



GASSHO

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"Hands together in reverence & gratitude"



REFLECTIONS ON WAR AND TERRORISM

by rev. roland k. tatsuguchi

Some fourteen years have passed since a handful of terrorists hijacked four commercial jet airliners and flew two of them into the Twin Towers in New York. To this day many questions remain unanswered. September 11, 2001, was a Tuesday. In retrospect, one wonders why the White House and the Capitol building were not targeted instead of the Twin Towers. The subsequent preemptive war on terrorism declared by George W. Bush Jr. continues to escalate as more and more nefarious weapons of mass destruction are secretly being developed in the most appalling of ways.

For this reason, I wish to relate what I happened to see on television on Sunday, December 28, 2014. I was listening to the news on channel 3 telling the local folk that fireworks had sold out at all the major mega department stores and people were left hanging with their fireworks permits. As usual, the televangelists were proselytizing themes based on Christ's nativity and crucifixion. The other channels were telecasting their "mercantile Christmas" promoting the "spirit of giving and receiving gifts."

So, I flipped on the Fox News channel to see what was on. What I saw then caught my attention. Bob O'Neil, a Navy Seal, was being featured as the man who shot and killed Osama bin Laden in Pakistan.

I thought how odd and paradoxical that while the Christian televangelists were broad-

MONTH'S THOUGHT



"Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed." —Mahatma Gandhi



casting "peace on earth and goodwill to all men" that "the man who killed Osama bin Laden" was being interviewed in the very midst of the Holiday Season. Many local Japanese Americans were already going to their shrines and temples for personal blessings and assurances for a good and prosperous New Year.

Bob O'Neil was a member of the top of topmost elite groups of Navy Seals. To have been so selected, he had to undergo several months of grueling training in which he had to prove his ability to endure and survive all kinds of life-threatening situations. Their missions in rescuing Americans or killing targeted despots and terrorists are supposedly TOP SECRET. And yet here was O'Neil telling all about Operation Neptune Spear and how he killed Osama bin Laden for all the world to hear.

When the interviewer-journalist Peter Doocy asked him about how he felt about having killed Osama bin Laden, it was obvious that O'Neil had no qualms about having done so. For without emotion in a matter of fact fashion he replied: "We were attacked and we responded!" Osama bin Laden's hideaway right near a Pakistani fort had been located, recon-

REMINDERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER 2015

1st SUN Sept 6th

9 A.M. English Service
Dharma Talk
for Children & Adults
Rev. Tatsuguchi

2nd SUN Sept 13th

9 A.M. English Service
Dharma Talk
for Children & Adults
Rev. Tatsuguchi

3rd SUN Sept 20th

Autumn O'Higan Service

9 A.M. English Service
Rev. Tatsuguchi

4th SUN Sept 27th

MONTHLY
FAMILY WORSHIP
9 A.M. Eng. Service
"Dharma Talk"

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

KARAOKE SINGERS CLUB Mon 7 – 9 p.m.
Mr. Nelson Yoshioka

KARATE CLASSES Tues & Fri 6 – 8 p.m.
Int'l Karate League – Walter Nishioka

KARATE CLASSES Thurs 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Hawaii Shotokan Karate – Alan Sekiguchi

FUJINKAI LADIES' FELLOWSHIP GROUP
Tues 9 a.m. – noon

With Deepest Sympathy

Mrs. Sumie Kubota 90 yrs. July 12, 2015
Miss Mildred M. Uota 85 yrs. July 19, 2015
Mr. Etsuo Tonokawa 90 yrs. July 29, 2015

2015 Memorial Service Schedule

2014	1 Year	2013	3 Year	2009	7 Year
2003	13 Year	1999	17 Year	1991	25 Year
1983	33 Year	1966	50 Year	1914	100 Year

Name yrs. Date

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noitered and finally overrun by elite Navy Seals. That the attack was filmed makes you wonder as to why these footages were taken. Was it to telecast them at a time when Christmas was becoming New Year's Day?

