



Dharma Soup

Notes from Karida

El Morro Buddhist Sangha
New Mexico

Our next meeting is at
Inscription Rock Trading Post
Tues. 7:00pm, September 21, 2010

The Human Touch

(Part 2 of 2 parts)

~Haya Akegarasu (1877-1967)

I long for this “something human” that exists in myself and others. In the Buddhist world today there are arguments and fights between old schools and new schools, between orthodox sects and free sects. These are hateful. If we move into deep introspection, what becomes of this old school, or new school, this orthodox sect or free sect?

Isms are all very well, sects are all very well; but I really hate people who damage that “something human” in them with the weapon of isms and sects—just like the ordinary people who fight over prestige and money. Knowing what history tells us, that in the name of God, Christians killed people of other religions, how can we remain unconcerned?

Even if other people cling to ism and religion and fight against me, how can I fight back? I long for the person who is also a human being; I can't help wanting to be one

with him. When I take my own initiative and become one with him, this is to release myself from self.

I shed tears for the lonely mind of Confucius who said, “A friend has come from afar—how glad I am!” Or, “The real human being doesn't get angry because another person fails to understand him.”

“Under the heavens, on all the earth, alone, I am noble”—it is natural that the lonely mind of Gautama Buddha, expressed in these words, should embrace all beings. This is what we call compassion, the mind that embraces all beings.

I am so lonely that I cannot be the fighter for isms or religions. I am so timid. I don't have the strong mind of those people who live in isolation without caring.

To become one with others by compromising is deception. I am not compromising. I simply love people—I long for them! I am always tagging along after the person and crying for the person who shakes me loose from himself. I am always throwing myself in front of the person who has a strong feeling of hostility against me.

From —Gyoko Saito & Joan Sweany, Trans., Shout of Buddha: Writings of Haya Akegarasu, Orchid Press Publication, Chicago, Ill., 1977.

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Note: Reverend Akegarasu was a very influential Buddhist philosopher/teacher. He was my own teacher's teacher. ~Roger

## Karida El Morro—General Musings

I would like to remind everyone that all prior issues of Dharma Soup are posted on the web at <http://www.karidasangha.net>. This may be useful if you have misplaced Part 1 of last month. I think that Akegarasu's comments are very timely during this period

of such amazing religious ignorance and hostility that has infected our country.

Not long ago someone commented that the level of discourse about Islam in this country is below that of Kindergarten. From what I hear I think they may have been over generous.

According to the most recent data available for the USA, Christians comprise, at most, 57% of the American population. This leaves the rest to Hindus, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Wiccans, Druids (Yes, there really are Druids.) Athiests, Native American, and a smattering of others.

We sometimes need to be reminded of the reality of our diversity. Both Akegarasu and the Dalai Lama have made a case for moving beyond a sectarian spirit that potentially divides us to a focus on "human values."

Karida Sangha would not have survived its first year (20 years ago) if it had not been to the enthusiastic support of some of the Tucson Sufi community. As you may know the Sufis are the mystic development out of Islam!

Many religious leaders have recently spoken out about the religious bigotry that has gripped our land. My frustration with all of this has made it difficult for me to coherently express my own thoughts. I have therefore taken the liberty to attach a copy of a recent column in the Albuquerque Journal by Winthrop Quigley. I'll let it speak for me.

—Roger

(To request copy of article send email to: karida@karidasangha.net)

### ANNOUNCEMENT

At our August meeting it was decided to encourage everyone to start reading Shunru Suzuki's book, "Zen Mind Beginners Mind." In our next meetings we will have group discussions of our readings for Dharma Study. If you haven't read any of the book please come anyway and participate.

We will, of course, continue our Sutra chanting and meditations.

## Schedule of Meetings

**Oct. 16 (Sat.)** 2-4pm Journey of the Heart: Meditations with Kuan Yin workshop. Guided imagery with Roger Irwin plus visual journaling by Lucia Amsden **This workshop was, at one time or another, planned for the Old School Gallery or the Rock Room at Timberlake Ranch. Problems have developed about being at either location. You will be kept up-to-date as to plans via email in plenty of time to make plans, or not, as the case may be.**

**Oct. 19 (Tues.)** 7-8:30pm Regular meeting, Evocation of Kuan Yin, Dharma study..... Trading Post

**Nov. 23 (Tues.)** 7-8:30pm Regular meeting, Evocation of Kuan Yin, Dharma study (last meeting of the year) .....Trading Post

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## TAI CHI

(At Old School Gallery)

**Sundays, 9:30am join Reed and Fran Anderson for abbreviated Wu style movement and basic Wah Mountain breathing discipline. Easy for beginners. Call Reed or Fran for info at 783-4067.**

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If you haven't done it yet, check out: [www.karidasangha.net](http://www.karidasangha.net)

If it pleases you, light a candle. It will burn for 48 hours.

