



Dharma Soup

Notes from Karida El Morro Buddhist Sangha

November, 2010

***Don't forget---Sangha
meeting Tuesday evening
7:00 at Inscription Rock
Trading Post November 23.***

Brief Thoughts on Women and Buddhism

Michael Elia – Karida Dharma Teacher

The historic Buddha clearly taught that women were equal to men. While it may yet be the case that some traditions do not provide for the ordination of women, we should remember that it was the historical Buddha, after all, who

first acknowledged and ordained women. The Path He strode may have been covered over by the overgrown Jungle of Ignorance but it was never entirely lost.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama has acknowledged the persistence of patriarchal thinking and discrimination. Refusing to downplay it he has acknowledged our need to move past it.

Rather than shun our past missteps, our vision blurred by desire, anger and ignorance, we delight in greater clarity, however slow and incremental seeming. This is called “Patience in the Non-production of Dharma,” which is the cornerstone of Bodhisattvas’ Compassion and Skill inseparable from Wisdom.

Modern feminist philosopher, Martha Nussbaum, at the University of Chicago, writes that our essential goal, far from self-sufficiency and actualization, is interdependent caring in and through relationship. The Genome Project in science has led to the astonishing “Eve Hypothesis.” Its basis is a genetic fingerprint every human being has in common—an enzyme—that suggests a common ancestor, either a single woman or She and her Sisters, as the progenitor of all humans now or ever living.

Having picked up the trail again, let us continue on in confidence, further clearing as we go in order that others may follow. Such have we heard and thus recall the fundamental orientation of the Dharma to its Teachers as “Highest Mother.”

Karida was formed to promote greater balance in ourselves and in the world and doing so necessitates this mediation on how we should acknowledge the contribution through struggle of all our mothers. Peace, true peace, will elude us while the imbalanced view and treatment of women continues on our planet. Let us recognize the subtle and not-so-subtle downplay of women and work to restore balance to the fullest measure of our essential nature. Education is the key, in my view. We must also do our part to pass on knowledge, but in particular, any contribution we can make to organizations that work to the education women, especially in the third world, is vital.

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Michael lives in California and has been a Karida Dharma Teacher since the year 2000. His biographical sketch is online at www.karidasangha.net. This is the first time he has written a piece for Dharma Soup.

Schedule of Meetings 2010 (At Inscription Rock Trading Post)

Nov. 23 (Tues.) 7-8:30pm Regular meeting,
Evocation of Kuan Yin, Dharma study

Dec. 7 (Tues.) 7-8:30pm Regular meeting,
Evocation of Kuan Yin, Dharma study

ANNOUNCEMENTS

At our August meeting it was decided to encourage everyone to start reading Shunru Suzuki's book, "Zen Mind Beginners Mind." Our September and October meetings provided us with lively discussions of the first half of the book. Most members are reading somewhere in the last half of the book now. Come and participate, listen,

talk, ask questions, even if you haven't started reading the book or have just started. We will, of course, continue our Sutra chanting and meditations at each meeting.

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For the last two winters we have not held meetings during Dec., Jan., and Feb. However, due to popular demand, it has been decided to change that and meet every month on the first Tuesday of the month.

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All regular meetings will be held at Inscription Rock Trading Post from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

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太极拳 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 more info at 783.4067.

If you haven't done it yet, check out our website www.karidasangha.net and our new Blog "Karidalink" for members and friends of Karidasangha. While you're there you may want to take a meditation moment and light a candle. It will burn for 48 hours.