O'Neil, in the interview, mused as to how he suddenly found himself as a Navy Seal halfway around the world in Pakistan to fire two bullets into Osama bin Laden's head that killed him instantly.

O'Neil's tone of voice then really caught my attention when, without blinking even an eyelash he said: "If the United States wanted to, its military had the means to wipe out any nation." This was quite a startling statement to make. One wonders, "Was this statement made for the whole world to hear or was it made so that Russia and China would especially hear it?" I thought it was quite a blatant and arrogant statement.

Then immediately the image of the bald eagle on the back of our dollar bill holding an olive branch of peace in its right talons and arrows of warfare in its left emerged vividly in my consciousness. I recall visualizing "how glaring and threatening were the eyes of an eagle" and "how non-intimidating and innocent are the eyes of a dove." The eagle is a carnivore and the dove is a herbivore. This paradoxical symbolism of the American Bald Eagle in offering "peace" or "war" I saw in O'Neil's assertion that "the U.S. military had the weapons of mass destruction to obliterate any nation off the face of this Earth if it had to."

Then the opposite sentiments of love and hate, peace and war, nonviolence and

WORDS OF SHINRAN

"Sakyamuni and Amida are our parents of great compassion; using many and various compassionate means, they awaken the supreme *shinjin*. Thus the settling of true *shinjin* is the working of Sakyamuni and Amida. ..." SBT-Series. Letters of Shinran. no. 13. p. 42.

violence made me ponder how contradictory European and American history has, is and continues to be. It is assumed that Western Civilization began with the Sumerians and the Greeks. After the Greeks came the Romans to persecute the Jews. Then arose Christianity to dominate the scene. Then came the Muslims to dominate the lands. Then followed the times of European exploration, colonialism, imperialism and expansionism that began with the Portuguese and Spanish who began navigating, conquering and settling in foreign lands beyond continental Europe.

In the process the inhabitants of the Near, Middle and Far East and North African continent were colonized and Christianized. Then they began settling the continents of North, Middle and South America. The times became one of European colonial expansionism and militaristic imperialism. Then, in the 1700s Colonial America emerged under the influence of Calvinist Pilgrims and Puritans fleeing from the theocratic Anglican Church in England.

As of today, the United States is the dominant superpower nation with its military forces deployed all over the earth with its weapons of mass destruction and now also in outer space with its weather modification technologies. America's beginnings are heralded to have begun and rooted in Calvinist Pilgrim and Puritan heritage. Consequently, its roots are imbedded deep in Judeo-Christian assumptions as to who are "good" and who are "evil." Today's Congress is dominated by the "military industrial complex" and the "American Zionist lobby" based on the dichotomy symbolized by

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the bald eagle: If you're not with us, you're against us!

As the year 2015 in about three months will become the year 2016, America will only be 239 years old. Even before its Declaration of Independence in 1776, America has been involved in war after war, not to mention its genocidal decimation and displacing hundreds of native American Indian tribal nations in the process. In doing so, in a mere three hundred years or so, the United States has become the top super power nuclear nation in the world. Both China and Russia, once allies, now stand in opposition to the United States also as superpower nuclear nations.

Meanwhile, it especially should be noted that the State of Israel was established in 1948 right after WWII ended in a move initiated by Great Britain with the backing of the United States. The State of Israel is now a nation with nuclear weapons made possible by the support of the United States. Backed by U.S. monies and military, Israel keeps rattling its sabers against Muslim nations in the Near and Middle East regions. Its secret agenda and ultimate goal is to reclaim the lands it itself once took from the Canaanites and Midianites in ancient biblical times. So, have you not wondered as to why most of the major and minor wars have all been in someone else's front or back yard and not in ours?

All the while, the chaos and conflict caused by so-called "rogue nations" under a despot or oppressive regime and our nation's "kneejerk" reactions and responses to them continue to upset the geopolitical and economic stability of the world. This situation is perpetuated by constantly instilling in the American psyche a fear of supposed "rogue nations" and "demonic despots."

