



# GATEWAY



October 2016 -- Vol. LI No. 9



*WCBT Quiz: The last six ministers who served at WCBT were in attendance at the recent World Dobo Gathering. Can you name them in chronological order?*

*Can you guess which minister was 'photoshopped' because he missed the photo-op at the time the photo was taken?*

*(Answers: Rev. Hosokawa (Mishima), Bishop Ito, Rev. Kiyota (photoshopped), Bishop Kawawata, Rev. Hata, and Rev. Miyoshi)*

## My Reflection of The 12th World Dōbō Gathering

Phillip Underwood

WCBT Member

It has been exactly two and a half years since I first walked into West Covina Buddhist Temple and began a journey that has forever changed my outlook and my life for the better. I have experienced ideas, teachings, and lessons that have broadened my sense of self and selflessness as well as views of the world that I live in and come into contact with each day.

On the weekend of August 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> 2016, I again encountered one of the definitive experiences of my journey into Buddhism when I attended the 12<sup>th</sup> World Dōbō Gathering. About 300 active Higashi Buddhists from Japan, Hawaii, and both North and South America attended the 2-day affair, which is held every 3 years. Taking place so closely on the heels of the Summer Olympics in Brazil it seemed

to me that the world community simply moved from Rio de Janeiro to Los Angeles!

This year's Gathering was held primarily at the beautiful Hilton Universal Hotel. We were there all day Saturday and on Sunday Morning. Sunday afternoon included a tour of the Japanese American Museum in Little Tokyo and closing ceremonies at the Higashi Honganji Los Angeles Betsuin.

Titled "Dōbō: Seeking Unity in the Midst of Diversity" with a slogan, "Learning from the Past – Living in the Present – Envisioning the Future", the Gathering asked each of us to reach across the distances and differences between us (especially the differences of language!) and to connect patiently and purposefully. The goal was to share in the basic tenets of Shin Buddhism,

namely compassion, wisdom, and selflessness.

Things began with happy but hectic morning check-in activities and a brief meet and greet. Then the schedule on Saturday was packed with lectures, workshops and delicious meals. Along with everyone else I was able to encounter how broad and diverse the teachings really are. That day was my first time joining such a large group chanting Shōshin-ge in unison. It was completely different from chanting with 30 or 40 members at West Covina Buddhist Temple. The entire conference room flowed to the rhythms of the Nembutsu and Wasan.

Each of the various lecturers presented views on experiencing the teachings and the sutras in their own

*Please see WDG, con't on page 4*



# T H E G A T E W A Y

## DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

Happy Autumn to everyone! We just had our Ohigan service in which Rinban Ito reminded us about interconnectedness and impermanence in his excellent Dharma talk. Dharma school will continue to emphasize those two Buddhist concepts during our Sunday lessons throughout the year. We will explore the two concepts in various ways—within our families, schools, temple, and communities. In addition, global climate change gives us an opportunity to show our children how the whole world is connected.

The World Dobo Retreat was wonderful and unique—this retreat had a program for youngsters (a first!). From 4 ½ years to teens, students from America, South America, and Japan joined in activities to learn about Buddhism. It was an exciting time for all culminating in a trip to Universal Studios. Many thanks to Mrs. Diane Hata and Mrs. Pat Sato for organizing, preparing, and teaching the students. All of the children had a great time!

Halloween is coming up!! Hope you all come to our Halloween party on October 30th for fun games and goodies. Happy Pumpkin to all of you!

Gassho,  
Claire Hansen

Quote of the Month  
One moment can change  
a day, one day can change  
a life and one life can  
change the world.  
-Sakyamuni Buddha

## WDG Youth Program

Pat Sato

Although I may not have had a similar experience as most participants at the WDG, I did have a rare and special experience with the Youth Program. It was the first time a youth program was planned for a WDG and from observation and feedback from parents, the youth themselves had a wonderful and unique experience.

Diane Hata, retired LAUSD administrator, past WCBT Dharma School Superintendent, created and planned a program that covered a broad age group, ages 5 – 15. I had the fortunate opportunity to help her with the preparation and to work alongside her that weekend. We also had the fortunate pleasure of Brian Takahashi's assistance during our youth program as our life-guard, chaperone and interpreter. Brian added that youthful energy to the program.

