

It is a great joy for us all who believe in Buddhism to meet together here at Japanese Tea Garden in the Golden Gate Park to celebrate that happy day when the Teacher of all Teachers, the Fully Awakened One was born, after for the first time after the second world war.

On vesak-day there came into the world in the garden of Lumbini one who was destined to be the World Honoured One as the shower of the Way was born two thousand five hundred and thirty years ago

under the Bodhi tree
Thirty five years after, there took place in our human history an great event namely attaining enlightenment and finding our true nature and the way which lead us from suffering and confusion through mercy to peace.

And eighty years later his birth and after forty five years his enlightenment, our teacher finally laid down his body in Sāla trees ^{by} which he had expressed the

sublime way by untiring travel throughout India to destroy all the darkness of ignorance and give the light of perfect wisdom.

In his eighty years of life as a human being he had saved those who were to be saved in both heaven and earth, and for those who had not been saved in he left the right cause of their attaining salvation.

Is there any wonder for us who call ourselves Buddhist realizing even faintest meaning of those events that we should give a pause to our every day activity and duties to keep this holy day in practice of his way and joyful celebration.

To whom should we more faithfully put our faith than in him who has transmitted his spirit through patriarchs to us all that will give us strongest confidence to make our way through this

confused world step by step, moment after moment with all nation and people in the world.

To whom should we more gracefully express our gratitude than to him who gave us wisdom by which we cross the ocean of Samsara without siding either side of the two great thoughts having trust worthy friends in all nation of the world.

Now we have offered flowers and incense and unanimously chanted the sacred sutra Prajñā Paramitā. Hridaya Sutra.

This sutra is the fundamental sutra to all the schools of Mahayana Buddhism. It give us basic teaching to all the Buddhist's teaching

Offering of flowers and incense meet and right as they are if we lack the right orientation of the spirit, the practice of rituals will of themself avails us little.

The spirit of this Sutra will give us right orientation of spirituality for us all who belong to various school of B. and even to those who does not belong to the oriental religions.

This spirit may be transformed in the
Threefold Refuges.

It runs as follows Let us repeat
them with all of us

I take refuge in the Buddha.

I take refuge in the Dharma.

I take refuge in the Sangha

I take refuge in the Buddha, the
incomparably honoured one

I take refuge in the Dharma,
honourable its purity.

I take refuge in the Sangha,
honourable its harmonious life.

I have finished taking refuge in the
Buddha.

I have finished taking refuge in the
Dharma

I have finished taking refuge in the
Sangha.

JAPANESE TEA GARDEN

Japanese Tea Garden in Golden Gate Park was started by Makoto Hagiwara right after the Mid-Winter Fair in 1894. The garden was built from the remnants of that Fair. The main Gate (Sanmon) a lake and the Tea House and the Two-Store Japanese Building. The Tea Garden was operated and kept up by the Hagiwara Family right up to the evacuation in the second World War of 1941. Many and almost all of the Japanese Objects were brought to the Golden Gate Park from Japan. Some were bought, but a lot were brought from the Hagiwara Estate in Japan. Makoto Hagiwara had in mind to introduce the culture of Japan and Japanese Art to the Western World. Japanese Culture in those years were not accepted here in the United States as it might be today. It is the feeling of the Japanese People here that Makoto Hagiwara did help to open the gates of the Orient to the Western World.

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