



Dharma Soup

Notes from Karida

El Morro Buddhist Sangha

New Mexico, Saturday, June 19, 2010

About Wisdom

Grasping at things is no good. Even with education — once you grasp it, then it's dead. So an educator should not teach too definitely that "This is it." Truth cannot be determined definitely. So don't give out with conclusions.

Very often we think that character or personality is definite — but there is no such definite character or personality in existence. Sometimes educators become stiffened up by thinking, "I should embody virtue" but such people never give any real education. Their stiffness comes from being caught by concepts. Trying to be the body of virtue, their arms and legs get so stiff!

Trying to be the body of virtue, we kill ourselves. Because we are dead and unmoving, we can become a Model for others. A dead person doesn't move, a model doesn't move: no development, no change — he just stays still. This is why he has a fixed form. A living one will not have such a fixed form, for the very moment we decide "This is it," life changes. A living one hates to be tied by anything. He hates to be caught by regulations and concepts. He wants to keep

on changing forever. *Sunyata* means that all beings are living.

Even with truth, once we catch and grasp it, it's dead. Living things cannot be grasped. Whatever we catch is a dead body, a shell. Once we name truth, saying "This is God," or "This is Buddha," then it is no longer truth of God or Buddha.

In an aquarium, the goldfish swim as long as they are alive, but once we catch them, in order to explain, "This is a goldfish," then while we are talking the fish will die. A caught fish is a dead fish.

Once we open up to real wisdom, then we see the living truth as it is. There is infinite compassion. The real truth unfolds when we become one with ever-flowing reality itself. Real compassion means to see such a living, reverent being in all people, in all beings. When we awaken to this wisdom, we don't need God or Buddha. Those who are ignorant, their minds are in such darkness that wherever they go they are in the world of darkness. But in the world of wisdom all lives are leaping and dancing, and we live together with others, work together, enjoy together, worry together, yet all go on living our own lives. One who himself finds out such a life sees the whole world living such a life.

~Haya Akegarasu (1877-1967)

Gyoko Saito & Joan Sweany, Trans., [Shout of Buddha: Writings of Haya Akegarasu, Orchid Press Publication, Chicago, Ill., 1977.](#)

~~~~~  
Note: Reverend Akegarasu was a very influential Buddhist philosopher/teacher. He was my own teacher's teacher. ~Roger

This year we have attempted to schedule meetings and workshops in several different places in the hope that doing so will make it more convenient for some.

## SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

**\*June 19 (Sat.)** 7-8:30pm Regular meeting, Evocation of Kuan Yin, Dharma study (outside) .....Trading Post

**July 20 (Tues.)** 7-8:30pm Regular meeting, Evocation of Kuan Yin, Dharma study.....Timberlake Ranch Rock Room

**Aug. 21 (Sat.)** 2-5:00pm Flower arranging work shop. Ikebana and Chabana. Flower arrangements to be posted on the Karida web site ..... Old School Gallery

**Aug. 24 (Tues.)** 7-8:30pm Regular meeting, Evocation of Kuan Yin, Dharma study.....Trading Post

**Sept. 21 (Tues.)** 7-8:30pm Regular meeting, Fall Equinox Evocation of Kuan Yin, Dharma study.....Timberlake Ranch Rock Room

**Oct. 16 (Sat.)** 2-4pm Journey of the Heart: Meditations with Kuan Yin workshop. Guided imagery with Roger Irwin plus visual journaling by Lucia Amsden and Fran Anderson .....Old School Gallery

**Oct. 19 (Tues.)** 7-8:30pm Regular meeting, Evocation of Kuan Yin, Dharma study..... Timberlake Ranch Rock Room

**Nov. 23 (Tues.)** 7-8:30pm Regular meeting, Evocation of Kuan Yin, Dharma study (last meeting of the year) .....Trading Post

## TAI CHI

(At Old School Gallery)

**Sundays, 9:30am** join Reed and Fran Anderson for abbreviated Wu style movement and basic Wah Mountain breathing discipline. Easy for beginners. Call Reed or Fran for info at 783-4067.

If you haven't done it yet, check out:  
[www.karidasangha.net](http://www.karidasangha.net)

If it pleases you, light a candle.  
It will burn for 48 hours.



**\*I did not have enough time to put all the parts together for the previously scheduled Solstice Seder, potluck, and a chorus of 1000 singers. Hence, we will have our regular meeting Saturday outside. My apologies. ~ Roger**