Since the WDG Theme was "Unity in the Midst of Diversity", the program started with an introduction/ice-breaker activity with a map of Southern California and Japan and various locations marked. The children wrote their names on cards so that we could see where we each traveled from and this included Rev. Marvin Harada from OCBC. The children then listed their favorite sports, subject, food and color to show their similarities, regardless of where they came from.

Rev. Marvin and Freddie the Frog entertained and gave a children's Dharma talk on the Nembutsu. Regardless of language barriers, the 2 boys from Japan were laughing along with the group. He also planned a lesson in kanji, Japanese characters. Kanji are Japanese words that many times are symbolic pictures of the word itself. Rev. Marvin engaged the children by having them take turns writing the kanji on the white board. The American children were amazed how quickly the Japanese born children were able to write kanji.

After lunch we held our own Dobo Olympics (of sorts) with 2 teams, Pizzaz and "The Boss", with "The Boss" coming out as the winner by a narrow margin. Diane even made Dobo Olympic Gold medals for all the children and small prizes were awarded later to all children. We then changed and spent time at the pool and then back inside to watch a touching Japanese documentary and have a short discussion.

The documentary was about a Japanese teacher engaging his class by having them share experiences. One boy shared his feelings about the recent loss of his grandparent and that allowed others to share their stories and feelings of loss. This process enabled the children to show compassion and empathy for one another.

After a snack, the group worked on a craft activity in which they created and decorated a memory book and then asked each other to sign their books. Saturday's program ended with a short practice session of Tanko Bushi which was planned as part of the evening's program.

Sunday was a fun-filled time at Universal Studios thanks to a generous donation of passes through a friend of Ted Oyama of the Betsuin. Yes, the Harry Potter ride is amazing and I survived it!

It warmed my heart to be with such a wonderful group of children. They were all willing participants and interacted positively with one another. Vanessa Vazquez, mother of 7 year old Maya, responded to Diane after receiving a picture of the youth group: "What a great picture !!!!! We're looking at our future temple leaders !!!!!!"

Many thanks to the parents and grandparents who sacrificed their time and finances to make this a once in a life-time experience for their children/grandchildren. In 12 years, this youth group will be young adults. It was a once in a life-time experience for me as well to be a part of the first Youth Program and being able to work with Diane and Brian. Thank you all for a memorable experience.



# T H E G A T E W A Y

## T E M P L E N E W S

### Akimatsuri

The ESGVJCC Akimatsuri will be on Saturday, October 1, from 12:00-8:00 PM and WCBT will be in charge of the Teriyaki Barbecue. Sign-up sheet will be out for your signatures at upcoming services so please find a time when you can help.

We'd like to see everyone come out and support the Temple and the Center.

### The Study Class

The Study Class will meet on October 11 and 25 at 10:00 AM. Discussions will be based on selected topics that vary from week to week. The class meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. For more information, please contact Rev. Miyoshi at (213) 219-6140.

### Halloween

Our annual Halloween party will follow the Sunday Service on October 30. There will be lots of fun and games and prizes so come dressed in your favorite costumes and get in the Halloween spiri! There will be refreshments for everyone so join us in the fun!



### Kiku Crafts & Food Fair

WCBT will sponsor our 8th Annual Kiku Crafts & Food Fair on Sunday, November 6, from 10 AM-3 PM.

Asian inspired crafts, clothing, jewelry, giftware, ceramics, original artwork and lots of delicious food will be offered. Each vendor will be handling their own sales and not all take credit cards so come prepared.

WCBT members are welcome to shop early from 9:30 a.m. Come for

some holiday shopping. Stay for the fun and food!

For more information or if you can help, please contact Hisako Koga 951-818-8740 or [hskoga@gmail.com](mailto:hskoga@gmail.com).

### Ho-on-ko Service

Our Ho-on-ko Service (a memorial service for Shinran Shonin) will be held on Sunday, November 13 at 4:30 PM. Our special guest speaker will be Rev. Masashi Fujii from North American District. Please join us as we welcome Rev. Fujii and stay for the complimentary Otoki dinner that will follow the service.



