



Dharma Soup

Notes from Karida

El Morro Buddhist Sangha
New Mexico

Our next meeting is at
Inscription Rock Trading Post
Tuesday 7:00pm, August 24, 2010

The Human Touch

(Part 1 of 2 parts)

~Haya Akegarasu (1877-1967)

It is sheer misery when I discover myself in people who are fighting with weapons of ism, job, or position, crowded into the world of the box, and each one trying to separate himself from the others. I hate to see people use religion as a weapon against each other—religion, which was originally intended to help men live in harmony. I am so lonely that I can't isolate myself from people who have different isms, jobs, positions, religions—or fight them. To me the human being is more important than the ism, job, position, religion. I long for human beings.

Because I too have an ism, job, position, religion, I recognize there are ones different from my own; and I recognize that isms and religions, especially, do have the purpose of not separating men from each other. But to me, the human beings are more important than all of this. If I have to fight with human beings or isolate myself from them in order to protect my ism, or assert it, or cling to my

religion then I'd rather throw these things away and have the human beings.

Everything exists because I exist. Because of this particular self of mine, because people manifest it so exactly, I can throw away my isms and religion. The true, deep religion is born when we throw away the religion of the box, which imprisons human beings.

There is no fight within religion itself, but when religions become work and ism and position, then humans will be isolated from each other and fight each other. The reason that Buddhists, Confucionists, Christians and Muslims are fighting each other today is that in most cases their religions have become ism and work and position. Recently, people are fighting in the name of Shinran-ism or Nichiren-ism or other such funny isms! I can see the hollowness of the inner minds of these people so clearly showing through all their stated intentions—those people who are trying to assert themselves by using Shinran or Nichiren as a club. In Buddhism—and also in Christianity—those who have the strongest sectarianism have the most hollow insides! It may seem to some that faith and sectarianism would be in direct proportion to each other; actually, they are in inverse proportion to each other. Those who make the most noise about Buddhism or Christianity are simply caught by the ism or work or some similar aspect of Buddhism or Christianity. I'm not saying that you should throw away your own ism or religion and become the follower of someone else's. I long for people. I respect people more than what they have of isms or work or religion. With regard to ism, work, or religion, there are various established traditions of different people, and they can't just switch from one to another. It is difficult to express—but there is the human touch—the human “something” that runs in the blood of

all people, as such, regardless of their different religions, jobs, or isms.

(To be continued)

From —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. The conclusion, at this point, is that meetings held in the El Morro Village are best for the convenience of the majority of people.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

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.....Trading Post

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 AndersonOld School Gallery

Oct. 19 (Tues.) 7-8:30pm Regular meeting, Evocation of Kuan Yin, Dharma study.....Trading Post

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

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



It's that time of year again that I start thinking about what future preferences you may have for continuing our meetings, how often, what schedule. etc?

I have always thought that all things naturally have a beginning, middle, and end. I'm uncertain as to where we are along that time-line.

We've been meeting for two-and-a-half years now. Please give me your thoughts.

-Roger