



Three Wheels NEWS



London Shogyoji Trust

April 2015

Number 25

Praying for Peace and Reconciliation at Three Wheels

On Sunday, August 31st 2014, the grounds of Three Wheels Temple swelled to overflowing with dignitaries, religious representatives of various traditions, other guests and their family members. All were gathered for the same purpose: to pray for world peace, promote reconciliation between Japanese and British war veterans and to remember those who tragically lost their lives in the Second World War.



The opening address by the Consul-General Mr. Kawamura from the Japanese Embassy,

After an opening address by Consul-General Mr. Kawamura from the Japanese Embassy, started the service of sutra chanting by Three Wheels' priests and some guest Buddhist monks from different traditions. Incense was offered, poems were read and a moment of silence was observed. In the quiet space I bowed my head and gave heartfelt thanks for the peace we have today, because of great sacrifices made by Japanese and British soldiers during the war.

After the observance, we were shown a film about the reconciliation movement. Several British war veterans – many now deceased – were surprisingly candid about their reconciliation experiences and the impact it had in their lives. Mr. Hirakubo also appeared in the film briefly, but his words left a strong lasting impression on me.

He said it was important to remember the war dead *on both sides*. Then, he added that it was even more important “to

make peace between the ones who are left behind” And true to his word, after the end of the war, Mr. Hirakubo went back to Japan and dedicated the rest of his days to reconciling the two opposing sides, overcoming hatred and promoting peace. The film gave us only a small glimpse of how difficult and challenging a task Mr. Hirakubo had taken on. What a great human being he was.

After the film ended, Rev. Kemmyo Taira Sato shared with us the history behind the Reconciliation Service as well as the important part that Mr. Hirakubo played in it. At the end of his talk, Rev. Sato gave thanks to Mr. Hirakubo for planting the seeds of the reconciliation movement almost twenty years ago. We were deeply moved by his story.

Towards the end of the ceremonies, British war veteran Mr. Bill Smyly spoke about his personal experiences on the battlefield, He too, strongly emphasised the need of healing. He said: *“Hatred is harmful to man, akin to a disease. We need to keep working to overcome hostilities in order to heal and start the mending process so necessary to human growth and progress.”*



The gathering at Three Wheels

This year's Reconciliation Service has lifted me and touched my heart. I would like to express my gratitude to Three Wheels Temple, for inviting me to such a wonderful healing experience. Thank you very much.

Rachelle

The Seventh Memorial Service for the Late Mr. Masao Hirakubo On the Occasion of the 116th London Eza

Esteemed representatives of other religious traditions, including Rev. Martin Robbins of Canterbury Cathedral; distinguished diplomats from the Embassy of Japan, including Minister and Consul General, Mr. Hiroshi Kawamura; representatives of international reconciliation

organizations and honoured wives of war veterans who helped their husbands towards the attainment of reconciliation, thank you all very much indeed for taking part in this ceremony at Three Wheels today to pray for world peace and reconciliation between the British and

Japanese soldiers who once fought one another on the battlefields of Burma during the Second World War.

We have been holding this reconciliation meeting at Three



The late Mr. Masao Hirakubo

Wheels every summer now for the past seventeen years, ever since 1997, the year Mr. Masao Hirakubo and his British friends from the Burma Campaign Friendship Group first visited me at Three Wheels to ask what I as a Buddhist felt I could do to help towards reconciliation.

Today's service is the eighteenth ceremony of reconciliation to be held at Three Wheels. As part of our annual ceremony I have also regularly included a special memorial service for the brave soldiers who laid down their lives for their countries during the war, as well as for their surviving comrades who subsequently dedicated their lives to the quest for world peace and reconciliation after the war. Today, in accordance with Japanese tradition, I am conducting the very special Seventh Memorial Service for the late Mr. Masao Hirakubo, father of our reconciliation movement.

