

Sept. 62

WIND BELL

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ZEN CENTER
1881 Bush Street - San Francisco

BODHIDHARMA'S ZEN

The Emperor Wu built many temples, translated many scriptures, and encouraged many men and women to believe in the monastic life. The Emperor thought he would attain Nirvana as a result of these works he considered meritorious.

When Bodhidharma came to the Emperor's land, the Emperor asked, "What is the Holy reality?"

Bodhidharma answered, "Emptiness, no Holiness."

The Emperor asked again, "Who are you then?"

Bodhidharma said, "Something intangible (Holy reality)."

True merit is the result of pure and whole practice of Zen. Holy reality is not the result of works of merit. Because the Emperor's attitude toward reality and merit was the opposite of Bodhidharma's, he could not respond to Bodhidharma's statement.

After the interview with the Emperor, Bodhidharma crossed the river to the state of Wei; but in reality he did not leave the Emperor. The Emperor is not always with us, but Bodhidharma is always in this place. Thus all the schools of Zen originate from Bodhidharma's Zen.

If the Emperor's view of merit were correct, for whom would there be Holy reality?

What is pure and whole practice?

NYU SHIN SHIKI CEREMONY

This year's week long sesshin was well attended throughout the week. Beginning Wednesday, Bishop Yamada conducted the sesshin and gave an inspiring series of lectures on Nagarjuna's and Bodhidharma's Zazen. He also presented some interesting problems in the form of Zen stories for us to solve. He conducted Dokusan for all those attending.

The week finished Sunday with a Nyu Shin Shiki ("initiation") ceremony for fifteen persons who have practiced Zazen at this temple for one year or more. Each person was given a Buddhist name and a Rakusu or Buddhist robe. Those receiving the robe were Betty Warren, Della Goertz, Charles Gilman, Bob Carr, Bill Kwong, Richard Aspen, Paul Alexander, Constance Luick, Phillip Wilson, Jan Hailey, Al Levinson, Urbain Kinet, Sally Unger, Grahame Petchey, and Richard Baker.

VISITORS FROM JAPAN

The seventieth anniversary of the introduction of Buddhism to America brings a group of thirty five members of different sects to San Francisco and other cities in the U. S. A. There will be five people representing the Soto sect: Shoshun Iwamoto, Bishop of Sojiji Monastery; Shyich Kongo, Head of the Soto H. Q.; Dadan Kurumo former Head of the Soto H. Q. and two professors. This group will be visiting our temple from October 3 to October 6.

On Thursday, October 4 at 7.30 p. m. a special ceremony will be held at this temple to celebrate the seventieth anniversary of Buddhism in America and to honor the visit of the group from Japan. Afterwards we want as many people as possible to meet the visitors and talk with them about the problems of spreading Buddhism in America. We hope you will be able to attend. Further details about the anniversary schedule may be obtained from Zen Center later this month.

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