The reason O'Neil could say that the United States could take out any nation if it wanted to was because the United States government annually spends more money on its military personnel, weapons of war and related armaments industry to defend its vested interests abroad, especially in lands rich in fossil

fuels, minerals and other non-renewable raw materials. These interests now have escalated and are of global proportions.

Even in his time after WWII, concerning U.S. military expenditures, Rev. Tamai noted:

"Five trillion, eight hundred billion dollars! That is how much this past war is said to have cost. And millions of Japanese were burned to death. What sad money." *Ichinyo*. p. 90.

Obviously, what he was alluding to was the "fire bombing" of Japanese cities day after day before the atom bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki that ended WWII. (See August *Gassho*.)

Our national debt, as of July 2015, was \$18,151,931,284,395 and still growing at an alarming rate like seconds constantly ticking off a stop watch. And the deficit keeps getting bigger and bigger. The question arises, who are they that are profiting from the ballooning interest payments being made on this growing national deficit?

Obviously, the answer is the unseen few behind the scenes who are in power and control of the world's multinational banking and financial establishments. They are the ones who keep fueling fears of an all out nuclear war, which, of course, would be insane to start one.

So we need to be aware of what the refugee Vietnamese Zen monk Thich Nhat Hanh in his *Being Peace* has said:

"You may not be aware that your country has been manufacturing a lot of conventional weapons to sell to third world countries for their people to kill each other. This group keeps pushing super power nations to be openly as well as secretly involved in the ongoing race for more advanced weapons of mass destruction and nuclear warheads so that their armaments industry can keep selling their outmoded weapons to lesser nations. You know very well that children

in these countries need food more than these deadly weapons. ..." p. 72.

Then he reminds us that:

"Conventional weapons have been killing in the last 30, 40, 50 years very much. If we only think of the nuclear bombs that may explode in the future and not pay attention to the bombs that are exploding in the present moment, we commit some kind of error. ..." *Loc. cit.* p. 73.

Thich Nhat Hanh understands that "many people will lose their jobs ... if the weapons industry stops" (*ibid.*). So to keep the U.S. military in a position of dominance and the weapons industries viable, fears of potential enemies constantly need to be fueled, even if they are suppositional or have no actual basis.

Therefore, I cannot help wondering if Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated because of having said:

"I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ."

And also for having said:

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Donations

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SHINRAN'S WASAN

Amida Buddha's Primal Vow,
the nembutsu,
Is for beings with false views,
perversions and arrogance.
It is a faith quite difficult
to steadfastly maintain!
Of all difficulties there are,
it is the most difficult of all!!
Shoshin Ge lines 41-44
rkt translation.

Due to limited space due to Postal restrictions, if your donation is not listed in this GASSHO, it will be listed in a following edition. For any inadvertent misspelling of names, please accept our apologies.

BUDDHIST STORY OR PASSAGE

"All fear punishment. To all men life is dear. Judging others by yourself, slay not, neither cause to slay."

"He who hurts a creature which seeks for happiness will not find it for himself."
Dhammapada 8. *Praises of Buddha*. p. 164.

"An eye for an eye will only make the whole world blind."

Gandhi also echoed the words of Sakyamuni Buddha as follows:

"Your beliefs become your thoughts,
Your thoughts become your words,
Your words become your actions,
Your actions become your habits,
Your habits become your values,
Your values become your destiny."

Here are a few more of Gandhi's quotes that echo the words of the Buddha for your reflections.

"Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony."

NEW DATE for Annual Fundraiser

SHINSHU KYOKAI

**Chicken
& Sushi**

PICKUP **Sunday, October 4**
Beretania Street parking lot

———— **See you There!** ————

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"Hate the sin, love the sinner."

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

There are, of course, many more.

To be continued

QUESTION & ANSWER KORNER

QUESTION: What is *shinjin*?

ANSWER: Shinjin is "Wisdom's Clear Light" radiating the Truth of Selflessness. It is "Pure Compassionate Life" permeating the Reality of Togetherness" in all things and life. Shinjin awakens one's gratitude for all that makes life and existence possible. This Truth and Reality are governed by the uniform and orderly principles of causation, conditionality, interdependency, inseparability and karma.