Most of the war veterans who used to attend our annual ceremony have now passed away and the few that still survive are too frail or sick to be with us today. Given this sad situation, however, I am particularly happy and grateful to be able to welcome to our meeting one war veteran at least, Mr. Bill Smyly, together with his wife, Diana, from the Bedford branch of the Burma Star Association.

On this important occasion, let me talk a little about my impressions of Mr. Hirakubo who fought in the Burma Campaign during the last World War and was the originator of the reconciliation movement between British and Japanese war veterans.

After retiring in 1983 from a Japanese trading company, known as the Marubeni Corporation, Mr. Hirakubo embarked on a series of visits to British war veterans, his former enemies, in a sincere attempt to bring about reconciliation. It cannot have been at all an easy task and I consider Mr. Hirakubo showed great courage adopting such a course and doing, just for the sake of doing so, what seemed to him to be right. In 1983 he took two British war veterans to Japan to meet their Japanese counterparts and in 1984 invited fifteen Japanese veterans from the 31st Regiment to meet the British divisional commander and members of the 2nd Regiment in York. He accompanied British friends to Japan no fewer than six times and twice invited Japanese friends over to the UK. As a direct result of such visits and the degree of spiritual exchange they fostered, understanding between the two countries began to improve. In 1991 the Burma Campaign Friendship Group was formed for the sole purpose of reconciliation and, in

2002, this ideal was taken over by the Burma Campaign Society, of which Mr. Hirakubo became Chairman.

After the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, Mr. Hirakubo played a very important role in accelerating the movement of reconciliation, asking religious organisations such as Westminster Abbey, Coventry Cathedral, Canterbury Cathedral and Three Wheels to hold joint memorial services for the deceased soldiers. Thanks to his heroic efforts, we can now see a much more stable and harmonious relationship existing between Britain and Japan.

When he heard on the battlefield the news of the unconditional surrender of Japan, Mr. Hirakubo, an officer responsible for supplying soldiers with food and other necessities, quietly instructed his men not to commit *harakiri* or try and hide among the Burmese people but to strive to keep going, so as to help rebuild their devastated fatherland for the next generation. Mr. Hirakubo himself felt it his duty to dedicate the rest of his life, saved through the sacrifice by his comrades of theirs, to doing all he could do to bring about the reconstruction of Japan. On the voyage home, he added to this yet another important task for himself, namely to help bring about reconciliation between the two countries, for he felt that it was the responsibility of both Britain and Japan to work together in order to strive for world peace.

He was indeed a brave man and extremely resolute. As briefly described, he devoted his time and energies throughout his life to fulfilling the vow he had made at the end of the war.

My final meeting with him was on 24th of February 2008, the day of the 78th London Eza. As I sat next to him, waiting for the proceedings to begin, he whispered to me, "Sato san, I am dying." Mr. Hirakubo OBE passed away on 4th of March. Reconciliation was his one true purpose. He poured all his efforts into achieving that goal. All that I can say to him now are just these few, simple words of gratitude, "Thank you very much indeed, Hirakubo-san, for all you did for us."

In Buddhism the essential meaning of holding a memorial service lies in expressing our gratitude to the departed for all that we have received from them.

The only thing that we can do, we who still remain, is to keep on working towards the achievement of peace and reconciliation in the world. Let us 'do for the doing' and continue, both humbly and gratefully, to carry on with the exalted task Mr. Hirakubo bequeathed us.

To conclude this talk, I would like to say how happy I am to see the way the reconciliation movement has now combined with interfaith dialogue between Christianity and Buddhism to produce an even deeper level of understanding for future generations to inherit.

Thank you.

Rev. Kemmyo Taira Sato

"Cleaning the Channels of Faith"

117th Eza

It was on a beautiful autumn day with sunshine and a slight chill in the air that Three Wheels hosted the 117th London Eza incorporating Hoonko-otorikoshi, the annual memorial

service to Shinran Shonin. It was also significantly the occasion of the 35th day Memorial for the late Rev. Ganshin Rock, on whose behalf many participants led by

his wife Mrs. Reiko Rock, offered incense.

