

# KOYASAN BEIKOKU BETSUIN OF LOS ANGELES



高野山米国別院

## 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Koyasan Shingon Mission North America Campaign for the Dedication of the 600 Scroll Great Mahāprāna Sutra

Dear Members and Friends of Koyasan Beikoku Betsuin:

In 1912, a young monk named Shutai Aoyama founded the Daishi Church in Los Angeles. The establishment of this Daishi Church laid the foundation for the establishment of Koyasan Shingon Buddhism in North America, which has now led to the establishment of six temples on the West Coast to spread the teachings of our founder and Great Master, Kobo Daishi (Odaishi-sama).

Next year, 2022, will mark the 110th anniversary of this momentous occasion. In celebration of this milestone, to secure the future of the Koyasan Shingon Mission in North America, and to repay our gratitude to Odaishi-sama, Koyasan Beikoku Betsuin will undertake the dedication of the 600 volume Great Mahāprāna Sutra (大般若經) and establish for the first time at the Betsuin, the Daihannya Tendoku Ho-E (大般若転読法会), "Daihannya Reading Ceremony" which will be performed annually during Aoba Matsuri.

The Mahāprāna Sutra (大般若經) consists of the first 600 volumes of the Daizo Sutra (大藏經), which were first brought to China from India by the Chinese Buddhist monk *Xuanzang* (玄奘三蔵 Genjo Sanzo), known from the book "Journey to the West (西域記)." Genjo Sanzo overcame many dangers and difficulties on his journey to India and devoted his life to translating the sutras he brought back. The Mahāprāna Sutra contains some of the most important teachings in Buddhism and the Heart Sutra (般若心經), which is essential to the Shingon faith and chanted daily, is said to be the central teaching of the Mahāprāna Sutra.

The Daihannya Reading Ceremony is a prayer service that has been performed since ancient times for peace and happiness of the country. The service, which consists of monks "reciting" the 600 volumes of the Mahāprāna Sutra by fanning each individual volume, has long been revered for its miraculous efficacy in generating tremendous merit offerings to our ancestors and granting individual prayers for family safety, business prosperity, traffic safety, and physical health. The opportunity to perform the Daihannya Reading Ceremony in North American is rare due to the large expense that is associated with securing the 600 volume Mahāprāna Sutra.

The Betsuin needs your help and support in this large financial undertaking and will be offering a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to sponsor individual volumes of the Mahāprāna Sutra.

### **\$300 One Volume**

Each sponsored volume can be dedicated with 1 of the following choices:

- 1) Offering to Ancestors – Up to 2 family names maximum
- 2) Offering to the deceased – Up to 2 individual names maximum
- 3) Prayer for prosperity and good fortune – Up to 2 individual or family names maximum.

There is also a maximum of 2 donor names listed per volume.

You may sponsor multiple volumes, subject to availability.

Each sponsored volume will be kept in the Inner Sanctuary of the Betsuin and have its specific wish or dedication prayed for at the Daihannya Reading Ceremony in perpetuity.

We welcome all Koyasan Betsuin members and non-members and their friends and families to take advantage of this rare opportunity to deepen their bond with Buddha and Odaishi-sama and generate tremendous blessings through the sponsorship of one or more volumes of the Mahāprāna Sutra. Please fill out the attached Sponsorship form and submit it to the Betsuin. The Betsuin sincerely appreciates your support and prays for the continued happiness and safety of you and your family.

Your warm understanding and cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

With Gassho.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Head Minister of Koyasan Beikoku Betsuin of LA  
Bishop Yuju Matsumoto

President of Koyasan Beikoku Betsuin of LA  
Richard Narumi