



Dharma Lei

Bishop's Office Newsletter

Soto Zen Buddhism Hawaii Office

c/o Soto Mission of Hawaii 1708 Nuuanu Avenue, Honolulu HI 96817 U.S.A.

Tel & Fax: 808-538-6429

E-Mail: info@sotozenhi.org WEB: <http://global.sotozen-net.or.jp/eng/>

First Quarter, 2021

Issue No. 35

Bishop's Message: Bishop Shugen Komagata

Aloha from the Bishop's Office,

I pray that this message finds you and your family in both good health and spirits. One year ago, the Novel Coronavirus was discovered. Since then, over sixty-nine million people have been infected with COVID-19, and 1.5 million people have died from it. We pray for the repose of all those who have died, and we pray for the recovery of those who are suffering the effects of this devastating illness.

I am encouraged by the news of a vaccine that is arriving in Hawaii. Although it will take time, I am hopeful for a positive resolution to this pandemic.

2020 has certainly been an unusual year. The pandemic has redefined nearly every aspect of our daily social interactions. Social distancing, masking up, frequently washing hands, restrictions on gatherings, quarantines, and restriction on gatherings are just a few of the things we experience daily now. Despite all the challenges, I have also seen how resilient people this year have been. So many people in Hawaii are very considerate, patient, courteous, tolerant, and polite.

2021 is the year of the Ox, or "Ushi" in Japanese. The ox is the second symbol in the Japanese Zodiac. Legend has it that when all the Zodiac animals were initially summoned by the gods, the rat hitched a ride atop the ox for the long journey. At the end of the trek, the rat jumped off and ran ahead to the finish line right before the ox. Although the ox came in second, the gods recognized the ox for its steady determination and patience on the long journey. So, in the spirit of the Ox in 2021, let us be both steadfast and patient in our journey to realize the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please take care of yourself and your loved ones.

In Gassho,

Bishop Shugen Komagata



You can't predict the future

“人間万事塞翁が馬 *Ningen banji saiou ga uma (Japanese proverb)*”

Story by Rev. Daito Noda

In this world, there no telling what event might lead to happiness or unhappiness.

Long ago in China, there lived a wise old man in a remote fortress town. This old man had a son who was adept at riding a horse. One day, this horse the son was taking care of ran away from a barn, and nobody knew where the horse went. Many in the fortress town visited the old man and expressed their condolences. To these folks, the old man said, “Well, in this world, there is no telling if this incident might lead to fortune or misfortune in the future.”

A few months later, that missing horse came back with six beautiful wild horses. Neighbors came over to the old man's house and remarked how lucky he and his son were. To this, the old man said, “Well, in this world, there is no telling if this incident might lead to fortune or misfortune in the future.”

A few days later, this man's son fell off from one of the new horses. The son broke his leg. The injury was so severe that the son limped visibly thereafter. Folks in this village came to the old man's house and expressed their sorrow. To this, the old man said, “Well, in this world, there is no telling if this incident might lead to fortune or misfortune in the future.”

One year later, the neighboring enemy country invaded the old man's fortress town. Every able-bodied young man in this town was drafted and went to war. But the old man's son was not drafted due to his disability and remained in the village. While almost all young men died in this war, the son lived on. He was the only young man left in this village.

Fortunes and misfortunes are all parts of one's life. The only thing we can do is to do our best in this world.



Online Dharma Message

Soto Zen Buddhism in Hawaii is providing online Dharma talks on YouTube and Facebook two times a month. Rev. Shuji, Rev. Hata and Rev. Hoshino's video have been published. You can watch the videos by using the link or scanning the QR code below.



Youtube Page Link

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsTHV_8A59kEfZIBRImDtRw

Facebook Page Link

<https://www.facebook.com/Soto-Zen-Buddhism-in-Hawaii-111602773848472/>



Please scan the QR code with your smartphone to access the website!!



Schedule

Rev. Myoshin Kaniyama Dec 27, 2020
Bishop Shugen Komagata January 10, 2021
Rev. Hirosato Yoshida January 24, 2021
Rev. Ryokei Ishii February 14, 2021

Rev. Daitso Wright February 28, 2021
Rev. Shoryu Fukagawa March 14, 2021
Rev. Jiko Nakade March 28, 2021