Rev. Sato gave a wonderful talk about “Cleaning out the Channels of Faith”, explaining the meaning of one of Rennyō-Shōnin’s last letters telling the story of a temple built in a beautiful area with a strong affinity to Buddha dharma. At age of 84, Rennyō Shōnin was feeling that due to illness he was likely to go imminently to the Pure Land. He thus expressed his desire to support followers in attaining faith, wishing that each person attain faith during their Hoonko-otōrikoshi meeting.



The Service

Rev. Sato emphasised the huge efforts of priests and also their wives, and the importance of attaining faith alongside practical work. Rennyō Shōnin - he noted - addressed many letters to women.

After the talk, an Australian Dharma friend Mr. Graham Ranft played a beautiful poignant song of remembrance. It was called The Eternal Farewell and was dedicated to Shinran Shōnin. Mr. Graham Ranft was



Mr. Graham Ranft

visiting from Sydney, and expressed his gratitude for the chance to take part in the Eza meeting.

Rev. Sato expressed his sincere thanks and gratitude to the wife of the late Rev. Ganshin Rock, for the wonderful contribution her husband had made including the donation of distributing Buddhist texts to schools and hospitals. He had truly been like a compassionate father to younger priests in the UK.

One participant had noted that the talk had focused him to clarify the true purpose of the Shokai retreat, and to ensure that he is not just going through the motions. When approached wholeheartedly, it should be about clearing out the channels of faith.

After the service, a wonderful shared meal was enjoyed by all as we continued informal conversations into the afternoon.

Matthew Albiges

“The Way of Doing Good Originates from Taking Refuge in Amida Buddha” 118th Eza

The 118th London Eza was held on Sunday 7th December 2014 at Three Wheels.

Rev. Kemmyo Taira Sato presented a Dharma talk entitled “The Way of Doing Good Originates from Taking Refuge” in which he reflected on recent events of important spiritual significance which occurred during and following his recent stay in Japan. These included: the ceremony of agreement for spiritual exchange between the recently created D. T. Suzuki Museum in Kanazawa and The Buddhist Society in London which Rev. Sato attended with Dr. Desmond Biddulph, President of The Buddhist Society and his wife Darcy; the appointment of Mrs. Kayoko Hosokawa as a Responsible Trustee of Shogyoji Temple and the Shokai retreat which was held at Three Wheels last month.

Rev. Sato discussed the Mahayana Buddhist ideal of “doing good” which is the simultaneous benefiting of oneself and others through all kinds of activities. Only through the faith of taking refuge in the Buddha can we be freed of our tenacious attachment to the self-centred world and go forward with joy and gratitude, doing for the doing what appears to be good. Rev. Sato encouraged us all by saying; “Thanks to the great working of the Tathagata [Amida Buddha], all of you have been doing wonderful things, are



Rev. Kemmyo Sato giving his speech

doing so now and will continue to do so in the future.”

Rev. Sato recounted the time he spent together with Dr. and Mrs. Biddulph at Shogyoji Temple. Dr. Biddulph gave a wonderful talk, entitled ‘Shogyoji Comes West’, about the establishment of Three Wheels and its activities in London. The couple spent several days enjoying life at Shogyoji and experiencing many activities there. Observing life in

the Samgha in this way the couple also came out with some lovely, spontaneous expressions, such as “This is living Buddhism in our modern world, Buddhism being lived by those who have fully experienced modern culture,” “Here at the temple they have ‘sesshin’ every day,” “It is a lay monastery” and “We will come back to you soon.”

