



Three Wheels NEWS



London Shogyoji Trust

October 2011

Number 20

PRAYER FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

The 99th London Eza and annual ceremony to pray for world peace and reconciliation between British and Japanese war veterans.

The *Eza* was chaired by Mr. Andy Barritt who opened proceedings by introducing Mr. Hitoshi Noda, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Embassy of Japan in London. Mr. Noda began by extending his sympathy to the people of Great Britain following the recent disturbances in many of its cities and expressing his gratitude for the kindness and sympathy shown by British people to Japan following the recent earthquake in March 2011. This catastrophe and the assistance given by the British in the aftermath had, Mr. Noda added, provided an opportunity to reflect on the strengths of Japan's bi-lateral relationship with the U.K. Mr. Noda then offered his deepest respect to Rev. Sato and everyone connected with Three Wheels for their sincere efforts in bringing about peace and reconciliation between British and Japanese Servicemen and asked us all to continue in our prayer for World Peace.



Mr. Hitoshi Noda, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Embassy of Japan in London.

Following the traditional memorial service to the Buddha participated in by Priests and Monks of different Buddhist traditions, Reverend Kemmyo Sato gave a brief talk of thanks entitled: 'The Impermanence of Things'. Rev. Sato began his talk by reflecting on the war veterans who were instrumental in creating this annual ceremony but had now passed on to the other shore or were now too ill or frail to attend, including Mr. Maurice Frances who died only last year. Rev. Sato recalled the "tremendous courage"

Mr. Frances showed right up until the very end of his life, "insisting on taking part in our spiritual movement even though in his weakened state it meant putting his life in danger". Rev. Sato then thanked Mr. Frances's widow Jean and her family for coming to attend today's memorial service. Rev. Sato ended his talk with the prayer, "Let's pronounce the Name of Amida Buddha together and pray for peaceful harmony out of diversity so that everyone may love themselves and others at the same time in the embrace of the great love and compassion of the Buddha".

Next we were read letters from those veterans who were unable to attend this memorial service. Firstly we heard from Mr. Philip Malins, who Rev. Sato informed us, had recently been awarded the Rising Sun award by the Japanese Government for the tremendous work he has done towards peace and reconciliation over the years. Mr. Malins wrote in Mr. Hitoshi Noda, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Embassy of Japan in London inspiring of how we can rejoice that: "66 years have now passed without world war with the prospect there will never be another, and that will be the reward for all the sacrifice. Reconciliation is the final victory for both sides". The second letter we listened to was from Mr. Satoru Yanagi who had, because of his health condition dictated his letter to his wife so that it could be sent to Three Wheels and read out at the *Eza*. Reflecting on his encounter with Mr. Maurice Frances at the first peace and reconciliation *Eza* that was held at Three Wheels in 1997 Mr. Yanagi wrote; "It was through my encounter with Maurice Frances that I came to see a world of light, filled with love and compassion". Mr. Yanagi ended his letter by writing; "Awakened at last to the way the London *Ezas* at Three Wheels every August were specially prepared for me, for my salvation, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all of you for what you have done for me. Thank you very much". The last letter we heard was from Mr. Tom Bruin, a 96 year old veteran who wrote that through his visits to the peace and reconciliation *Ezas* at Three Wheels he was: "profoundly thankful to have met many Japanese veterans in a spirit of friendship and reconciliation. They, like those of us who survived the 'hell on earth' experience war can sometimes be, could truly could truly appreciate

the blessing of peace”.

Mr. Andy Barritt then introduced the family of Mr. Maurice Franes who each gave a moving tribute to their father and grandfather for all that he had done for them and for others in his sincere and joyful commitment to world peace and reconciliation. Mr. Frances’s granddaughter stated with great happiness her thanks to Three Wheels for believing in peace and reconciliation as her grandfather did. Lastly, Maya. Mr. Frances’s great granddaughter sang a song that brought tears to the eyes of many. Mr. Andy Barritt then said in response how each year coming to the peace and reconciliation *Eza* he had struggled with the question of how it could be carried on into the future but that now through encountering Mr. Frances’s family his question had been answered. “I should have known”, Andy continued, “that Mr. Frances would not have left us without showing us the way forward”.

