Members of the New York Dharma Center

Warm greetings, everyone!

Hope all of you are keeping safe and staying well.

We find ourselves amidst an unprecedented global pandemic of Coronavirus. This is not a remake of some science fiction movie we have seen in the past. This is the reality and happening right before our eyes. Moreover, the fear of actually being infected, and in some circumstances, the angst of death are incurred as well

In the midst of the pandemic, the people in government・public administration and medical profession are desperately working with no regard to their own danger.

We, as members of the public, must also give our best efforts.

Our Headquarters in Tokyo gave instructions throughout Japan without delay.

With hopes that as one person after another becomes infected, they will not pass it on to others, a major decision to temporarily suspend the services and events at Headquarters and all the Centers in Japan is being carried out. This was done to avoid close physical contacts among people and possible shutdowns.

At our NY Dharma Center, in view of the situation in New York, we decided to temporarily close the Center and asked our members to engage in their practice at their respective homes. In accord with the teaching, “Anywhere you happen to be is **This place is indeed** **the place of the Way,**”

I hope you will be able to do the things you could not do in your daily life before.

However, as we stay in our apartments, even though we may be in touch with the news, there is the danger of feeling anxious and lonesome.

For the NY Dharma Center, I would like to deepen the connections among the members by holding Hoza, study sessions, and meetings using the internet through the Zoom system.

This system has the advantage of allowing people to participate from anywhere. We can now connect with members who live in remote areas from the Center, which has unexpectedly resulted in broadening the rapport among members.

President Niwano encourages us by saying, “At times like this, have largeness of heart and live cheerfully.”

It is because of what is happening now that we become aware of many things.

I hope this becomes an opportunity for you to reflect on how we humans, in our lives until now, have forgotten what is important, been addicted to convenience, and swayed by greed.

If so, as practitioners of faith, you might be able to regard these unusually trying days as thanks to the “Corona Bodhisattva.”

Let us become aware of “The Gift of Life, The Power to Live” and live everyday with gratitude in our hearts!

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