After Rev. Sato’s talk we heard reports and first hand impressions of the recent Shokai Retreat from Rev. Gary Daichi Robinson, Mr. Andy Barritt, Mr. Duncan Kennedy, Mr. Sam Kelly, Mr. Chris Dodd and Mr. Russell Searle. It was wonderful to hear the retreat reported on from so many different perspectives and they all shared in common a deep appreciation of what was the central theme of the retreat; “The Meaning of Samgha”. With reference to Rev. Sato’s earlier talk Rev. Robinson reminded us that taking refuge in the Buddha is the foundation of all our activities in the Samgha without which it would merely be a social organisation without any spiritual substance.

In response to Rev. Sato’s announcement in his talk that Mrs. Kayoko Hosokawa had been appointed to be a responsible trustee of Shogyoji Temple, Professor John White made a statement detailing the importance to the future of Shogyoji Temple of the appointment of its first female trustee since the passing of “Dharma Mother” Ekai-sama who both led the temple and had been one of



Mrs. Darcy Biddulph

its Responsible Trustees following its incorporation as a religious body. Professor White was very happy to learn of the appointment of Mrs. Hosokawa.

The members of the Three Wheel’s Student Group then co-ordinated the end of year Party with great energy and enthusiasm, leading us through some fun and enjoyable activities including a quiz, raffle and some performances which included an excellent original musical composition from Rev. Robinson and Mr. Searle.

Andrew Webb

“The Meaning of our Samgha” - Reflections on the 14th Shokai Retreat

19 people gathered at Three Wheels for the 14th Shokai retreat. This number included four new participants and also some old friends who had missed the last retreat. Under such circumstances the retreat might have started very tentatively, with people uncertain or lacking direction, but in actual fact everything was very focused right from the start thanks to the extraordinary opening message from Sam K.



The participants during the Service

It so happened that, only an hour before the retreat began, Sam K. received a phone call that one of his sons had collapsed suddenly at work and been rushed into hospital. Having ascertained that there was nothing he could do to help his son at that moment Sam didn’t leave the retreat but went ahead with enthusiastically chairing the opening meeting. Seeing his attitude all the gathered friends were deeply impressed and encouraged by his profound attitude of entrusting and devotion.

Following Sam’s welcome message, Rev. Sato gave a talk in which he referred to Sam’s attitude in light of his recent

reading of the *Shōman-kyō* in which the Queen says, ‘*In accepting the True Dharma, may I abandon body, life, and wealth and uphold the True Dharma.*’ Sensei said, ‘*No matter how trivial the action that you undertake for the Three Treasures, if you do it for the doing then it will be the whole thing.*’ ‘*You are all doing wonderful things,*’ Sensei encouraged everyone.

On the second day of the retreat Rev. Kenshin Ishii gave a talk about ‘The Meaning of Nembutsu Practice’, based on a question he received in his heart at the recent Southampton Shin Buddhist Conference. The fundamental point was Rev. Ishii’s personal introspection and confirmation that he should follow his Master Ven. Takehara’s advice to go back ‘to one’s self-awareness of ignorance so that we can listen to others minds’, and that ‘everything is a given opportunity for us to become aware of karmic existence and at the same time of Amida’s love’.

Various people were very impressed by Rev. Ishii’s talk and one Dharma friend said that it had reminded him that other people, Dharma friends, are the ‘care-takers’ of his awakening of faith. Even though he could remember his starting point of awakening faith it was like remembering the taste of sugar. The memory is not the same as the experience itself. Only through listening to Dharma friends could be refresh his faith-experience.

A very notable feature of this Shokai was the participation of Rev. Gary Daichi Robinson from the Nishi Honganji Shin Buddhist tradition for the first time. Throughout the retreat Rev. Robinson acted extremely respectfully and humbly to all the gathered Dharma friends, despite his status as a priest, and also contributed in his own ways such as giving a lesson in T’ai chi ch’uan to the Shokai participants. At the close of the retreat Rev. Robinson said that he had worried what the effect of his presence, as a priest from another community would be, but that he had discovered that, ‘*Three Wheels has come a long way and*

you are all really strong in practice; personalities don't matter anymore. Please keep going.'

