



## 【The true way for how people should live as revealed in the Lotus Sutra】



When I look closely at the trees lining the streets of Manhattan, I can see the buds starting to swell. This winter in New York felt warmer than usual, but it seems spring is not yet upon us. All things in the universe, however, have definitely started finding new rhythm.

Shakyamuni Buddha was born during this season.

Rissho Kosei-kai was also born during this season.

On March 5, 1938, during the time of the year when the spring sunshine is plentiful, the tree buds are burgeoning, the buds of various flowers are starting to bloom, the grass is sprouting, and the birds are chirping, Rissho Kosei-kai was established as an organization based on the Buddhist teachings expounded by Shakyamuni Buddha. This year is the 79<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of Rissho Kosei-kai.

The spirit with which the Founder established the organization had emerged from his following wishes: “My passion is to actually liberate people and rebuild society. We can do that only by spreading the true Buddhist spirit immersed in the Lotus Sutra. And I would like as many people as possible to know the true way for how people should live as revealed in the Lotus Sutra, to attain their own true happiness.”

As we commemorate the Founding Day in March, I would like to take this occasion to think about what “the true way for how people should live as revealed in the Lotus Sutra” signifies.

In Chapter 2 of the Lotus Sutra, “Skillful Means,” we are taught that the buddhas appear in the world only to preach the One Very Great Cause.

The Buddha’s objective for this is to teach the truth of the purpose for which humans live and to guide all the people to open their eyes to the Buddha-knowledge (with wish for all to have pure minds). It means, for everyone to have the Buddha-knowledge!

When this is viewed from our perspective, it means “everyone can become a buddha.” Yes! The highest ideal for a human being is to attain the “wisdom” with which one can ascertain the real aspect of everything in this world. It is a bit difficult but, first of all, one must start by becoming aware of the buddha nature within oneself. Liberation starts from here.

Then, as one begins to think of attaining true happiness, one studies the Lotus Sutra, and with that as one’s standard, put the teachings into practice in one’s daily life.

My mother had suffered from tuberculosis, and thus was a thin and small person. Physically she was not strong, but she wondrously looked like a large person whenever she, with conviction, was sharing the teachings with others

My mother’s joy with the Dharma touched people’s hearts and she guided many people to the faith. I think it was with such attributes that my mother was teaching and revealing the Dharma to me. My mother had a habit of saying, “Everything stems from me...when I change the other person changes.”

When I was young, I was very assertive and had difficulty being patient. Once, I was not satisfied with my father’s point of view and I immediately reacted by outpouring my own opinion. My father, who is extremely stubborn, felt humiliated, was beside himself with rage and things got out of control. Even now, I can vividly recall how, at that time, my mother came to sit next to me, prostrated herself and earnestly apologized to him on my behalf.

There was another incident that comes to mind.

When nothing was going well for me, I was feeling frazzled and starting to feel disheartened. At



that time, my mother continuously listened to my story every single night. My mother who was always supportive and considerate of how I was feeling, would invariably conclude saying, “It is very painful, isn’t it? But, don’t fall into blaming others. Everything is the Buddha’s message, so please learn to accept as such.”

At that time, at this time, at any time, my mother never blamed me. For me, my mother was an “unconditionally kind person.” Now, in retrospect, I think my mother’s habitual saying, “Everything stems from me...when I change the other person changes,” is indeed my mother’s way of putting into practice the true way to live as revealed in the Lotus Sutra.

When I think of how much and how often I was liberated by mother’s support, I also think that it was from those experiences that I learned how to accept “everything is the Buddha’s arrangement.”

When we look back, especially in Hoza in the past, we received straightforward guidance such as, “It is not about the other person. Everything stems from you.” Such frank guidance, which did not mince matters, were severe, but they spoke the Truth.

The result (effect/recompense) which appear in front of us is result of the world in which the primary cause encounters the condition (secondary cause). Thus, the effect (recompense) simultaneously manifests the condition (secondary cause) “as is” and the primary cause “as is.”

Both the primary cause and the condition mutually share the effect (recompense). What is important here is how one perceives the result (effect/recompense). It is whether one feels one is not wrong and looks to the condition as the cause of the effect (recompense) or accepts the cause as oneself. If one targets and points the finger at the other person, the cause and condition will not change and, thus, the effect (recompense) will also not change. Rather, try to become aware that the effect (recompense) stems from oneself and shine the light of the Dharma to transform oneself. Then the self will change. When the primary cause changes, the effect (recompense) will naturally change, as well as the other person and circumstances.