We then heard from other regular attendees of this *Eza* such as Mrs Akiko MacDonald and Mrs Phillida Purvis who have done much work to support peace and reconciliation activities. Mr. Jon Brown, speaking at his last *Eza* before going to Japan to work as an English teacher, expressed his gratitude to those like Mr. Franes who had tirelessly worked for reconciliation after the war. Jon described how he felt that he was not leaving the London *Eza* behind but carrying its spirit with him to Japan. Rev. Ishii told us of how for the last six years he had visited the home of Mr. Yanagi in Japan to hold an annual Obon ceremony for him and his family and reflected on Mr. Yanagi’s great encounter with



Maya sang a song for her great grandfather

Mr. Maurice Franes that had completely changed his life. Rev. Ishii then spoke about the devastation and loss of life caused by the recent earthquake in Japan and how through a similar attitude to that shown by Mr. Yanagi people were able to transform their suffering into the joy of living.

The *Eza* was concluded with a wonderful meal with many dishes donated by the attendees. Professor John White also gave a talk on the history of the Zen Garden to first time visitors, which was great appreciated by all.

Andrew Webb

Editor’s Note: You can read the full text of the letters sent by the war veterans on the Three Wheels Website .

Thank You, Maurice Franes san!

A letter of thanks to the Late Mr Maurice Franes from Mr Satoru Yanagi, a Japanese war veteran.

Namuamidabutsu

I would like to congratulate you, all my London friends, for once again attending this special meeting at Three Wheels to pray for world peace and reconciliation between British and Japanese war veterans.

Since that day back in December 1997 when I first took part in the London *Eza*, Three Wheels, London, has always been for me my spiritual home.

Up to that point, I realize now, I had simply managed to persuade myself that I was quite free of all my original karma because of the spiritual guidance I had been receiving from time to time during my thirty year association as a Shin Buddhist with Shogyoji Temple. In this state of mind, I could never quite understand Shogyoji’s new relationship with London, or indeed the U.K. I was still bogged down by feelings that remained unresolved long after the war.

Although the United States, along with Britain, had been our enemy during the war, I myself had been born and raised there till the age of five, when my father took sick and died. I thus felt a certain familiarity towards the place, thinking of it as ‘my father’s country’.

When Shogyoji Temple started setting up Three Wheels in London and many of our *Dharma* friends began going over there to help, I couldn’t help wondering why London?, given that we already had any number of *Dharma* friends in America. Occupied by such thoughts, my heart really did not warm towards that city.

The United Kingdom was the very nation against which I had fought during the Imphal Campaign in the last world war.

After the war I became a P. O. W. and it was two more years before I could once again feel the soil of my native country beneath my feet.

Although I, too, longed for world peace, I was only capable of grasping our Emperor's injunction to 'forgive the unforgivable' at a purely intellectual level. In my mind I still carried this insoluble lump and felt so sad to find how difficult it was to forgive.

Although I had barely bowed my head in recognition of the positive advice I received from Venerable Chimyo Takehara and Mr Masao Hirakubo, I did attend the London *Eza* at Three Wheels, feeling all the while as if I were being pushed out by the Buddha. It was at this meeting that I first encountered Mr and Mrs Maurice Franses and several other British war veterans. Finding that Maurice Franses and I had faced one another as foes on the same day, on the same battlefield was indescribably moving. We simply hugged one another in silence, while the tears flowed down our cheeks. The warmth of his shoulders completely melted away that big lump in my heart, my ill feeling towards the U. K. and the British people. It was an experience that can barely be put into words. I myself cannot express it well, but Venerable Daigyoin Reion Takehara, the former Head Priest of Shogyoji Temple, in his *Ichimaihogo* ('One Sheet Dharma Words') refers to it, saying "Whatever that lump is you might have in your mind, once you decide to listen to the Buddha-dharma for the rest of your life, it will certainly melt away quite naturally." Venerable Chimyo Takehara also teaches us that "To encounter another person truly is to encounter truth itself". My encounter with Maurice was evidence to me that I had encountered the truth of life.

I encountered scenes from hell itself again and again on those battlefields where we risked our lives.

It was through my encounter with Maurice Franses that I came to see a world of light, filled with love and compassion.

Every summer for the following eight years I had the pleasure of meeting up with Mr and Mrs Maurice Franses again at the London *Ezas*.

Maurice san, every summer you would invite us over to your house where we would take tea with Masao, Taira and Hiroko in your beautiful garden with the big apple tree or enjoy lunch served by your wife, Jean *san*, in your lovely dining room. In 2000 you invited us to a circus performance at the V & A. My mind is now full of those memories.

