



WIND BELL

Monthly Newsletter of the
San Francisco Zen Center
1881 Bush Street

June 1962 / Issue No. 7

ON ZAZEN

While you do zazen you will come to understand yourself completely and realize that there is no such thing as an "I" which exists. Still, in this moment, there is something participating in cosmic activity. In this moment, something exists as a part of cosmic activity, or as a part of temporal existence and in this way "I" has an absolute value in itself.

If you think, "I practice zazen," that is a misunderstanding. Buddha practices zazen, not you. If you think, "I practice zazen," there will be many troubles. If you think, "Buddha practices zazen," there will be no trouble. Whether or not your zazen is painful or full of erroneous ideas, it is still Buddha's activity. There is no way to escape from Buddha's activity.

Thus you must accept yourself and devote yourself to yourself, or to Buddha, or to zazen. When you become yourself, zazen will become zazen.

THE SHINSANSHIKI CEREMONY

On May 20 Roshi Suzuki was installed as Master of Sokoji in the traditional Shinsanshiki Ceremony. For those of us who attended, it was an occasion of haunting beauty never to be forgotten. Zen Center members contributed much time, effort and money to the success and were rewarded handsomely. For those who could not attend, we are happy to reprint portions of the poems that Roshi Suzuki composed and read during the service.

(At front door)

Like the birds I came -
No road under my feet,
A golden-chained gate
Unlocks itself.

(After mounting pulpit)

After I lift this one piece of incense,
It is still there;
Although it is still there
It is hard to lift.
Now I offer it to Buddha
And burn it - with no hand,
Repaying the benevolence of this temple's
Founder, successive patriarchs, and my
Master Gyokujun Soon Daiocho.

TEMPLE WEDDING

Another beautiful ceremony was held on May 26, when Virginia Brackett and Richard Baker were married by Roshi Suzuki. A reception was held afterwards at the Graham Petchey's to celebrate the happy occasion.

NEWS OF COMING EVENTS

SUNDAY JUNE 10 - the Sokoji Annual Picnic at Golden Gate Park. Directions and details are enclosed. Everybody welcome! (No regular Sunday service on this date, of course.)

JUNE 16 and 17 - the weekend of the bimonthly Sesshin, traditional Zen practice of all day meditation, from 5:45A.M. to 7:00P.M. All interested ask at Zen Center for details.