Andy

Between the 21st and 23rd of November I was able to visit Three Wheels to attend the 14th Shokai Retreat. It was really wonderful to receive such a warm and friendly welcome, and meeting again with members of the Samgha was like a family reunion with such a relaxing and comfortable atmosphere. It was very nice to see the Rev. Daichi Gary Robinson and Russell who had travelled up from Southampton to join the retreat.

A vow of sincere practice was given by Andrew W, which was very heartfelt, and made me realize how complacent I am in trying to listen to the Buddha Dharma. The opening talk given by Rev. Kemmyo Sato made me at least start to realize how precious the Three Treasures are, and how I hadn't even really realized or understood this.

On the following morning I was again so impressed by the feeling of harmony between everyone, which created such a comfortable and relaxing atmosphere. As ever the thoughtfulness and kindness shown to every single one of us was just amazing.

The theme of the 14th Shokai Retreat was "What is the meaning of Samgha". I can't say I know the answer to that, but I can say that having met the Samgha at Three Wheels, and also at Shogyoji, Kyoto, Tokyo, and now Southampton, that the Samgha are without doubt some of the finest people I have ever known. I would like to say thank you to all of you for helping me in so many ways.

Chris

In his Welcome Message Rev. Sato relayed how the theme of the Shokai retreat, "What is Samgha" had led him to look back at the history of Three Wheels, reflecting on

the phrase "Harmony within diversity" which had always been a guiding principle of the Three Wheels community. The essence of this principle is - "Differences should be understood, cherished and used to create enlightened energy, and offset conflict". Rev. Sato ended by reminding the participants how important it was for us to understand and cherish each other, as individuals and through sincere reflection in the light of Amida - to 'create enlightened energy' to self-benefit, and benefit others during the Shokai, and in the New Year ahead.



The Shokai participants

This was followed by a 'Vow of Sincere Practice' given by Andrew W. Andrew's Shokai retreat vow was to return to his starting point within the Three Wheels Samgha, to take refuge in Amida Buddha, the Nembutsu teaching of Shinran Shonin and the pure minds of his Dharma friends.

The Chair then urged Dharma friends to make the most of the great opportunity that Shokai was offering all of us. Through encounter we can really help each other along the path.

Sam

"The Great Question has been solved through our Spiritual Experiences" The Students of Yamaguchi University

During the end of August 2014, the 2nd Spiritual Training Session for the students of Yamaguchi University was held. Although the purpose of their journey to London is mainly to study English and engineering at University College London during their summer holiday, Yamaguchi University wanted their students to have spiritual training at Three Wheels prior to their studying at UCL. The reason for Yamaguchi University sending students to UCL is that the University would like to bring their students as people who are able to work globally like the Choshu Five, the pioneers of Japanese modernisation, who came to UCL to study in 1863.

Having been informed about the 1st session held in 2013, many students of the University became interested in attending and 14 students were selected to participate. What the students did at Three Wheels was not only studying the relationship between the Choshu Five and UCL but also reading *The Sutra On The Importance of What Has Been Done for Us by Our Parents*. During their three night stay at Three Wheels, they read the sutra, shared their

impressions on it and visited Brookwood Cemetery to pay respect to Professor and Mrs. Williamson, who about 150 years ago took care of the Choshu Five and other Japanese students.

At the closing ceremony of the session, I was surprised and moved to hear their impressions. Let me quote from two of them:

"To begin with I wondered what could possibly be the purpose of staying at Three Wheels prior to our visit to UCL. However, having listened to the talks on the Choshu Five and Professor Alexander Williamson and the relationship that exists between UCL and Japan, it became clear to me how necessary and significant this time at Three Wheels was. Also I came to understand that Three Wheels is striving not only to convey the historical aspect of the relationship between Britain and Japan but also its present one."