In 2004, as we left your home following a highly enjoyable visit, you kept waving to us from the window, despite your poor health, until we were out of sight. As I looked back at you, I kept pronouncing the *nembutsu* alone, my eyes brimming with tears. In hindsight that was the last of my pilgrimages to London.

Jean san, if only my health would allow it, I would so much like to come back to see you and your family again in order just to say 'Thank you' to you all from the very bottom of my heart. Alas, I am no longer able to do so. Forgive me!

So, all my friends attending this London *Eza*, I myself actually participated in those lost battles such as the Guadalcanal Campaign on the Solomon Islands and the Imphal Campaign in Burma. As one of those who experienced the last world war first hand, I cannot help but pray for "peace", Shalom!

Our Master, Venerable Chimyo Takehara, has always sought to impress upon us the vital importance of "inner peace".

Recently I have come to realise that the life I am living in the here and now at the age of ninety is nothing else but a precious gift from Buddha who saved me through my encounter with Maurice Franses *san*. All I can do is humbly pronounce the Name of the Buddha with the deepest gratitude to Maurice *san*.

Awakened at last to the way the London *Ezas* at Three Wheels every August were specially prepared for me, for my salvation, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all of you for what you have done for me. Thank you very much.

I pray for the repose of the brave souls of Philip Daniel *san*, Masao Hirakubo *san*, John Bynoe *san*, Charles Couborough *san*, and Maurice Franses *san*. "Shalom, shalom!"

With palms together in *Dharma*.

Satoru Yanagi

THE 7th SHOKAI RETRAIT ‘Living a life of Faith’

The 7th *Shokai* Retreat was held at Three Wheels between the 27th and 29th May 2011. There were in total 16 people participating in the retreat each in a number of special ways. The theme of the *Shokai* was ‘Problems Arising Whilst Living a Life of Faith’ and we concentrated in particular on the themes raised in the 9th and 16th chapters of the *Tannisho*, using Rev. Kemmyo Sato’s recently published translation and commentary.

Friday 27th May

The opening service of chanting to the Buddha began at 6.00pm followed by the now traditional ‘Vow of Sincere Practice’ this time given by *taya* community resident Mr Matthew A. In his talk Matthew spoke of the indebtedness we owe to our teachers and *Dharma*-friends and the sincerity with which we should approach this retreat.

Rev. Kemmyo Sato then gave a talk based on the theme of the retreat which he felt was deeply connected to his own recent Introspection Session (*Chomon*) held earlier this year at Shogyoji Temple. Rev. Kemmyo Sato described how through this period of introspection, guided by his master Ven. Chimyo Takehara, he was able to awaken to the reality of his own karmic existence embraced by the ‘light of great compassion that embraces all and abandons none’.

Following supper our next meeting, chaired by myself, had three parts to it. Firstly Rev. Kemmyo Sato continued our ongoing chanting lesson that we have been holding every retreat. After chanting the *Shoshinge* we practised in more depth the chanting of the first six *wasan*. As always we could put what we learnt in to practice during the morning services in the coming two days. Next Mr Jon B. gave his talk entitled “Blind Passions and Rhododendrons” describing some of his key experiences since moving into the *Tenrin Taya* at the end of February. With deep honesty



The work session

and his characteristic sense of humour, Jon described how through the day to day activities of living in the *taya*, he was able to re-encounter the *Samgha* in a fresh and vivid new way. In the third part of the meeting we heard short introductions from one another. At this *Shokai* we were in

the unique position of everyone having previously met one another at previous retreats, so in this special atmosphere of shared friendship and re-encounter, we each spoke about our intentions and aspirations for the retreat.

Saturday 28th May

The day started at 06:30 with the morning work practice (*sagyo*) session in which we cleaned different areas inside and outside of the temple.



Cleaning the Stone Garden

The morning service was held at 07:30. Jon B. formally read the 2nd letter of fascicle 1 of the *The Letters* by Rennyo Shonin as part of the service. The *Eza* was chaired by Mr Matthew A. Following breakfast we gathered in the Buddha-room for Andy B.’s talk ‘Reflections on Chapter 9 of the *Tannisho*’. This meeting was chaired by Mr Jon B.

To begin his talk Andy spoke about the difficulties the text of this chapter poses to the reader and explained that he would express his own personal journey into the text. After this extremely insightful and well constructed talk, Jon B. led a period of reflection and discussion on some of the themes Andy had raised.

