



# Three Wheels NEWS



London Shogyoji Trust

June 2007

Number 12

## THREE WHEELS ACTIVITIES

### Report on Hobo-e Ceremony and Japanese Dharma meeting – 11<sup>th</sup> February 2007

On the 11<sup>th</sup> February I was very pleased to be able to attend a ceremony held at Three Wheels to mark the memorial day of Dharma-mother Ekai-ni. Although I never met Ekai-sama, her profound faith and marvellous character is apparent to anyone who spends time with the members of the Sangha who knew her. Furthermore, having recently visited Shogyoji, I am aware how much the current Dharma movement owes to her guidance, compassion and wisdom.

In particular, however, I wanted to attend the ceremony as it was through his encounter with Ekai-sama that Kemmyo sensei established faith in Amida Buddha and was in turn able to become my own mentor and great Dharma-friend. It was because of this point that the opportunity to express my gratitude to Ekai-sama through the ceremony of sutras and nembutsu was so important to me.

After the ceremony Kemmyo-sensei gave a talk about his recent efforts to research the life of his teacher D.T. Suzuki, and to defend Suzuki-sensei against unfounded criticisms which have been made by the Zen priest Brian Victoria. As Suzuki-sensei was an important mentor to Kemmyo Sensei, and also the pre-eminent ambassador of Japanese Buddhism to the West, his legacy is of incalculable importance to the future of both Shin Buddhism and the Three Wheels *taya*. Mr Victoria, however, has accused

D.T. Suzuki of ideological collaboration with the nationalist government during WWII, and of abusing the Buddhist teachings in order to encourage Japanese people to engage in warfare. These recent, very disturbing accusations have gone virtually unchallenged in the West and potentially threaten to damage the great work that D.T. Suzuki did to spread the Zen and Shin teachings to people of all nations and races.

Happily Kemmyo-sensei was able to report that on the completion of his research he can definitively refute Mr Victoria's claims, and is now entirely confident that D.T. Suzuki not only consistently opposed the war, but arguably challenged it in the most skilful way that he could given the circumstances of the day. Naturally I was delighted to hear of the outcome of Kemmyo-sensei's work. In addition to being pleased that D.T. Suzuki's legacy is hopefully now secure, I was also very joyful that Kemmyo-sensei has been able to discover a way to repay some of what Suzuki-sama has done for him.

Finally I would like to express my gratitude and apologies to my Japanese Dharma friends who kindly allowed me to attend their meeting; as my presence meant that it was not actually a 'Japanese language' meeting after all.

Andy Barritt

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### Report on the 72<sup>nd</sup> London Eza held at Three Wheels on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2007

This Eza was dedicated to the memory of the Venerable Zenko Croysdale, an eminent Zen monk, friend and benefactor of Three Wheels who died two days previously. During the traditional service of chanting of sutras, all of the participants offered incense in memory of his remarkable life, and in gratitude for the great contribution he has made to the future development of Three Wheels. Mr Andrew Croysdale, the nephew of Venerable Zenko Croysdale, attended today's Eza at this very sad time as the special guest of Three Wheels.

The Dharma talk given by Reverend Kemmyo Sato was on 'Other-power', one of the most important aspects of

the Shin Buddhist faith. Step by step Reverend Sato discussed the development of the understanding of Other-power in the Pure Land tradition of Mahayana Buddhism.

The next part of the meeting was dedicated to the life of Venerable Zenko Croysdale. Reverend Sato gave a heartfelt overview of Zenko-san's life and the way he suddenly appeared like a Bodhisattva in the life of Three Wheels. Zenko-san was ordained on the 8<sup>th</sup> April 1976 as a Zen monk which remained his vocation until his death at the age of 87. Nearly two years ago he first visited Three Wheels and had a wonderful conversation with Reverend



Sato. They shared what Reverend Sato remembered as an indescribable encounter. Reverend Sato described his great surprise, when on this first visit to Three Wheels, Zenko-san suddenly asked him if he would conduct his funeral service. They both instantly formed a warm relationship. Reverend Sato attributed this in part to the fact of his having studied under DT Suzuki, a very famous person in the world of Zen Buddhism who was much admired by Zenko-san.