### November Shotsuki Service & Board Meeting

November Board Meeting will be held on November 20 at 8:30 AM followed by the Shotsuki Service at 10 AM.

### 7-5-3 Service

7-5-3 or Shichi-go-san Service will be held on Sunday, November 27 at 10 AM. This special service is to recognize anyone who has reached the age of three, five or seven this year. Please inform Rev. Miyoshi if you have a family member or know of someone who will be the perfect age for this service.



## GATEWAY Staff

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*West Covina Buddhist Temple Mission Statement:*

In the spirit of universal brotherhood, West Covina Buddhist Temple provides the opportunity for all to listen to and share the Teachings of the Buddha in order that we may awaken to our true selves, living our lives fully and dynamically.

*The Temple's mailing address is:*

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## OCTOBER

Ethan Ezaki, Kelly Yamashita, Sachi Ena, Traci Takemura, Glenn Nakatani, Diane Hata, Jane Earley, Kimio Earley, Miyo Takahashi, Erik Akuna, Melissa Kozono, Lauren Yanase, Mitsue Oshita, Yukiko Kovacs, Yukiko Tsuruda, Tewlyn R. Underwood



# T H E G A T H E R I N G

*WDG, con't from pg. 1*

respective ways. I felt fortunate to receive personal lessons from such high-ranking Higashi and Nishi ministers, officials, and educational scholars. As a subtext of the presentations, for me, one of the most deeply appreciated lessons was patience, because most of the lectures were presented twice, once in English and again in Japanese. And one was repeated a third time in...Portuguese!

Keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Mark Unno gave the most anticipated presentation on Saturday. He lectured primarily on the lessons from *Tannisho*, a Shin Buddhist classic, so that we may gain a clearer understanding of the teachings of our founder Shinran Shōnin. I may not yet fully appreciate the text, but I now have a better grasp of the meaning and the benefit of the 'One Thought Moment' of awakening to the Primal Vow, never to be abandoned. For that I am grateful.

During the afternoon we were separated into small groups of 12 people and sent to workshops in order to ponder the primary issue of 'What can be done to ensure the future of Buddhism'. The task was to find ways to get younger people and family members to participate and fill the ranks of aging Temple members by sparking their interests and enthusiasm. Again, each group had members who spoke different languages, so interpreters and moderators were necessary to increase our understanding.

Being unable to speak Japanese I found myself initially listening more to how participants were speaking instead of to what they were saying. Then I'd compare what I felt I'd heard to the actual translation that followed. That probably wasn't the best way to stay involved, but it seemed to work for me considering that I was already aware of the subject at hand. And I admit that I learned something about compassion, patience and myself. I was especially engrossed when my own words are interpreted to someone who doesn't speak my language. Realizing that some ideas don't translate well, I found

myself hoping that the translators are accurate.

Saturday's events also included a **Dōbō Marketplace to benefit earthquake victims**. Many merchants presented various goods to be purchased with the proceeds going to help recovery efforts in Kumamoto and Tōhoku, Japan.

The long day ended with a delicious dinner and several lively entertainment presentations. Again we were seated in our discussion groups, which I think inhibited what could have been good conversations. I'm sure that the intent was to spur conversation between us, but I felt that most people retreated to what was most familiar and convenient. At our table it seemed that Japanese speakers spoke mostly to themselves and that English speakers did the same, so unfortunately conversations didn't really flow around the table.

However, the banquet room was energetic all evening because of several lively presentations. Songs were beautifully presented by the North America District Chorus, followed by the spirit and energy of the TAIKOPROJECT, and finally a demonstration of Bon Odori Aerobics which exploded into several long conga lines snaking happily around the large room. Needless to say, I slept pretty well that night, and I'm sure I wasn't the only one.

Sunday morning began with a buffet style breakfast followed by services that included chanting Shōshin-ge, Wasan and Ekō. After that, several notable speakers in various languages made presentations of unity and purpose. To me it seemed that the overriding theme on Sunday was more about the subtitle of the Gathering: Learning from the Past-Living in the Present-Envisioning the Future. I found myself feeling extremely hopeful about the future of Shin Buddhism and at the same time more connected to the culture despite the distances between us.