Following lunch it was time for our *sagyo* (work session) in which we continued the work we started last year in cleaning the stones around the guttering channels of the Zen Garden. The *sagyo* was ably led and coordinated by Mr Dave Z. and Mr Chris D. We split into three teams of stone excavators, carriers and cleaners and what seemed like an unending task was completed within the two and a half hours we had set aside for the task.

After supper we met up again in the Buddha-room for a session of *Zazen* led by Mr Dave Z. who once again with great skill guided us through the practice of sitting meditation. At the end of the two half hour periods of meditation Dave led a short period of reflection for the participants.

Sunday 29th May

After breakfast I gave a talk entitled ‘Spiritual Reformation and Faith’ based on Rev. Kemmyo Sato’s translation

of chapter 16 of the *Tannisho* and his commentary. The meeting was chaired by Mr Andy B. The two main themes from the chapter which I discussed were spiritual reformation (*eshin*) and naturalness (*jinen*). Mr Andy B. then took some of the themes raised in my talk to draw everyone into an insightful and moving discussion.

At 11:30 we had a short closing service followed by a talk of thanks, given this time by Mr Sam K., who expressed his gratitude firstly to Ven. Chimyo Takehara and the Shogyoji Temple *Samgha* for making our *Shokai* retreat possible through their deep care and compassion. He then thanked on our behalf Rev. Kemmyo Sato and Mrs Hiroko

Sato for everything they have done for us, not only during this retreat but the constant and unceasing effort they show every day towards looking after the Three Wheels *Samgha*.

Our 7th *Shokai* concluded with lunch next door in the *Tenrin Taya* in which we could enjoy each other's company for one last time during the retreat, and reflect on this special time we had spent together, an inconceivable encounter in the Light of Amida Buddha.

Andrew Webb

Editor's Note: For a full report on this retreat please visit the Three Wheels Website

RECENT ACTIVITIES AT THREE WHEELS : THE 98th EZA

The 98th London *Eza* was held on a gloriously sunny afternoon on the 26th June. The attendance was modest but with many familiar faces, and the intimacy held between all ensured a wonderful day of encounter in front of the Buddha.

Mr Jon Brown began by welcoming everyone and introducing the first item of discussion – the 7th *Shokai* retreat, held during the last weekend of May. Mr Andrew Webb then proceeded to read out an honest and moving account of his impressions during this time.



Jon Brown

Jon then introduced Sam Kelly who read out his sincere letter of thanks to Reverend Sato, expressing his excitement at his time spent encountering other *Samgha* members during *Shokai*. This was followed by an informative and helpful description of the work practice undertaken during retreat by Mr Dave Zimmerman. Full of warmth and humour, Dave shared his impression of the value of coming together to help each other and in doing so encounter one another in the Light of the Buddha. He finished by sharing his experience of meditation (*zazen*) which took place during the retreat and went on to remind everyone of them it is also held each Monday evening at Three Wheels, inviting anyone interested to please come along.

This was followed by a wonderful talk given by Mrs Kaori

Punwani about the Garden Open Days held on the 14th -15th May and 18th - 19th June which drew 162 visitors in total to Three Wheels. Describing the creation of Three Wheels Zen Garden, Kaori drew out the fundamental principle behind the undertaking, one which lies at the heart of the Three Wheels *Samgha* - "Harmony within Diversity". Quoting from Reverend Sato - "Harmony is the unity between different people just as they are; they are harmonious with one another. With each person aware of themselves or aware of the reality of their own unique interdependency, each and every one of them can develop their own individuality to the full." Accompanied by pictures of the venture, which served to illustrate this harmony, it became clear to everyone in attendance how much care and love had resulted in the creation of the garden. Everyone was touched by Kaori's heartfelt expression of the importance these events provided for encounter with one another and several people came to tears to see the photo-slides, enabling them to realise how easy it is to take for granted all the hard work, care and love poured into Three Wheels right from its very beginning. Kaori reported that next year's Garden Open Days will be held on 19th and 20th May and 16th and 17th June 2012 at 2 - 4 pm.

Jon then spoke of the joy, in which he was sure everyone shared, of welcoming back Reverend Kenshin Ishii, Mrs Sanae Ishii and their two children Wataru and Hitoe. Mrs Sanae Ishii began by reading a letter which expressed her humble gratitude to be welcomed back into the heart of the Three Wheels *Samgha*. Sharing what lay in her heart, Sanae-san told us "What I have been taught at Shogyoji Temple during my time there is that I should listen to Dharma friends and, opening my mind, say what I feel to them. This is because my own various thoughts only arise in my selfish narrow world. But Buddha's world is not such a little world as this."