From his great kindness and gratitude to Three Wheels, Zenko-san told Reverend Sato that he would after his death bequest a sum of money to the temple that could be used



**Rev. Zenkō-san's nephew honoring his uncle**

in some way for the benefit of Three Wheels. On relating this news to the Goinge-sama the Head Priest of Shogyoji, Goinge-sama suggested that the bequest be used to fund the building of a stupa at Brookwood Cemetery to house the ashes of departed members of Three Wheels and other Buddhists from the United Kingdom who also wanted to

have their ashes laid there.

Professor John White outlined the current plans under consideration for the building of the stupa, including its positioning within Brookwood Cemetery and design. He then invited everyone to give their opinions on whether they felt the idea was a good one or not and to share any ideas they may have on the project.

Reverend Sato announced the upcoming Spring School that is held annually at Three Wheels. This year Spring School will be held from the 25<sup>th</sup> March until the 4<sup>th</sup> April and host 8 young people from Japan, together with 3 adult helpers. Mrs Etusko Crellin asked for anyone who is able to assist this year to let her know as they will need every help possible with the many tasks involved in its running.

Etsuko-san also revealed that this year Three Wheels will be participating for the first time in the Royal Horticultural Society's National Garden Scheme, in which private gardens are opened to the public for a small entrance fee. All monies raised will be donated to the charities supported by the RHS. It will also be a great opportunity to let people know about Three Wheels and its Zen garden. Various ideas are under consideration including the holding of a tea ceremony. Three Wheels have been allocated four dates: Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May, Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> of May, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May and Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May.

To close the meeting Mamoru Takizawa and Shogo Sakimura, two young men who are involved in the preparations for this year's Spring School, introduced themselves promising to do their best to help making the event a great success.

**Andrew Webb**

## **Report of the 73<sup>rd</sup> London Eza at Three Wheels**

The 73<sup>rd</sup> London Eza was held on Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> of April 2007 at Three Wheels in London. Arriving in advance allowed me the opportunity to contribute to the preparations; working in the garden was a great joy between Kenshin san and myself and, I can say with hindsight, that it put me in a wonderful spirit to encounter people on the Sunday afternoon behind new eyes.

To begin the Eza, a ceremony in front of the Buddha shrine brought everyone's focus together in the Buddha room. The service to Amida Buddha was particularly moving on this occasion with a splendid variety of people's voices, all well rehearsed in their devotions. I am now in the fortunate position to be able to distinguish the chanting done at a meeting of the community (Eza) from that of the twice daily services held at Three Wheels. The morning and evening services are no less moving but this last Eza illumined a quality of group devotion to which I had hitherto been ignorant.

Kemmyo Sensei's talk followed the service and elucidated

the recent journey to discover oneself (the Spring School) undertaken by the young Japanese people at Three Wheels, the hope to share Amida's garden with a wider public and the proposed construction of a Buddhist Stupa at Brookwood cemetery.

The talk given by Kemmyo Sensei held many people enraptured as he shared the experiences of the members of this year's Spring School; and his experiences of encountering these young people. 'True Freedom' was highlighted as the focus for this educational session and the evident success of it was portrayed in the reports given by these Japanese children. Amidst the other activities of the Spring School they had looked deeply at their relationships with their parents through *'The Sutra on the Gravity of What Has Been Done by Parents'* and without doubt had been encouraged by the experience to see things in a different way. One account in particular detailed the lesson of 'True Freedom' inspired by Kemmyo Sensei: "those who behave selfishly without taking personal



responsibility and who withdraw into their shells are 'unfree'". It was a great blessing to witness the growth undergone by these blossoming human beings whilst in the Dharma community at Three Wheels (or in Devon) in England – and a great reflection that what they learnt is something that many other people might benefit from.



**Rev. Sato and Etsuko Crenlin during their speeches**

Kemmyo Sensei's talk then covered the prospective 'Garden Opening Days' when the stone garden (together with the Buddha room that reflects it) would be made available to the public on two coming weekends. These have recently been realised (with the help of the friends of three wheels) and hopefully have brought success in sharing Amida's garden with a larger audience of interested people.

