



WIND BELL

Monthly Newsletter of the
San Francisco Zen Center
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WHAT IS THE LAW

05-00
One day the World Honoured One mounted the pulpit, and the first principle was proclaimed. Manjusuri struck the table with a gavel and said, "The Law. Understand the Law. The Royal Law is like this." The World Honoured One came down from his seat. If you think what he proclaimed is the Royal Law, that is not right. The Royal Law was there when he was on the pulpit.

"Like this" was as strong as the sound of the gavel. If Manjusuri had not struck the gavel, no one could know what was the Royal Law. The World Honoured One would not have had the chance to come down from his seat. You may say when Manjusuri struck the gavel, Buddhism as we practice it began. If the World Honoured One were to be always on the dais, no one could mount the dais after him.

THE EVENT

On May 20 our Zen Temple Sokoji will have a Shinsanshiki Ceremony for Master Suzuki. This Buddhist tradition originated in China, then to Japan and now to America for the first time. Shinsanshiki is one of the old classical ceremony for a new temple master. In this ceremony, Master Shunryu Suzuki is supposed to enter the temple for the first time in the capacity of a temple master in his qualified robe. He will follow behind a long beautifully organized procession with guest priests and officers, members of the temple, and Sunday School children with flowers in their hands.

Incense and special gatha will be offered to each Buddha in the temple and a temple seal will be received. Following an old Zen custom, he will give a grace in gatha form for world peace and the welfare of human beings and then proclaim his vision of the first principle of Buddhism when he mounts his new pulpit.

The deep meaning of this ceremony may be found in The Blue Cliff Records translated and edited with commentary by R. D. M. Shaw, Model Subject No. 92 - The World Revered One Takes His Seat.

NEWS

Letter from Jean Ross - Eiheiji Temple:

"For the past 4-5 days I've gotten up at 3 A.M. Actually a monk doesn't come thru the halls with bells until 3:30, but I like to get in and out of the wash room etc. We meditate from 3:45 to 4:15, and several of those odd instrumental effects you hear in the record are used at the beginning and the end. Following this there is two hours of chanting, and I climb 95 steps from one building to another. Breakfast is around 7:00 A.M.

These priests from the country are MEN not saints. Their faces express a high degree of individualism tempered by much discipline. I have no doubt they have or indulge in the normal appetite appeasement. Zen is life and a priest must be experienced in order to hold up a mirror so we can see ourselves."

LECTURE AND ZAZEN SCHEDULES

Lectures: every Wednesday at 7:30 P.M. and Sundays at 11:00 A.M.
Zazen: every morning at 5:45 (except Sundays when there is zazen at 7:00 A.M.)
Saturday mornings from 5:45 - 10:00 A.M.
every evening at 5:30 (except Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays)
Note: no zazen held on those days with either a 4 or 9.