



## 【 The catch phrase is “shared sense of values” 】

There is a saying: “Flowers bloom, flowers bloom, that is the everlasting reality; flowers fall, flowers fall, that is the everlasting reality.” This means the fact that flowers keep blooming is the true aspect of Mother Nature, and flowers falling off is also the true aspect of Mother Nature. To bloom, and to fall off, are both ultimate reality.

This is a quote from one of President’s Dharma Guidances. The President said we humans are delighted when flowers bloom, but we do not like them to fall. We possess human nature and feelings of regret. However, in the way of nature in heaven and on earth, flowers bloom and fall, regardless of such human feelings. Although we have these feelings, which are unique to human beings, the true aspects of the ultimate reality of all things evolve irrespective of such things...

When we calmly ponder this thought, we see how true this is.

As we humans live, all kinds of things happen around us.

The unique feelings we have, inherent to us as human beings, cause us to narrowly see things as good or bad.

Here’s a story I have heard. When it rains, some people may have to walk the sloping streets between the station and their home while pushing their bicycles. They may feel: “Rain is a problem”; “I hate it.” Yet, if there is a supermarket in front of the station, its convenience can increase fivefold on a rainy day. In this case, there will be people who feel: “We’re lucky!” Consider this one and same phenomena, “the rain”: Depending on our feelings, viewpoints, and the way we think and feel, we may have an unpleasant reaction considering rain as a problem, or experience the pleasant feeling that we are lucky. As such, even when we come into contact with the same thing, varied emotions will arise.

Here’s another situation. A-san from the youth group appealed to me and said, “There is an extremely troublesome person where I work. Whenever he is late, he never apologizes; moreover, he openly criticizes his superiors and blatantly says whatever he wants to his colleagues. Because of his insensitive speech and behavior, everyone around him is being affected. I am totally disgusted.”

Yet, A-san also said that B-san from the same workplace looks at him in this way: “He may have a devil-may-care side, but his opinions are clear, and he’s very good at determining what issues need to be addressed. His immaturity manifests in many ways, but I feel we can expect better from him moving forward. From now on, I feel we can have positive expectations.” A-san was greatly perplexed, thinking, where is this coming from?

I said, “He is the same person, but you and B-san have totally different perspectives.”

Then, I began to sort out the situation.

A-san’s perceptions: He criticizes his superiors · He’s unabashed about being late · His behavior affecting people around him – These are all problematic for A-san.

B-san’s perceptions: B-san is not at all concerned that this co-worker criticizes his superiors or is unabashed about showing up late; conversely, B-san acknowledges the value of the co-worker’s having clear opinions and his skill at finding the important issues at hand.





Both observations are about the same person, but depending on who is looking at him, this co-worker can be problematic, or not a problem.

That is how I summarized the situation.

And then, I told A-san: "I think the only reason you become irritated by him is because your personal values do not match his. The values that you have cultivated over your lifetime, right up to your current age of 38, are wonderful. Do you think you can try to share each other's values? It is all about acknowledging, accepting, and sharing."

Then, in a flash, A-san replied: "I was measuring everything he did based on my own scale. The problem was my limited point of view." The expression on A-san's face was radiant.

I said, "Excellent! Just what I would expect from you, A-san. To realize this is what a 'shared sense of value' is all about." This made me happy as well.

This situation concerns the same person, but according to the person who is in contact with him, "he becomes a problem or he does not become a problem." Therefore, from the moment the thought "The person is a problem; this is troublesome; it needs to be resolved" arises, the problem actually becomes "the problem with the person who feels there is a problem."

The feelings we have within ourselves affect our perceptions in various ways, which, in turn, may become the cause of our own suffering. What we can change is not the other person • not what occurs or happens. We can only change our own heart and mind.

Gassho  
New York Church Minister  
Etsuko Fujita

## Topics

My topic concerns a personal matter. In the beginning of May, I lost someone important to me. After our children left home, my husband and I accepted our good friend's enticement and moved to Mohonk Mountain, a mountain located upstate New York, surrounded by abundant nature. Having been born and raised in the city, to live in this mountain felt almost like a revolutionary decision for me. Soon after we moved, by an unforeseen circumstance K-san and I became friends, and K-san turned out to be someone who was absolutely necessary in my life. Although I was not her blood relative, she unconditionally loved me. And like my mother, at any time, she would hug me; her embrace was warm and comforting, like the touch of soft cotton. On the day she left this world, at the age of 84, she completed her daily routine exactly as she had always done, and went to bed at night after saying, "Good night." That was her last time; she went to rest eternally. I thought, what an amazing (wonderful) way to part, to be able to place a 'period' at the end her life in such a gentle way.

There is a saying: "We can understand the way a person lived when we see the way that person dies."

I believe that is how K-san lived and splendidly fulfilled her lifetime.

With such a sudden parting, I keenly felt the Law of Impermanence. We are taught the truth of the universe, that the one great life force does not stop for one moment, with changes occurring continuously each and every second. But the past will not return, and there is no guarantee for the future of tomorrow.

For we who live an impermanent life, today, this day, right now, is transient, and we should be grateful for the present. This is what K-san taught me through her sudden death.

Since our efforts to live life while treasuring the present is indeed the way we human should live, and endeavoring to walk the path of the bodhisattva way, which gives life to me and others, I would like to sincerely pray to find joy and happiness together with everyone.

Director of Education Keiko Idesako





5/10 Vesak at UN  
Nine RKNY participants



5/14 Visitors from Headquarters  
Rev.Hashimoto and Rev.Taketani  
Discussion on President's Dharma  
Guidance for May



5/21 Memorial Service for  
People of America



5/7 Kyoten study session  
(Chapter 21 : Divine Power of  
The Tathagata)  
Lecturer:Yasuko Vendley

Held memorial service for ancestors  
And closed friends.  
Presentation on inspirational American  
Historical figures chosen by Rose, Joh and  
James. Followed by Rev.Fujita's comments



Wholehearted  
offerings



Ended by sing-  
ing and dancing  
to the song  
"Coming to  
America"



# SCHEDULE FOR NEW YORK CHAPTER

## June 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9AM First Day of the Month Service <b>President's Dharma Guidance</b>	2 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza	3 Closed: Dharma Practices at home
4 1PM <b>Memorial Svc for Founder/ President's Dharma Guidance</b>	5 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza	6 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza  2-4PM Area Leaders' Meeting	7 9AM Sutra Recitation <b>10AM Steering Committee/ Missionary</b>	8 9AM Sutra Recitation <b>10AM Monthly Memorial Service</b>	9 <b>9AM Memorial Service for Cofounder</b> 10AM Special Prayer	10 Closed: Dharma Practices at home
11 1PM <b>Sunday Service Study Session</b>	12 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza	13 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza	14 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM <b>Lotus Sutra study in Japanese</b>	15 9AM <b>The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni Day</b>  6:30 PM <b>Jyoshi-kai</b>	16 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza	17 Closed: Dharma Practices at home
18 1PM <b>Sunday Service Hoza</b>	19 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza	20 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza 2-4PM Area Leaders' Meeting	21 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Reach out day	22 9AM Sutra Recitation	23 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza  <b>23-25 Leaders' Training in English at Seattle</b>	24 Closed: Dharma Practices at home
25 <b>Closed</b>  →	26 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza	27 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza 1PM Visitors from Episcopal Church	28 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Reach out day	29 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza	30 9AM Special Prayer 10AM Hoza  <b>6/30-7/2 Leaders' Training</b>	7/1