Johnny Martinez, West Covina Buddhist Temple President, gave without a doubt the most moving presentation of the morning, and maybe of the

entire Gathering. Speaking about the Dharma Seeds Program, Johnny turned the focus on himself in expressing his gratitude. He spoke passionately and emotionally about his journey and relationship to the Teachings. Everyone in the large room was emotionally connected to his statements. Through his words I found myself deeply appreciating my own journey, and for that, again I am grateful.

At 12:30 the buses began arriving to transport the participants to Little Tokyo. The first event was a tour of the Japanese American National Museum. The museum documents the history and the treatment of Japanese people in America before and during World War II. Its displays are very hard to face up to. Over 100,000 hard working law-abiding people, who had nothing to do with the attack on Pearl Harbor, were taken from their homes and communities, robbed of their possessions, and locked away in inhumane conditions for the duration of the War in internment camps, not for what they did, but how they looked. I could relate to people being unfairly treated just because of the color of their skin. Being African-American and because of racial experiences in my own life, I can't imagine anyone not being personally affected by the exhibits and stories.

That was my 2<sup>nd</sup> time visiting the museum and I found myself looking at the exhibits with more sadness than my 1<sup>st</sup> visit. This time however I was able to observe the impact it had upon Japanese people who were seeing it for the very 1<sup>st</sup> time. The time spent there had to be an eye opening and thought provoking experience for our visitors from other countries.

From there we all walked back to Betsuin for the closing ceremonies. We assembled outside and took group photos as we displayed our best smiles. We were then inside, seated in the Temple and after chanting Shōshin-ge, heard several heartfelt closing remarks from high-ranking Higashi officials, including Overseas District Abbot Chōyū Ōtani. We ended the Gathering with a

*Please see WDG, con't on pg. 5*



# T H E G A T H E R I N G



*Our dear old friend Bishop Noriaki Ito returned to WCBT to give the Dharma talk at our recent Ohigan Service.*

tered. Looking back and reflecting on the weekend, those differences are secondary to what was really important to me. The teachings of Śakyamuni Buddha and the words of Shinran Shōnin were at the center of the purpose for the Gathering. I know that's how it was for me and I'm certain that we all joined together to encounter the same things, namely compassion, wisdom, and selflessness. And for that, I'm grateful.



(「同朋大会」9頁からの続き)

ではなく、見かけによって人権を奪われた人々の苦難の歴史を目の当たりにしました。皮膚の色によって差別された人の歴史は、アフ

リカ系アメリカ人の私の経験にも重なりました。

博物館から徒歩で別院に向かい閉会式に参加しました。大会は恩徳讃斉唱で幕を閉じました。

世界同朋大会は感情的にもまた知的な学びとしてもとても有意義な経験でした。異なる人々の集まる場に参加することは初めてではありません。けれども言葉の壁や文化や年齢や職業など、これほどバラバラな人たちと同じ日程を過ごしたことはありませんでした。この二日間を振り返った時、本当に大切なことに比べればそうした違いは二次的なものであることに気づきました。この大会の中心は釈尊の教えであり、親鸞聖人の言葉であり、それが私たちをつなげてくれていました。この大会で私たちはみな、智慧と慈悲、そして私を超えたはたらきに出会うことができたのだと思っています。大会に参加できて本当によかったと感謝しています。

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solemn version of Ondokusan.

For me the Gathering was an emotionally and intellectually enlightening experience. Being in a large diverse group of people wasn't anything new. But considering the seemingly obvious barriers of language, culture, age, and professions this was as unlikely as probably anything I've ever encoun-



## Kiku Crafts & Food Fair

Sponsored by West Covina Buddhist Temple

Sunday, November 6, 2016

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

at ESGVJCC

**Asian inspired crafts, clothing, jewelry, giftware,  
ceramics, original arts and delicious food!**

**Come for some holiday shopping,  
Stay for the fun and food!**

**There will be no central cashiering. Each vendor will  
handle their own sales and  
not all vendors take credit cards.**

