



RISSHO KOSEI-KAI OF NEW YORK

320 East 39th Street, New York, NY 10016 TEL: (212) 867-5677

E-mail address: koseiny@aol.com, Website : <http://rk-ny.org>

November 2020

Hello, everyone! How are you? Hope you are all doing well.

The hot weather of summer is gone and we are more deeply into the autumn season.

Because we were preoccupied on dealing with Covid this year, seems the year past by very quickly.

The self-restraining stay at home life we've been practicing since April lately seem to have turned into our daily routine. And yet starting in European countries and throughout the world, there is an amplified resurgence of the pandemic with a second wave of infection. Seems we are still in an unpredictable situation.

Let us extend our heartfelt gratitude to the great efforts of everyone in the healthcare industry and all the essential workers who continuously support us to sustain our daily lives throughout this prolonged period.

Furthermore, let us deeply mourn those who lost their lives due to Covid and pray for the rapid recovery of those who are now ill from this infectious disease.

We must not become negligent and continue to be careful during this prolonged situation. However, rather than becoming anxious and unnecessarily tremble with fear, isn't it more important to clearly assess how we should take heed of the warnings, and to have the attitude of "correct concern" which does not neglect the important points of precautions, such as washing hands, wearing masks, and avoiding the three C's – crowds, close proximity, closed areas.

That is the reality of such a world in which we live. And our social life is in the midst of big changes in areas such as politics, economics and foreign diplomacy. Within this situation, there is a significant role for religions on how to actually bind together "the visible world" and "the invisible world."

There is a feeling that in our present society, "the visible world" is placed at the center and "the invisible world" has been forgotten. However, in Buddhism, Shakyamuni Buddha realized, through deep meditation, the true picture of this world as not only "the visible world" but saw through beyond that as also having "the invisible world"; he was awakened to "the world of ultimate reality"

We, as lay Buddhists, while living our daily lives, are making the effort to sense the workings of the Truth that exists beyond. Then what is the difference with the other people who are living ordinary lives? Externally, we are not wearing anything special, and like other people, we watch TV, read books, and connect with others through PC and cellphones.



When we think about the difference, is it not that we also trying to live with the realization that we are always “Caused to live by the Buddha”?

The responsibility of lay practitioner, I feel, is to actually feel “the Buddha protecting us” through our daily sutra recitations and to cultivate our grateful heart.

When we can feel the things that occur in our daily lives as “workings of the Buddha,” we can become grateful for everything that happens and have a positive outlook.

Because of the Coronavirus pandemic, the New York Center members from various parts of the country have been able to meet through Zoom. We never imagined everyone studying together so frequently. When we think that it is thanks to the Covid that we were able to connect, we become grateful to the Bodhisattva Corona.

From here onward for a while, it seems this condition will continue. Therefore, instead of feeling down, let us positively give life to this opportunity. A yacht moves forward by the strength of the wind. Yet there are times when it can move forward facing windward by adjusting the angle of the sail. What may feel like an adverse condition (adverse wind), can be changed as energy to advance with wisdom and planning.

We have only two more months this year. Soon, let us reflect on this year and start thinking about plans abundantly filled with hope.

Gassho

RKNY

Rev. Tomokazu Hatakeyama