In conclusion, Kemmyo Sensei went on to describe his encounter with Venerable Zenko Croysdale and this

gentleman's bequest to Three Wheels after his passing away. This has led to a proposed construction of a Buddhist Stupa at Brookwood cemetery alongside where the memorials of four Japanese students lie. It was very moving to hear Kemmyo Sensei's words that, on viewing these well tended graves for the first time, he felt that he would not mind dying in this country. Under the Stupa that will bear the name of Venerable Zenko Croysdale will come to rest the remains of those Dharma friends (both English and Japanese) who might pass away in the years to come, thanks to the benevolence of a guiding Zen Light (Zenko).

The real gem of my experience from the last Eza came after the formal meeting had closed and there was encounter between many people in the community of Three Wheels. Some of whom I had not met before, I met with happiness for the first time; others whom I had encountered before, -it became apparent to me that I had changed in the meantime- I met gladly anew. Sharing service, food and encounter at Three Wheels is a splendid blessing and one that I hope to continue to share in for years to come.

Thank you to all members of the community. I hope that this report brings some light to the events of the 73<sup>rd</sup> London Eza to those who could not attend and perhaps a pleasant memory to those who were there – despite the slant afforded by my particular preferences.

With a bow in the Dharma.

**Christopher Barker**

## SPRING SCHOOL 2007

For the last nine years, apart from 2002 and 2003 when the international situation was too unstable, we have been holding annual Buddhist educational sessions, known among us as the "Spring School", for young visitors, mainly teenagers, from Japan.



**At the opening ceremony**

The project first got underway in 1998 in answer to the earnest wishes of Venerable Chimyo Takehara, Head

Priest of Shogyoji Temple, whose message to the first Spring School students bore the title Journey to Discover Oneself. From the very start the underlying purpose of these educational sessions has been for every participant to have the opportunity to get to know themselves in a much deeper dimension, an aim that has been amply carried out with each succeeding year. During the Spring School, each individual's encounter with others brings about an encounter with the self and every encounter with the self invites new encounters with others. Alongside their exposure to a different society, culture, people and landscape, these young people are achieving a deeper understanding of the self and an ability to enter into spiritual exchange with others.

In the case of this year's Spring School, seven of the students from Japan were very young, five being only twelve years old and two of them thirteen. For most of them this was the first taste of a foreign country. Of course they enjoyed visiting the usual tourist spots such as the British Museum, Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, the Royal Observatory at Greenwich, Buckingham Palace and so forth. The special thing about



their Spring School experience, however, was that they also attended Service to the Buddha mornings and evenings. As they had already been attending training assemblies in Japan, their way of chanting sutras in front of the Buddha Shrine was so overwhelming that I felt I was being transported to the Pure Land by the sound of their lovely voices. Besides attending daily service, the young people also experienced reading a sutra entitled



During the flower festival

*The Sutra on the Gravity of What Has Been Done by Parents.* In the meetings that followed the morning service, they would each read out a few paragraphs of the sutra and give their impressions of what they had just read by looking back over their own relationship to their parents. Towards the end of Spring School they each submitted a brief essay on their experience.

Although teenagers' minds are much less contaminated

than those of adults, generally speaking, because of a lack of a sense of responsibility towards others, they can still be pretty selfish, as you may well know. It is the same with their relationship with their parents. Reflecting on this point in the light of the sutra, the young students spoke with repentance and gratitude of meeting their parents for the first time in a deeper dimension. Being at a distance from their parents like this perhaps helped them understand parental love. When one of them, awakened to the love of her parents, started choking back tears, a friend sitting next to her spontaneously began rubbing her back very gently. It was really very moving.

Rev. Kemmyo Taira Sato



The Spring School students

## REFLECTIONS ON THE LIFE OF EKAI-SAMA

*This is a letter written by a Dharma-friend of Three Wheels about her impressions on reading an auto-biographical account written by Ekai-sama, a very important spiritual light in the history of Shogyoji Temple and Three Wheels*

Dear Andy,

I was so glad to read Ekai-sama's story last night.