**For info contact Hisako Koga: 951-818-8740  
hskoga@gmail.com**



T H E G A T E W A Y

# World Dobo Gathering 2016



*Clockwise from top: WDG listening to speakers; John Martinez; Dharma Seeds Michelle Harrison and Anthony Guterrez; Revs. Ken & Hosokawa with friend Marilyn; the Haraguchis & Martinezs with the Kiyota family; Haruko Mayeda enjoying the Tankobushi. Center: Dr. Mark Unno was the plenary speaker at the WDG.*





T H E G A T E W A Y

# WDG Youth Program



World Dobo Gathering's Youth Program was a wonderful success. In addition to a full Dharma program some of the children were able to visit Universal Studio's Harry Potter World. (See Pat Sato's article on Page 2)

## A stop on their way to Las Vegas...



A group of 50 enthusiastic Sangha members from Japan and Brazil stopped by WCBT the day after the WDG on their merry way to Las Vegas. The WCBT Sangha warmly greeted them with onigiri and tsukemono and a boxed lunch of sandwich, fruit, chips and a bottle of water. Each lunchbox contained a "good luck frog" or "Kaeru". Rev. Miyoshi had to explain to our visitors the double entendre that is associated with this "Good luck frog"... which is apparently only familiar to Japanese in Hawaii and California who are Las Vegas enthusiasts.



Boxing the lunches



Beer always makes things friendly & mellow



Rev. Mishima reunites with the Katos; Emi, Barbara, Rev. Mishima, Mitzi and Ted



# T H E G A T E W A Y



## Buddhism Quiz

Today's Buddhist quiz is the first of a 2-Part Quiz. It asks about the Six Paramitas.

**Difficulty Level: Moderate**

It is during Ohigan that we dedicate our efforts to living as Buddhists according to the Six Paramitas. In Mahayana teaching, the Six Paramitas list six kinds of practice by which bodhisattvas are able to attain enlightenment. Match the following three Sanskrit words and its description.

1. \_\_\_ Dana 2. \_\_\_ Dhyana  
3. \_\_\_ Sila

- A. Discipline, observing the precepts: This is to develop good behavior; to obey the rules of parents, teachers, and the laws of society
- B. Giving, offering, generosity: This is the practice of an open heart of giving freely what is needed by others.
- C. Meditation, contemplation: Through meditation, we can penetrate the mind's delusions and gain insight into ultimate reality

Answers: 1-B, 2-C, 3-A





# T H E G A T E W A Y

## 第12回世界同朋大会 アンダーウッド・フィリップ

私がウェストコヴィナのお寺に通うようになってちょうど2年半が経ちました。お寺との出会いは私の生き方やものの見方を変えてくれました。聞法を通して今生きている世界や毎日の出来事に対する視野が広がったのを感じると同時に、自分の姿により深く向き合う時間と、自分の思いを超えたはたらきに出会う機会を与えられているように感じています。

去る8月27日、28日の両日に開催された第12回世界同朋大会は、かけがえのない時間となり、私の仏法に出会う旅に新たな1ページが刻まれました。日本、ハワイ、南北アメリカからおよそ300人が参加したこの世界大会は3年ごとに開催されているとのことでした。ブラジルのリオで開催されたオリンピックが閉幕した直後ということもあり、世界大会がリオデジャネイロからロサンゼルスに移動したように感じました。

会場はヒルトン・ユニバーサル・ホテル。土曜日から日曜日の午前中の日程がここで行われました。日曜日の午後は小東京に移動し、全米日系人博物館の見学に続き、別院にて閉会式が行われました。

大会テーマは「Dobō 多様な世界の中で」、そしてスローガンは「過去に学び、今を生き、未来が開かれる」でした。言語の違いには特に苦労しましたが、参加者はお互いの違いや距離を超えて相手をよく知ろうと積極的に交流しました。なによりも、浄土真宗の教えを聞いているもの同士という共

通点が私たちを結びつけてくれたように思います。

受付を済ませてからは、基調講演やワークショップなど盛りだくさんの日程でした。おそらく他の人も感じていたように、教えの深さと広さに改めて驚きました。また「正信偈」のお勤めにも感動しました。ウェストコヴィナのお寺では30～40人ほどで勤めていますので、これだけたくさんの方が一緒に勤める「正信偈」は初めての体験でした。会場全体がお勤めの声で満たされていました。

