



【To accept things as is...】

Lately, the nightfall descends much earlier. We can also say the season for enjoying meaningful long evenings has arrived.

Was your appetite affected by the hot weather? If so, have you recovered from lack of appetite that is often associated with the hot and humid weather?

I noticed that people walking in town are now wearing long sleeves. At night, the pleasing sounds of insects are becoming music to my ears. Ahhhhh autumn is here.

The Rio de Janeiro Olympics, the first Olympics to be held in South America, is now over. The Rio Summer Paralympics Games followed next. One could feel the re-emergence of the excitement of Rio Olympics. In my recollection, I don't think I paid as much attention to the Paralympics in the past as I had this time.

I was truly inspired by the brilliant smiles of the athletes who were competing in the 22 events. How can these people have such magnificent smiles... Someone whose legs were amputated because of a motorboat accident. Another, at the age 14 years, who was afflicted by an unexpected illness that caused sudden loss of vision which led to continuous anguish. Or someone who was born with a birth defect... The conditions are varied, but all of them have overcome tremendous obstacles to be where they are now.

One person said, it was during the time of reaching the depth of despair for a while, even losing hope of continuing to live, that this thought occurred: "I want to accomplish something on my own; I want to believe in the infinite power that dwells in my body. And, actively strived with much enthusiasm."

Intrinsically, the reality is not easy as my writing the words and sentences to describe it, but they have complete faith in their infinite power that dwell in their body and spirit to persevere, and furthermore, they live daily with confidence and hope that allows them to laugh at and with themselves.

President Niwano always tells us: "It is important to live faithfully following the Buddha's teaching, i.e. the Truth • the Dharma. It is not about asking the buddhas and gods to fulfill our desires."

The athletes that compete in the Paralympics truly accept the reality they have been given now and are giving their all to awaken their unrealized power.

With everything, there are things that cannot be changed, and things that can be changed.

If we become attached to things that cannot be changed, we will not be able to eliminate our deeply felt troubles.

I actually have a grandson, now two-years old, who was born with a congenital heart disease known as pulmonary atresia

While I was in Japan this time, he was scheduled to have his third operation.

He must first receive essential treatments and tests through the catheter. It is only after he receives these treatments that they can do the operation.

However, because my grandson caught a cold, the treatments and tests were postponed. My daughter, son-in-law and I felt overwhelmed because we had to completely change plans we had so carefully scheduled. Seeing my daughter looking troubled and lost, I found myself thinking, "How difficult it must be for her...she will repeatedly be going through such hardship..." At the





same time, I realized, when we get down to it, such way of thinking is looking at my grandson's illness itself as bad.

Rather than being attached to the reality that cannot be changed and suffer, I need to recognize things as is and accept. And, work on changing my perspective and perception.

President's message, "aspire to live faithfully following the Truth," means to see the light in the reality, that is, to find the merit in the reality.

Gassho
New York Center Minister
Etsuko Fujita

Topic

On September 11 (Sunday), from 8:30am until 1:00pm, we held a "9-11 Peace Memorial Service." It has been 15 years since the terrorist attack. Every year a memorial service was held by the members, but this was the third year since we opened the doors to give people in the community a better opportunity to participate. During the preparation for the event and on that day, staff of 20 worked together as one, welcoming people from the community, and held the service with an atmosphere of solemnity.

On the altar, we placed the list with names of each of the victims, with offering of dishes prepared from the heart by the members. For four hours and 15 minutes, selected chapters from the Threefold Lotus Sutra were recited, alternately in both English and Japanese, praying for the victims and for peace.

As result of reaching out to many who passed by the front door of the Dharma Center, 135 people participated in offering carnations. The sight of a person holding the flower with tears flowing down as she gazed at the statue of the Eternal Buddha, as well as a person earnestly praying on her knees for quite some time, were both quite moving.

In the September 11th issue of Asahi Shimbun (Asahi News), there was an article titled "**Son of 9/11 victim devotes his life to ending cycle of terror.**" It was about a young man who was three-years old at the time of the attack and is now a university student. Why had his loving and kind father suddenly disappeared? It was much too difficult for the heart of a young child to absorb such sorrow.

"A turning point came in his second year of junior high school.

For the 10th anniversary memorial for 9/11 victims, (he) was chosen as one of the representatives of bereaved family members to read out the names of those who perished in the attacks.

As (he) read out the names at ground zero, the site of the World Trade Center, an inner voice whispered, 'We do not need any more fighting or pain.'

Those words came to form the core of his philosophy.

'Unless someone puts an end to the spiral of hatred, retribution will only continue,' (he) said. 'The most effective resistance against terrorism is to continue living our daily lives.'"

"His has not been an easy journey. Robbed of a parent, he could have easily given over to the dark side and allowed his hatred for those who caused his loss to fester. Instead, he had an epiphany: He would work for a better world.

(He) began studying at the Law Faculty of Kyoto University... He figures that a background in international law will prove to be a springboard to help resolve conflicts around the world.

He is also studying the history of Islamic philosophy as well as Arabic in the hope that one day he will be able to read the Koran in the original text.

Eventually, he hopes to become involved in work that will help children in the Middle East who have lost loved ones in the spiral of fighting that plagues the region.

...he hopes he can make a difference that would make his father proud.

'Because I am also a bereaved child of terrorism, I believe I have something to say that will resonate with those children (in the Middle East),' he said."

After reading this article, I felt this Peace Memorial Service we hold in our New York Center, the city in which the tragedy actually occurred, has a meaningful role in paying respects to the victims as well as cultivating the wish for peace in everyone.

Yoshi



Preparation for the Memorial Service



Inviting people To participate.



9.11 The Memorial Service



September 11,2016 President Niwano's Guidance



9/18 Study Session By Rev.Kyoichi Sugino



SCHEDULE FOR NEW YORK CHAPTER

October 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 1PM First Day of the Month Service President's Dharma Guidance
2 10AM Annual Memorial Day Ceremony For the Founder Sharing Faith	3 Closed	4 9AM Annual Memorial Day of the Founder 2-4PM Chapter Leaders' Meeting	5 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Reach out day	6 9AM Monthly Memo- rial Service 10AM-5PM Steering Committee/ Missionary Mtgs	7 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza	8 Closed: Dharma Practices at home
9 1PM Memorial Service for Cofounder Study Session	10 Columbus Day	11 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza	12 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Reach out day	13 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Guidance for Leaders	14 9AM The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni Day 10/14-16 Japanese Leaders Seminar at L.A.	15 Closed: Dharma Practices at home
16 1PM Sunday Service President's Dharma Guidance	17 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza	18 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza 2-4PM Chapter Leaders' Meeting	19 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Reach out day	20 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Guidance for Leaders	21 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza	22 Closed: Dharma Practices at home
23 Closed	24 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza	25 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza	26 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Reach out day	27 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Guidance for Leaders	28 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza	29 Closed: Dharma Practices at home
30 1PM Sunday Service Hoza	31 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza					