tucked the heartwarming thought carefully in my heart. And at that time, I felt the Founder is “deep, broad-minded, and warm” and his smile seemed to broadly embrace everything...I stood still, enveloped by the warmth.

This year, the Founder would have been 110 years old. Let us contemplate our Teacher’s wish. With the goal for each of us to become a bright, kind, and warm person, let us share the spirit of the Lotus Sutra with people throughout the world.

Gassho
Etsuko Fujita
Minister of New York Dharma Center

Topics

On November 15th, we will celebrate the Founder’s birthday. The Founder clearly explained the profound and difficult to understand Lotus Sutra to make it easier for us to apply it in our daily lives and taught us the way to true liberation. Furthermore, the Founder, through his lifetime, worked from the happiness of each person in front of him to the realization of world peace with religious leaders worldwide, and continuously and steadfastly appealed for religious co-operation • religious dialogue.

In the Chicago Chapter, we have an Area Leader who is diligently practicing, with the Founder as his model for the goal on how he should live. He realized and is deeply grateful that he was born into this world and his parents gave him life so that he could come into contact with the Founder’s teaching. He experienced a spiritual awakening realizing that what would give the Founder, who always had a smile, heartfelt joy is to share the teachings of the Buddha to as many people as possible and guide them to the faith. He is thus continuously practicing with diligence every day. I hope each person will learn from that Area Leader, be motivated to actively guide people to the faith and practice diligently.

Gassho
Kayo Murakami





10/2 Annual Memorial Day Ceremony
for the Founder
Sharing faith by Akiko Takahashi
from Boston



10/9 Study Session
By Rev. Sugino



SCHEDULE FOR NEW YORK CHAPTER

November 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	10/31 10AM-5PM Steering Committee/ Missionary Mtgs	1 9AM First Day of the Month Service President's Dharma Guidance 2-4PM Chapter Leaders' Meeting	2 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Reach out day	3 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Guidance for Leaders	4 9 AM Memorial Service for Founder	5 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> 11/4-6 Leaders' Seminar </div>
6 Closed <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin-top: 10px;"> 11/4-6 Leaders' Seminar </div>	7 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza	8 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza	9 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Monthly Memorial Service	10 9AM Memorial Service for Cofounder 10AM Guidance for Leaders	11 Closed Veterans Day	12 Closed: Dharma Practices at home
13 1PM Founder's Birthday Ceremony	14 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza	15 9AM The Eternal Bud- dha Shakyamuni Day Founder's Birth- day 10 AM Family Education	16 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Reach out day	7 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Guidance for Leaders	18 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza	19 Closed: Dharma Practices at home
20 1PM Sunday Service Study Session	21 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza	22 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza 2-4PM Chapter Leaders' Meeting	23 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Reach out day 6 PM Thanksgiving Dinner Party	24 Closed Thanksgiving Day	25 Closed	26 Closed: Dharma Practices at home
27 Closed	28 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Missionary Plan- ning for 2017	29 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Missionary Plan- ning for 2017	30 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Reach out day			