This was followed by Reverend Kenshin's reflective letter detailing the reason behind his departure to Shogyoji, subsequent introspection and return. Initially Reverend Kenshin had felt that the responsibility for his having to



Rev. Kenshin Ishii and his family

leave was entirely due to external circumstances - "Having been taught many times, I began to understand that the reason for my returning to Japan was not due to Visa problems. My karma had caused these Visa problems and I returned to Shogyoji to become aware of how awful my karma is." Finally he was led to realise that "In order to be aware of the depth of my own ignorance, I need *Dharma* friends minds. I must leave my self-attachment and listen to *Dharma* friends in order to have spiritual encounters with them under the light of Amida Buddha, beyond nationality and language".

Everyone in attendance was deeply humbled by their honesty and desire to move forward in the spirit of true encounter. We are all overjoyed to welcome them back.

Finally, Mrs Etsuko Crellin who, as Professor White gave us the important reminder, had suggested the original idea of the Garden Open Days, requested us to continue supporting the *Samgha* as much as we could, highlighting the need to repair the Thatched Roof of the Zen Garden Viewing Hut. She also advised us to speak to either Mrs Hiroko Sato, Mrs Sanae Ishii or Mrs Kaori Punwani if any of us felt we could help in any way with the upkeep of the temple and gardens.

Jon then drew the Eza to a close, thanking everyone and inviting them to stay and enjoy one another's company over food, drink and conversation.

Jon Brown

Editor's Note: Next years Open Garden Days at Three Wheels will be held on 19th and 20th May and 16th and 17th June 2012 between 2-4 pm. Visitors can also join a traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony and learn about the Three Wheels Buddha-room. More details will be published next year on the Three Wheels Website.

The front garden of Tenrin Taya - 2010, 2011

The transformation of the gardens of Three Wheels and its two *Taya* Houses is now complete.

The story began with the making of the Zen Garden of *Sanrin Shoja* itself in 1995-96 and its inauguration by the Venerable Chimyo Takehara, the Head Priest of Shogyoji, in 1997, by which time the front garden had also been transformed. It continued with the remodelling of the two gardens at *Gyosen Taya* in 2002. Then, in the summer of 2009, the stepping stones were laid in the refurbished rear garden of Tenrin Taya in order to make a satisfactory path across the lawn to the main house and Buddha Shrine next door..

In each case, the actual process of construction was only made possible through the hard work and expert supervision of Masayuki Ogawa, who, apart from all that, came to England each year to carry out the specialized pruning of the trees surrounding the Zen Garden

Finally, the work on the front garden of *Tenrin Taya* began in 2010 with the search for three or four really fine rocks, a task in which Izumi Ida, who, as a Trustee of the London Shogyoji Trust, had played a major role in helping to raise the necessary funds, took an active part.

The exceptional, main rock was, by great good fortune, found in the vast stone yard at West Thurrock close to London, where it was the one and only rock that could

possibly have served that purpose. We were equally, or perhaps even more lucky, to find the other rocks that were needed in a tiny stone yard in Northamptonshire.



Mr Masayuki Ogawa and the front garden

The installation of the four rocks was carried out in early July, as always under the supervision of Mr Ogawa, leaving the replacement of the very undistinguished asphalt path for his visit in 2011. When he was shown the proposed design, centred on five large, perfectly round stones, he observed that such a thing was never done in Japan, where the geometrically cut stones used for ornamental paths were invariably square, rectangular or diamond-shaped. To which the designer immediately replied "Good! In that case we shall again, as in the case of the Zen Garden, be

doing something that is really new”.

All the materials were then ordered, including the five black basalt roundels from China, the large pebbles to surround them, and the Cornish granite sets for the borders, and then stored, unseen in the garage. There were then some months of uncertainty, since no one, including the designer, was at all sure whether the result would be a success or not.

However, when Mr Ogawa returned in July 2011, the first order of business was the re-siting of one of the three main stones, which was twenty or thirty centimetres out of position.

Fortunately, when the work on the path was finally all done, with the main stones in place and all the pebbles which were suitable carefully selected one by one, and laboriously set in place by hand, everyone was happy, not only with the path itself, but with the garden as a whole, and especially with the way in which the light grey of the roundels, when they are dry, become a rich, deep black when it rains, and all the colours of the pebbles shine out.

Now, finally, as had always been the underlying purpose, the inner relationship between *Sanrin Shoja*, *Gyosen Taya* and *Tenrin Taya* is given clear expression in the visual linkages between the three front gardens.

