

1881 Bush Street
San Francisco, California

Dear Sir:

December 8th is a very auspicious day, called "Jodo-e", which should be celebrated by Buddhists. For on the memorable dawn of December 8th, in the sight of the bright morning star in the eastern sky, Shakamuni Buddha was enlightened through practicing Zazen under the Bodhi tree by the Rohini River in India. This valuable event occurred about 2500 years ago.

Shakamuni Buddha was aware of the truth that the practice of Zazen should lead you to find the great way to your happy life. The truth should not be outside your life itself, which is situated in reality, but within your everyday life; the truth should be living. It should never be a dualism produced by your idea, because everything arises from causal conditions. It was the very law of causation for Buddha to become enlightened or become calm and peaceful in mind. His valuable experience should never be a mere glory of the past, but you should get the taste of it through your experience in the modern way of life.

The special celebration of Jodo-e will be held by Rev. Suzuki at Sokoji Temple at 2:00 p. m. on December 6th. You can be sure it is a good chance for being connected with some of Shakamuni Buddha's experience. Sokoji Temple shall welcome you to take part in the ceremony.

Gassho,

Rev. Shunryu Suzuki
The Head of Sokoji Temple