It is about taking each and every phenomenon as a “*zen chishiki* (a friend who leads one to the Way through the teachings)” and learn. This, indeed, is cultivating the field of one’s own mind; that is, the practice to become a bud-dha.

During this month when we commemorate the anniversary of the founding, let us each, respectively, grasp and digest the Founder’s wish and intention for establishing our organization.

Gassho  
New York Center Minister  
Etsuko Fujita

## Topics

This year in Chicago, the winter was easier to bear, with temperature warmer than usual. Yet, as March approaches, the days seem slightly longer, and recently we find ourselves anticipating the coming of spring.

On March 5, we will celebrate the 79<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of Risho Kosei-kai.

Through the Special Spring-time Annual Memorial Service for Ancestors which will also be held this month, I am, once again, very grateful for the opportunity to put into practice the teachings of ancestor veneration and filial piety in this place where we lead our daily lives.

On the occasion of the Anniversary of the Founding Day, I heard that the Founder established our organization to share with as many people as possible that the teachings and practice of the Lotus Sutra can bring liberation to all people, 100%.

What does ‘all people will be liberated, 100%’ mean?

I found the following explanation in a book by Kosho-sama: Based on the Buddhist teaching of Dependent Origination, “when we recognize the people we meet every day as good causes or good conditions, we have taken the first step to liberation”...and we need to “accustom ourselves to always seeing that all things we encounter can be causes of happiness.”

I would like to practice with these words in mind during the month we celebrate the Anniversary of the Founding.

Gassho  
Chicago Chapter Leader Kayo Murakami



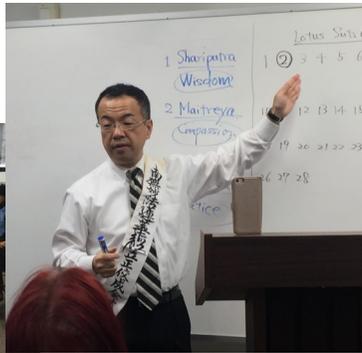
2/12

### Nirvana Day Service

Viewed DVD, all participants shared impressions on Shakyamuni Buddha's Nirvana Day. Concluding words by Rev. Sugino



### 2/19 Study Session Chapter 16 by Rev. Kyoichi Sugino



### 2/19 Home of Suhas Barua His mother's 49th day Memorial Service



# SCHEDULE FOR NEW YORK CHAPTER

## March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 1PM First Day of the Month Service President's Dharma Talk	<b>2</b> 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Guidance for Leaders	<b>3</b> 9AM Memorial Svc for Founder	<b>4</b> Closed: Dharma Practices at home
<b>5</b> 1PM Ceremony for Anniversary of Rissho Koseikai's Founding	<b>6</b> 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM-5PM Steering Committee/Missionary	<b>7</b> 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza 2-4PM Chapter Leaders' Meeting	<b>8</b> 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Reach out day	<b>9</b> 9AM Sutra Recitation	<b>10</b> 9AM Memorial Service for Cofounder	<b>11</b> Closed: Dharma Practices at home
<b>12</b> 10:30AM Special prayer for renovation 1PM Sunday Svc President's Dharma Guidance	<b>13</b> 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Study of Lotus Sutra for Japanese	<b>14</b> 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza	<b>15</b> 9AM The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni Day	<b>16</b> 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Case study	<b>17</b> 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza	<b>18</b> Closed: Dharma Practices at home
<b>19</b> 1PM Sunday Service Study session	<b>20</b> 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Spring-time Higan-e (Special Memorial Service)	<b>21</b> 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza 2-4PM Chapter Leaders' Meeting	<b>22</b> 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Reach out day	<b>23</b> 9AM Sutra Recitation	<b>24</b> 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; margin-top: 10px;">RKUS Meeting At Seattle</div> →	<b>25</b> Closed: Dharma Practices at home
<b>26</b> Closed	<b>27</b> 9AM Sutra Recitation	<b>28</b> 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza	<b>29</b> 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Report of mission	<b>30</b> 9AM Sutra Recitation	<b>31</b> 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza	

4/2(Sun) 10:30 AM Board Meeting  
1 PM Annual Meeting