"I had not understood why we would visit a Japanese

temple in London before I came to Three Wheels. However, I feel that I learned there what I would not be able to learn in Japan. First of all, I became so grateful to my parents through reading *The Sutra On The Importance of What Has Been Done for Us by Our Parents*. I did not know the depth of their love to me. Secondly, having learnt the relationship between the Choshu Five and Prof. and Mrs. Williamson, I realised how important a role Prof. Williamson took for Japan.”

These are just a few of their words but what they felt through this spiritual training session was their original feelings towards staying at Three Wheels completely changed and they realised it was an essential part of their study in the UK. I am really happy to hear how their opinions changed through their own self-awareness. I can confidently say that such wonderful experiences are the working of Amida Buddha.

Rev. Kenshin Ishii



The Yamaguchi students at the Williamson Monument

In Memory of Rev. Ten'ei Ganshin Emmanuel Rock Koji

Rev. Ganshin Emmanuel Rock, born the only son of Mr Nathan Rock and his wife, Rebecca, on 6 July 1926, passed away at the age of eighty-eight on 1st September 2014.

Rev. Ganshin Rock received his education at a London grammar school, where he specialized in English literature. Having subsequently gone on to study aeronautical engineering, he later served as a glider pilot in World War II. After the war he took up residence in Japan, where he worked as a corporate executive for a telecommunication company in Tokyo.

From 1982 to 1986, Rev. Rock regularly attended the Buddhist English Academy, where he met Professor Shoshin Ichishima of Taisho University. In 1986 he was ordained as a priest by Venerable Shoshin Ichishima at the latter's temple in Chiba Prefecture.

Returning to the UK in 1986, Rev. Rock began teaching Buddhism at his private residence in Romsey, where he had enshrined a statue of Yakushi Nyorai, the Medicine Buddha, that had come into his possession forty years previously. In later years he continued his service to the Buddha by conducting weekly meditation classes and giving readings from the Lotus Sutra and other Buddhist texts to his regular students.

From 1988, Rev. Rock spent three years working with mentally ill patients in a hospital as an occupational therapy assistant. He also studied osteopathy and earned a licence as a practitioner. In 1992, he was appointed Consultant to the Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai with the responsibility of disseminating copies of their book *The Teaching of Buddha* to hotels, schools, hospitals and other institutions throughout the country. He was additionally appointed by the Department of Education as Buddhist Adviser for religious education for the UK's school system and on occasion would also be asked to give lectures on Buddhism at local schools.

Rev. Ganshin put in a tremendous amount of effort into promoting inter-faith dialogue. One of the major actions he undertook was to visit Northern Ireland in person in order to share Buddhist teachings and try and help establish peace between the Catholics and Protestants. He then sent a detailed report to the British Prime Minister of the time, urging him to intensify dialogue with all conflicting parties. In this way Rev. Ganshin Rock committed himself to spreading the Dharma in every way he could.



The late Rev. Ganshin Emmanuel Rock

On the occasion of his funeral Rev. Rock's master, Ven. Professor Shoshin Ichishima, sent him a posthumous title, Ten'ei, meaning the first British Tendai priest.

Although a busy man, the loving kindness shown by Rev. Rock to everyone around him was quite exceptional. As one of those who were very keen to practise the Buddha-Dharma with him, I would like to say a heartfelt 'thank you' to him for the warm encouragement I received from him whenever we met.

Rev. Kemmyo Taira Sato

Sharing That Which Is Beyond Value

It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge here in the Three Wheels Newsletter the support that the Three Wheels Samgha selflessly gave to our small team at Chomon House in Southampton on the occasion of the 17th International Association of Buddhist Culture European Shin Conference which was held in the UK for only the second time in its 34 year history, Sep 1st – 4th 2014.