Although I'd never known her, I felt a connection with her as I became aware of yet another chain of events which had, eventually, connected with and influenced my life: the various adversities which she suffered having triggered her search for peace, the guidance of the man at the hot springs and later, her husband's transfer leading to her meeting the right teacher and eventually experiencing the one thought moment.

A new link is then created by the encounter between Ekai-sama and a disillusioned Kemmyo-sensei, and her decision

to send him to meet D.T. Suzuki, of whom he becomes a pupil. Later, after receiving further training from Rev. Takehara, Kemmyo-sensei is sent to England. A few years ago at the Leicester Buddhist Summer School, I heard him give a talk which inspired me to learn more about Shin Buddhism and as a result start attending Three Wheels, where he continues to teach and guide us.

While reading Ekai-sama's account I suddenly became very aware of how we are helped and influenced all the time by the actions of other people, either now or in the past.

Namanda, Namanda, Namanda!

Gassho

Hazel



## OPEN GARDENS WEEK-END AT THREE WHEELS

### Opening the Zen Garden to the Public

5th, 6th, 19th and 20th May 2007

After a number of planning meetings for the opening of the garden to the general public, through the National Gardens Scheme (NGS), all of us who had been involved braced ourselves for the first day with a mixture of excitement and some trepidation. On the day, the entrance to the garden was well-marked with yellow balloons and yellow and black posters, provided by the NGS, pasted on the side gate, gate post, and even on the windows of Three Wheels' car parked in the street, to announce that the garden would be open on 11 o'clock.

Visitors paid £2.00 each (collected on behalf of NGS for the charitable organisations they support) and got a small round yellow sticker as well as a print-out explaining, briefly, about the garden and Three Wheels. The visitors were then met by one of the welcoming party as they came through the second garden gate and were welcomed to the viewing platform by Prof. John White, who gave them an explanation about the garden in his usual highly interesting and engaging manner. There was also a stall selling some post-cards and books, and visitors were invited to take part in a Tea Ceremony, which was performed by two Tea-Masters dressed in formal kimonos reflecting the season. The Buddha Room was also opened to those who wished to pay a visit – the room was manned at all times and all the visitors were told about the room and had all their questions answered.

Almost of all the visitors stayed much longer than expected, and almost all expressed their appreciation with comments such as: "extremely interesting", "fascinating!", "totally charmed" "always wondered what this place was about, but now I know for sure that we have such a lovely neighbour!!" "Every time I passed the house I admired the unique front garden and wished to see the inside – how enchanting!" "Really glad we came". Visitors were made up of neighbours, garden enthusiasts, members of the Japanese Garden Society, friends, and one couple even drove all the way from Birmingham early in the morning of the last day just to see the garden.

A total of 207 people visited the garden, with 104 of them taking part in Tea Ceremony. More than half of the visitors came into the Buddha Room and showed their interest and

appreciation of the explanations given. Prof. John White repeated himself over and over again for the visitors who, without exception, had a very keen interest in the garden – John reckons that over the 4 days he must have repeated himself more than 50 times in all.

One of the last visitors of the last day was a boy of about 10 years old accompanied by his mother. As he was leaving Dilly, who was manning the reception desk, asked him if he had spotted a Wren's nest in the viewing hut. His eyes lit up, and replied. "Yes, the bird was going in and out in spite of all the people and the talking and all that!" This was another delightful encounter, I thought.

The names of all who participated and helped to make the event so enjoyable and enlightening for the visitors are given below. I believe that helpers and visitors alike enjoyed the occasion tremendously and had some meaningful encounters.

It was a great fun. Let's do it again next year, shall we?