また、色々な人から教えを体験した話を聞いたことも、とても有り難く感じました。一方で、それぞれが日英、時にはポルトガル語も加えて順に話されるのには多少の忍耐が必要でした。

マーク海野先生の基調講演は最も楽しみにしていた時間の一つです。先生は『歎異抄』の教えをもとにお話くださいました。『歎異抄』については勉強を始めたばかりですが、本願に目覚める一念の意味と摂取不捨の教えを教えてくださいました。

土曜日の午後には判別座談の時間がありました。1グループは12人で構成され、私たちは仏教の未来について何ができるかということについて話し合いました。日本語、英語を話す人が混ざったグループでしたので、通訳や司会の力を借りながら意思の疎通をしました。

私は日本語が話せないのも、主に参加者の話を聞くことに集中しました。聞きながら、住んでいる国や話す言葉が違っていても、共通の課題や意見を持っていることに気づくことができました。

夜には東北と熊本の被災地復興支援のDobōマーケットや晩餐会が開催され、エンターテイメントで

は合唱団の歌や太鼓の演奏、盆踊りを楽しみました。

日曜日の午前中に行われたプレゼンテーションは大会のスローガンである「過去に学び、今を生き、未来が開かれる」について深く考える時間となりました。私個人としては浄土真宗の未来に明るい希望を抱いています。また色々な違いを超えて真宗のもつ文化とも強いつながりを感じました。

ウェストコヴィナの理事長を務めるジョニー・マルティネス氏のプレゼンテーションは最も感動的なものでした。参加していたダルマ・シーズプログラムの話を通して、彼は自身の感謝の気持ちを表現してくれました。

日曜日の午後はバスに分乗して小東京に向かいました。全米日系人博物館を見学して、何をしたか

(「同朋大会」5頁に続く)

## お寺ニュース

### 法話会報恩講 (日本語)

法話会では11月3日(木)午後7時半より、11月祥月法要と併せて報恩講を厳修致します。報恩講は親鸞聖人への報恩謝徳の為に行われる最も大切な仏事です。どうぞ皆様お誘い合わせの上、ご参詣下さいませようご案内申し上げます。

### 報恩講 (英語)

11月13日(日)午後4時半より、本年度の報恩講法要(英語)を厳修致します。講師として北米開教監督部より藤井真之師をお招きしております。法要後には、お齋をご用意いたしております。報恩講は一年の節目となる最も大切な法要です。どうぞ皆様でご参詣下さい。

10月祥月法要 / 法話会

10月6日(木)

午後7時半より

East San Gabriel Valley  
Japanese Community Center, Inc.

West Covina Buddhist Temple  
1203 W. Puente Avenue, West Covina, CA 91790  
P.O. Box 1616, West Covina, CA 91793

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THE WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE

# GATEWAY

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## October

- 1 12:00 pm ESGVJCC Akimatsuri
- 2 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 2 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 6 7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 9 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 11 10:00 am Study Class
- 16 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 23 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 25 10:00 am Study Class
- 30 10:00 am Sunday Service/Halloween Party

## 2016年10月行事予定

- 1日 正午 センター秋祭り
- 2日 午前8時半 理事会
- 2日 午前10時 祥月法要
- 6日 午後7時半 法話会
- 9日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 16日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 23日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 30日 午前10時 日曜礼拝/ハロウィーン

## November

- 3 7:30 pm Howakai Hoonko Service
- 5 10:00 am ESGVJCC Health Fair
- 6 10:00 am Kiku Crafts & Food Fair
- 6 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 8 10:00 am Study Class
- 13 4:30 pm Hoonko Service

## 11月行事予定

- 3日 午後7時半 法話会報恩講
- 5日 午前10時 センターヘルスフェア
- 6日 午前10時 菊クラフトフェア
- 6日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 13日 午後4時半 報恩講 (英語)

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今を生きずにいつを生きる  
ここを生きずにどこを生きる

大神信章