



The Mossy Temple

By Reverend Mimatsu

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As time went by, the field turned into a beautiful mossy garden. The priest had been able to anticipate that the fallen leaves would grow into a mossy garden because of the nutrition found in the ground and Japan's humid climate. The Temple has now become a famous sightseeing place for tourists.

The priest's judgment in this story teaches us that what others might think is right may not always be correct. Whatever people around us might say, we need to take things broadly into consideration and based on the situation facing us trust in our instinct. In this case, the priest used his knowledge and trusted in his hunch that the ground would eventually become mossy. However, it doesn't necessarily mean that we don't have to listen to others.

I believe that there is a hidden message from Buddhism in this story which is "do not lose sight of the truth."



Taiko Group Performances

By Kaori Kubota-Sakauye



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With much gratitude
Northern California Koyasan Temple

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Introducing our New Taiko Instructor



Hi, everyone! My name is Gregory Wada, and I am a new instructor for Koyasan Spirit of Children Taiko. *Yoroshiku onegaishimasu!* I am currently a Ph.D. student in Anthropology at UC Davis, and I have been playing taiko for about ten years. As an undergraduate, I played taiko with *Bakuhatsu* Taiko Dan, the collegiate taiko group at UC Davis, where I still help instruct, as well.

During my time playing taiko, I was fortunate to learn from many wonderful teachers and groups who have pioneered the art form in North America, including Seiichi Tanaka sensei from the San Francisco Taiko Dojo, from many generous San Jose Taiko members through workshops and performing at San Jose Obon, and from our local taiko legend Tiffany Tamaribuchi sensei. I also studied

composition and music production during the pandemic with Isaku Kageyama sensei from the Los Angeles taiko institute. All of my teachers have shown how wonderful the world of taiko can be! In my life, taiko has really helped me grow and find my voice, and hope that I can help provide that experience for others as well.

At the core of it, drumming with others is such a beautiful way to live in the moment and be present together. A single sound is fleeting, gone almost as soon as it begins. But we keep hitting together and make something memorable. Coming back week after week, we grow together, and there comes a time where a simple sound is more than just a sound. We experience something differently because of the time we take to listen to it and really hear it. The drum makes a sound, but so do the *bachi*, and the room around it. People can be the same way.

I don't mean to mistake the drum for *dharma*, but I think there's a beautiful history of *taiko* in Buddhism, both classically and in recent history. The style of drumming that most people recognize as taiko largely spread in North America through Buddhist networks in the 1970's, including the wine barrel drum, which made taiko possible for so many people. As *taiko* grows more and more popular and spreads around the world, I hope we as taiko players can remember its history and continue to come back to the drum to be together in our communities.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to work with Koyasan and hope to see you soon!



Taiko Classes

Currently the Taiko Group has a few classes available for new students. Any adults and children over 6 years old are welcome to join the beginner's class. Due to Covid, we are keeping our classes small, so the spaces are very limited. If you are interested, please contact Kaori, the Taiko instructor at Koyasan.taiko@gmail.com.



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Not as the Mayor, but a friend of Koyasan Temple

Mingling with members, children and friends

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Smiling and enjoying Obon odorí with George Sakuri

Acknowledging the personalized "floating Lanterns"

With enjoyment and jubilation of the Taiko encore

Forever grateful!

With Gassho,

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“SHIKATAGANAI” (Can’t Be Helped)

By Frances Nakashoji

Our Journey : Reflection with Inspiration, Humbleness, and Gratitude

We are influenced by life events; some painful, some fruitful and some divine to bring fullness into one's life. The fabric of life includes the weave of many personal, communal fellowship of embracement and endearment. Those influences weigh heavy in our spirit, our preference, determination and our resiliency.

In the afternoon of July 5, 1950, our family life changed forever--- after the departure of Mr. Wataji, the monthly grocery vendor, left in his white van. Brother Henry told Mom he did not feel well and was put in bed. I was told to watch him as Mom went to the neighbor, the Yamanaka's, who also lived on a 20-acre farm. Suddenly, Henry said “I want Mommy.” I yelled through the unscreened window to no avail. Finally, Mom arrived home; she frantically said “Go get Daddy.” Dad and my three brothers were installing a water pump for irrigation and house use. To this day, I still have vivid memories of Dad running home; then I saw a cloud of dust as they drove off to find a doctor in the new town of Elk Grove and returned only with the green blanket.

Once a loud, rambunctious house, now silent with disbelief, shock, anxiety, emptiness and filled with regrets of leaving the islands, where we were surrounded by a large extended family. My mother was the oldest of 13 and my father had 10 siblings resulting in nearly a 100 cousins, only four months ago. He was only 7! Now with four ranging from 10 to 5 years old. Life forever changed.

We, frantically traveled to San Francisco to Mayhew in search of answers: Why? Ultimately finding empathy and inclusion at Perkins *Daishiko* with Mrs. Hatsuno Sunahara. It has been a life journey seeking understanding and comfort with embracement of Kobo Daishi and the endearment of the Sunahara Family. With daily prayers before breakfast and after dinner and bathing; we prayed at our home-built *Obutsudan* (*Obutsudan* is a personal/family Buddha house) of plywood, memorizing prayers including “*Hannya-Shin Gyo*,” Golden Chain,” and “The Texture of the Life.” Our family passion and commitment centered around Koyasan Shingon Mission, The Heart Sutra “Guidance and comfort of Kobo Daishi” to find solace, gratification and peace of mind. The influence of life experiences play a large part of our spirit, determination and resiliency. Finding acceptance, appreciation with remembrance and love and understanding. Brother Henry has an enormous presence in our hearts.

Arigoto gozaimasu !



Mabo Harusame

Recipe contributed by Shirley Kodani

Ingredients:

200 grams (about 6 oz.) *Harusame* bean threads
placed in boiling water, let stand for a few minutes
and when cool to handle cut in manageable length
1 lb. ground pork
1 medium carrot, cut into matchsticks
½ onion, chopped
½ green or red pepper, cut into strips
50 grams Black fungus (wood ear, *kikurage*),
reconstituted and chopped
2 cloves minced garlic
1 small piece of ginger, minced
1 Tbsp. sesame oil
1 Tbsp. vegetable oil



Sauce Ingredients

1 Tbsp. *Tenmanjan* or Korean miso, mix well before using
1 Tbsp. *Tobanjan* or Korean chili, mix well before using
1 Tbsp. Oyster sauce
1 Tbsp. *Sake* or dry wine
1 Tbsp. *Mirin*
10 grams chicken bouillon or use any chicken bouillon such as Better than Bullion
1 packet *Chuka Dashi*

Heat sesame and vegetable oil in low heat in a wok or large frying pan and sauté garlic and ginger. Turn the heat to high and add ground pork and cook until no longer pink. Add the vegetables. When vegetables are tender crisp add *harusame* and the sauce mix. Taste and correct for seasoning. If spicy is preferred, add some *ra-yu* (Japanese chili oil or equivalent). If it looks dry add ¼ cup water.

Put in a serving platter and garnish with chopped green onion.

Note: This is an *okazu*-like dish so amount of ingredients are variable. Eyeball the amount of *harusame* and black fungus based on the amount in the package.

Tenmanjan and *Tobanjan* maybe difficult to obtain as they are only available in Japanese stores. You may substitute with Korean miso or Korean chili paste which works well.



About this Recipe

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Photos:

Mike Kodani, Kaori-Kubota-Sakauye,
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