#### *The helpers' names are:*

*Kumiko Masterton, Chizuru Eagling, Hisako Yokoyama, Tomoko Machida, Haru Ushikusa, Erika Masterton, Willemien Hoogendoorn, Shirley Hanazawa, Hazel Waghorn, Andrew Webb, Mako Webb, Atsuko Sekine, Yasuyo Sato, Michiko Giffard, Mary-Patricia Hall, Stephen Montgomery, Hideaki Nagase, Dave Zimmerman, Fumiko Sakamoto, Dilly Suzuma, Chris Barker, John White, Kemmyo Taira Sato, Hiroko Sato, Kenshin Ishii, Sanae Ishii, Kaori Punwani, Tony Crellin, Etsuko Crellin.*

**Etsuko Crellin**



Some of the visitors at the Garden

## LONDON FUND

In the last News Letter I talked about setting up a Fund specifically for looking after the buildings of Three Wheels. The matter was discussed at the last Trustees' Meeting and the setting up a new account for the fund was formerly approved. Now, for those who wish to participate, I suggest arranging a Standing Order through your bank, simply instructing the bank either on the net, by telephone or by dropping into your branch and filling in a simple form. The amount of money for the Standing Order can be revised, or cancelled at any time, as necessary. **The suggested minimum monthly amount is £3.00.**

**Etsuko Crellin**



## A NEW TAYA HOUSE

For the second time within a year Reitaro Oga-san travelled to London and chaired a Meeting of the London Shogyoji Trust. In this case, it was also to sign, on the previous day, the contract for Shogyoji's purchase of 57 Carbery Avenue, the house next door to Three Wheels, with Completion due to take place a week later on May 23rd. The purpose of this most generous initiative was, by bringing the Taya House closer to the main building, to enable it more closely to uphold the central traditions of true Japanese Shin Buddhism.

It is always a great privilege, as well as great pleasure, to see Oga-san here in London, since, as a distinguished business man, and himself a devout Buddhist, he has, for several decades, been an extremely influential Trustee of the Religious Corporation Shogyoji. The depth of his connection with the Temple is witnessed by the fact that it was his family who donated the land on which it was built over four hundred years ago.

The pleasure of meeting him again is certainly not



**Mr. Reitaro Oga**

diminished by the opportunity to say '*compai!*' with a fine and much loved man whose Company happens to brew some of the very best *sake* in Japan.

**John White**

## OBITUARY OF REVEREND ZENKŌ

Namu-amida-butsu

Venerable Charles Geoffrey Croysdale, born the son of Mr Nelson Charles Croysdale on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1919, passed away at the age of eighty seven on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2007.

It was on the 20th of May 2005 that Venerable Zenkō came to visit me at Three Wheels for the first time. After a brief exchange of greetings, he asked me point-blank if I would be willing to conduct a funeral ceremony for him at Three Wheels. Though somewhat taken aback, I answered that I would be happy to oblige just as long as I myself was still living at the time of his death. We chatted together amicably for an hour or so and I learned that he was a Zen monk who had spent five years of his life studying Zen Buddhism 曹洞禪 Sōtō Zen) in a Japanese Zen monastery. Eventually he was ordained by his master, Venerable Chigen Sakimura, at Hakuhoji Temple on 8th April 1976, when he was given the Dharma name of Zenkō 禅光 (meaning Zen Light). Several months after returning to England he journeyed again to East Asia and spent a further eleven months studying Theravada Buddhism at a monastery in Sri Lanka from June 1977 to May 1978. Towards the end of our conversation he told me that in his will he would like to make a bequest to Three Wheels, our Buddhist centre in London, and asked if this would be acceptable.

On returning to my temple in Japan in the autumn of 2005, I talked about Venerable Zenkō and his bequest to my master, Venerable Chimyo Takehara, Head Priest of Shogyoji Temple, the parent-body of Three Wheels. My master was very appreciative of Zenkō's offer, suggesting that we might make a Buddhist stupa for

Three Wheels, where Buddhists throughout the U.K. and friends involved in the activities of Three Wheels could all be brought together after death. As I speak, guided as always by the excellent advice of Professor John White, we are busily engaged in carrying out this project. In Japan one of the foremost Japanese stone masons is carving the granite monument, destined to be placed on a small mound in Brookwood cemetery, and a famous woman artist, known as one of the great living national treasures of Japan, is fashioning a beautiful lacquered box in which will be kept at Three Wheels a scroll inscribed with the names of all those whose ashes come to rest beneath the stupa.