Rev. Gary Daichi Robinson

The task of staging this conference was so complex. Chomon House began work on it in 2012, and by the time it took place around about twenty individuals had become involved as volunteers in various aspects of the project. It was in this spirit of cooperation and indeed, “Harmony within Diversity” that we turned frequently to Rev. Sato and Rev. Kenshin Ishii for their advice in matters of Japanese etiquette and protocol, including how we should dress the two shrines that would be used at the Shin Buddhist services which took place throughout the conference.

One of our greatest problems was a lack of shrine accessories. The solution was simple and significant in

symbolism, and in gesture of the greatest generosity, Three Wheels loaned Chomon House items from their own Buddha shrine. Accordingly, in the evening of Sunday 21st August 2014, immediately after the 116th London Eza held that day, the flower vase – complete with beautiful ikebana display and candlestick with special (red) candle were transported from London to Southampton and installed into the conference venue.

This sharing of material objects between Three Wheels and Chomon House represents something beyond value; clear evidence of the workings of Buddha, Dharma and Samgha and the potential of the fulfilment of Amida’s Compassionate Vows.

The installation of Rev. Kenshin Ishii as Rev. Sato’s assistant at Three Wheels was without doubt a good thing; good not only for Three Wheels but also for the whole of the Shin/Pure Land community here in the UK. I say this because of all those that volunteered to help Chomon House stage the 17th ESC in Southampton, one of the most enthusiastic was Rev. Kenshin Ishii who throughout the conference proved by his actions that he was prepared to give his all to help us build a Jodo Shinshu Buddha Land here in the UK.

The next IABC ESC will be held in Antwerp in Aug/Sept 2016 and though this time around we here in the UK will not be involved in its organisation our participation remains crucial and it is therefore my sincere hope that between now and then we stay focused on the work that we do have to do and whenever possible, do it together and as the one Samgha of Amida Buddha that is beginning to bloom here in the UK and across mainland Europe.

Rev. Gary Daichi Robinson

Harmony and Cookery - Our Regular Students’ Meeting

Ten students attended our meeting held on the 18th and 19th October 2014. During the opening service I felt a great happiness both in seeing all the students gathered before the Buddha shrine and in the fact that almost all of them had in the past visited our parent temple, Shogyoji.

Recently two students had unfortunately experienced the loss of their grandfathers. In the light of this Rev. Kenshin Ishii asked them to recall what had been done for them by their grandfathers. After hearing their memories Rev. Kenshin Ishii gently taught them that the practice of pronouncing the Nembutsu contains two meanings: one is to say “I’m sorry” for the person I have been and the other is “thank you very much” for allowing me to be who I am without rejecting me.

The main activity of the October Students’ meeting was a ‘Cooking competition’. This idea was given by the members themselves. Before they started cooking, Rev. Ishii explained that the purpose was not to compete with other teams; “so please let’s treasure the feeling of harmony within diversity”. Each team had a very enjoyable time throughout the challenge. We were surprised by the students’ cooking ability and of course by the tasty result of their endeavours which was very impressive for their

ages.

I was delighted to hear from the students that they wanted to help with their mothers cooking at home and felt how much all of them had learnt and grown during our time together at Three Wheels.

Sanae Ishii



The students sharing their own cooking

Queen Srimala: A poem by John White

**The Lion's Roar
of Queen Srimala,**

**that
is the name
they have given the Sūtra,**

**but she
was a lioness,**

**a leader
of lions,**

a woman,

a Buddha-to-be,

**for gods
and for Bodhisattvas**

and men

to bow down to,

**taller
than Sumeru,**

**brighter
than jewels,**

**embraced
and embracing,**

**she
became one
with the Dharma.**

Editors' Note.

For comments, criticisms, and questions concerning the Newsletter or if you want to provide material for inclusion, please contact Dr Lucien Chocron, 31 Sherlock Court, Dorman Way, London, NW8 0RU, Tel: 07773581671, Email: lucienuk03@gmail.com

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