John White

OTHER ACTIVITIES

JOURNEY TO JAPAN - NOVEMBER 2012

Dear Dharma-friends,

As some of you will now be aware, Shogyoji, the parent temple of Three Wheels, will be celebrating the 750th Memorial Service for Shinran Shonin in November 2012. These special memorial services are only held once every fifty years so are in many ways a once-in-a-lifetime event.

Shogyoji has specially invited interested *Dharma*-friends from our Three Wheels *samgha* to participate in its 750th memorial to be held next year between the 8th - 11th November 2012. We will also have the opportunity afterwards to visit some of the main *taya* communities of Shogyoji in other parts of Japan and enjoy the unique experience of Shin Buddhist *taya* life. We hope to spend in total around 10-14 days in Japan.

As you know Shogyoji has been tirelessly supporting Three Wheels and its activities for over 17 years now in a constant flow of spiritual exchange and encounter. As well as an expression of our thankfulness and respect towards Shinran Shonin the founder of the Shin Buddhist tradition, this memorial service will be an important opportunity to show our deepest gratitude to Shogyoji for everything they have done for us, as well as a chance to encounter the place where Three Wheels receives the very heart of its spiritual life.

If you are interested in attending this, our first *Dharma*-friends journey to Shogyoji, please write to Three Wheels for further details.

Gassho

Andrew Webb

Email: threewheels@threewheels.co.uk

OTHER REGULAR MEETING

Taking advantage of the slot accorded me in the Newsletter, I would like to introduce you to some further activities we run besides the London *Eza* meetings.

Weekly activities include meditation classes and ladies' meetings where mainly Japanese women get together and take it in turns to read Buddhist texts or carry out occasional light tasks.

On the days of our monthly children's meetings, Three Wheels appears another place entirely, transformed by the sound of children's voices and the clatter of small feet. Children are brought to us by their parents for a little meditation, a Buddha service and a short *Dharma* talk. They then go on to enjoy the tea ceremony, calligraphy, house and garden cleaning, making *mochi*, a kind of sticky rice sweet, and other activities.

For information on our student meetings, which grew out of the children's meetings, please refer to the previous Newsletter, No 19.

Another series of monthly meetings is for our Japanese language *Dharma* talks. Currently we are reading chapter by chapter through the '*Tannisho*'. Composed by one of Shinran Shonin's disciples, it is the work on which the English

book 'Great Living' by Rev. K.T.Sato is based.

From time to time we also hold study meetings at Three Wheels such as for talks given by Rev Sato on the Shin Buddhist work 'The Great Castle of Rajagriha' by Venerable Daigyoin.

A further example of such meetings are the recent series of talks held at the Buddhist Society on 'The Sutra on the Gravity of What Has Been Done for Us by Our Parents', a subject very close to the heart of followers of Shogyoji Temple. This particular talk has now finished but a new series is expected to begin shortly.

For the dates of individual events please refer to the events calendar on our website www.threewheels.co.uk

Hiroko Sato

'ENCOUNTER' IN SHIN BUDDHISM

Life is a series of encounters; we encounter and re-encounter one another on a daily basis. Encounter can serve as the very source of spiritual light in our lives, provided it is realised purely. To know oneself and to be awakened to oneself, and at the same time to love and respect others just as they are—this is the true meaning of the well-known phrase 'Harmony within diversity'. When you awaken to what you are, you find yourself to be so pleased that you cannot help but love others just as they are. We arrive at this newfound situation through the spiritual light of self-awakening that breaks down the barriers that we have thrown up between ourselves and others. In the Tannisho we can sense this taking place in the genuine encounter between Shinran Shonin and Yuien. All too often, though, we are too full of blind passions and attachments to realise such harmony within diversity, and these obstructions that lie within ourselves impede our ability to encounter one another in a completely pure and open way. This is the reason we need religion in our daily life.

Editors Note: This is an extract from Rev. Kemmyo Taira Sato's new translation and commentary on the Tannisho, 'Great Living in the Pure Encounter between Master and Disciple'. Copies are available to be purchased from Three Wheels. The cost is £17 soft cover or £25 hard cover plus postage and packing. The book can also be purchased from Amazon.

All the Japanese words written in Italic could be found in our Glossary at the Three Wheels Website.

POET'S CORNER : John White

**Buddha
reclining**

**not coming
and not going**

**undying
unborn.**

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. 020 7722 1693, Email: lucienuk03@gmail.com

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