**Reverend Zenkō**

When for the first time I saw for myself the well tended graves of the four Japanese students at Brookwood Cemetery, I was extremely moved by the obvious friendship and affection extended those students by their



erstwhile English friends some hundred and forty years ago, and I felt that I also would not mind dying in this country. Now there is to be a Buddhist stupa as well at Brookwood, bearing, it goes without saying, the name of our benefactor, Venerable Zenkō Croysdale. To Venerable Zenkō Croysdale I would like to express my whole hearted gratitude for the immense service he has done me and all my Dharma friends, be they British or Japanese. Just as his name Zenko indicates, he is an eternal light illumining all of us.

Venerable Zenkō has finished his life so beautifully, like a wind blowing through the clear blue sky. His way of dealing with approaching death reminds me of a great Zen master of the T'an Dynasty, known as Fuke 普科 (Chinese P'u-hua), a friend of Rinzai 臨濟 (Chinese Lin-chi) whose sayings were later compiled into a famous Zen document, The Record of Rinzai. Fuke used to ring a bell at people he came across in the street saying, "I ring this bell for anyone, whether they are already brainy or not". One

day Rinzai and a group of friends happened to be talking about Fuke when along he came. Rinzai asked Fuke what the experience of awakening to the ultimate truth had been like for him. Fuke, however, countered the question by asking the same thing of Rinzai, adding, "Still the same immature fellow! The only quality you possess is good insight!"

When eventually the time came for Fuke to die, Rinzai brought him a coffin. Lying down in the coffin, Fuke asked his friends to nail it shut. Soon after that people heard the sound of a bell ascending skywards. On reopening the coffin they found no one there.

Zenkō-san may or may not be in the stupa that we are going to create. To my mind, however, he will always be there, even as he will always be an eternal presence in my heart. Thank you everyone for your attendance here today.

With palms together in Dharma.

**Rev. Kemmyo Taira Sato**

## POET'S CORNER

A bird chirps and a squirrel clatters;  
a leaf touches ground.  
a sun warms an upturned face as three wheels turn around;  
a giver, receiver and a gift no less we're all going down – in history;  
with our stories there is love at the speed of sound.

**Chris Barker**

## CHILDREN'S STORY

### The Stone-Cutter

Once upon a time there lived a stone-cutter, who went every day to a great rock in the side of a big mountain and cut out slabs for gravestones or for houses. He understood very well the kinds of stones wanted for the different purposes, and as he was a careful workman he had plenty of customers. For a long time he was quite happy and contented, and asked for nothing better than what he had.

Now in the mountain dwelt a spirit which now and then appeared to men, and helped them in many ways to become rich and prosperous. The stone-cutter, however, had never seen this spirit, and only shook his head, with an unbelieving air, when anyone spoke of it. But a time was coming when he learned to change his opinion.

One day the stone-cutter carried a gravestone to the house of a rich man, and saw there all sorts of beautiful things, of which he had never even dreamed. Suddenly his daily work seemed to grow harder and heavier, and he said to himself: 'Oh, if only I were a rich man, and could sleep in a bed with silken curtains and golden tassels, how happy I should be!'

And a voice answered him: 'Your wish is heard; a rich man you shall be!'

At the sound of the voice the stone-cutter looked round, but could see nobody. He thought it was all his fancy,

and picked up his tools and went home, for he did not feel inclined to do any more work that day. But when he reached the little house where he lived, he stood still with amazement, for instead of his wooden hut was a stately palace filled with splendid furniture, and most splendid of all was the bed, in every respect like the one he had envied. He was nearly beside himself with joy, and in his new life the old one was soon forgotten.

It was now the beginning of summer, and each day the sun blazed more fiercely. One morning the heat was so great that the stone-cutter could scarcely breathe, and he determined he would stay at home till the evening. He was rather dull, for he had never learned how to amuse himself, and was peeping through the closed blinds to see what was going on in the street, when a little carriage passed by, drawn by servants dressed in blue and silver. In the carriage sat a prince, and over his head a golden umbrella was held, to protect him from the sun's rays.

'Oh, if I were only a prince!' said the stone-cutter to himself, as the carriage vanished round the corner. 'Oh, if I were only a prince, and could go in such a carriage and have a golden umbrella held over me, how happy I should be!'

And the voice of the mountain spirit answered: 'Your wish



is heard; a prince you shall be.'

And a prince he was. Before his carriage rode one company of men and another behind it; servants dressed in scarlet and gold bore him along, the coveted umbrella was held over his head, everything heart could desire was his. But yet it was not enough. He looked round still for something to wish for, and when he saw that in spite of the water he poured on his grass the rays of the sun scorched it, and that in spite of the umbrella held over his head each day his face grew browner and browner, he cried in his anger: 'The sun is mightier than I; oh, if I were only the sun!'

And the mountain spirit answered: 'Your wish is heard; the sun you shall be.'

And the sun he was, and felt himself proud in his power. He shot his beams above and below, on earth and in heaven; he burnt up the grass in the fields and scorched the faces of princes as well as of poorer folk. But in a short time he began to grow tired of his might, for there seemed nothing left for him to do. Discontent once more filled his soul, and when a cloud covered his face, and hid the earth from him, he cried in his anger: 'Does the cloud hold captive my rays, and is it mightier than I? Oh, if I were a cloud, and mightier than any!'

And the mountain spirit answered: 'Your wish is heard; a cloud you shall be!'

And a cloud he was, and lay between the sun and the earth. He caught the sun's beams and held them, and to his joy the earth grew green again and flowers blossomed. But that was not enough for him, and for days and weeks he

poured forth rain till the rivers overflowed their banks, and the crops of rice stood in water. Towns and villages were destroyed by the power of the rain, only the great rock on the mountain side remained unmoved. The cloud was amazed at the sight, and cried in wonder: 'Is the rock, then, mightier than I? Oh, if I were only the rock!'

And the mountain spirit answered: 'Your wish is heard; the rock you shall be!'

And the rock he was, and gloried in his power. Proudly he stood, and neither the heat of the sun nor the force of the rain could move him. 'This is better than all!' he said to himself. But one day he heard a strange noise at his feet, and when he looked down to see what it could be, he saw a stone-cutter driving tools into his surface. Even while he looked a trembling feeling ran all through him, and a great block broke off and fell upon the ground. Then he cried in his wrath: 'Is a mere child of earth mightier than a rock? Oh, if I were only a man!'

And the mountain spirit answered: 'Your wish is heard. A man once more you shall be!'

And a man he was, and in the sweat of his brow he toiled again at his trade of stone-cutting. His bed was hard and his food scanty, but he had learned to be satisfied with it, and did not long to be something or somebody else. And as he never asked for things he had not got, or desired to be greater and mightier than other people, he was happy at last, and heard the voice of the mountain spirit no longer.

(From Japanese Fairy Tales.)

## BOOKS AND CARDS

### Books:

Taitetsu Unno: Shin Buddhism (£ 13.00)  
Taitetsu Unno: River of Fire, river of Water (£ 17.00)  
Shinmon Aoki: Coffinmann (£ 10.00)

You that I Love (1998) (£ 15.00)  
On the Razor's Edge (2004) (£ 15.00)  
New Moon, Old Moon (2006) (£ 15.00)

### Poems:

John White: The Breath in the Flute (English and Japanese) (£ 15.00)  
John White: Poems Poemes Poesie (1992) (£ 15.00) (Some Poems are in French.)  
Trinity Trinita Trinite (1994) (£ 15.00) (also in French.)

### Cards of Three Wheels:

Greeting Card: £ 0.75 each, £ 2.50 for 4 cards  
4 Post Cards: £ 1.50 per set  
An etching (or a copperplate print is better?) of "The Garden of Three Wheels": £ 20.00  
Please ask Hiroko-san in Three Wheels if you want to buy any.

### Editor's Note.

For comments, criticisms, and questions concerning the Newsletter or if you want to include material for inclusion, please contact Lucien Chocron, 31 Sherlock Court, Dorman Way, London, NW8 0RU, Tel/Fax 020 7722 1693, Email: lucienchocron@msn.com.

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