

## Impermanence & Change

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Wayne Fujioka

An article by the West Covina Buddhist Temple in California, states that one of the most basic teachings of Shin Buddhism is impermanence, which is the fundamental truth that all life is always moving, flowing and changing. The Buddha realized that all living things, the people we love, birds, trees, all are impermanent and all life is interdependent.

We put our hands together and bow our head in gassho. We say "Namu Amida Butsu". "Namu" indicates the attitude of the humble student or seeker of the truth; "Amida Butsu" means the Dharma of impermanence of truth. So, it essentially means "Bow to the Dharma".

The Longmont Buddhist Temple in Colorado lists Buddhist views as:

The Buddhist view of the world is:

IMPERMANENCE or CONSTANT CHANGE

The Buddhist view of life is:

INTERDEPENDENCE or NON-SELF

The Buddhist view of truth is:

ENLIGHTENMENT (NIRVANA)

Flowers symbolize the teaching of impermanence. They are beautiful in the morning, but fade in the heat of the day. All things change, including life itself.

Wahiawa Hongwanji on Oahu re-printed the following questions and answers from Rev. Kenneth Tanaka's "Guidelines for

Talking with Non-Buddhists", published in 1992 by the Buddhist Churches of America.

Q. What is Jodo Shinshu Buddhism?

A. It is a religion of awareness.

Q. What does one become aware of?

A. One becomes aware that

- 1) Life is a "bumpy road"
- 2) Life is impermanent
- 3) Life is interdependent
- 4) Life can be joyful

Kahuku Hongwanji on Oahu built their temple in 1902. On December 31, 2012, 110 years later, they closed down their church.

From Oxnard Buddhist Temple in California:

Our lives and the world around us are constantly changing. Experience shows us that all things change over time, sometimes gradually, but sometimes suddenly, leaving us surprised and shocked. The Buddha's teachings help us to live amidst the constant flow of impermanence by showing us how to face uncertainty with calm and clear wisdom, so that we can appreciate our lives in the moment just as we are.

Okay, let's travel again to South America. About 250 miles south of Lima, Peru are located the Nazca Lines, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Lines are believed to have been created by people of the Nazca culture more than 2,000 years ago by removing reddish pebbles and exposing the light sand ground beneath. Lines are 1' to 10' wide and a few inches deep. They are spread out over 85 square miles. Experts are not able to agree on why these lines were made, including:

1. They were created for or by ancient gods
2. Landing strip for returning aliens
3. Celestial calendar
4. Used for rituals related to astronomy
5. Map of underground water supplies

There are hundreds of simple lines and shapes of animals and other figures, some as large as a football field. Here's a photo of a touring airplane and a drawing of some locations because it's easier to make out the figures from up in the air than on the ground. The figures include:

Hummingbird– 310' long

Condor– 440' long

Monkey– 190' x 360'

Spider– 150' long

Also, there is a dog, an alien being or astronaut, hands, a landing strip, and circles. Others are a vulture, whale, tree, flower, triangle, and rectangle.

The dry and windless desert environment and its isolation, for the most part, have enabled the lines to be basically preserved for hundreds of years. But in recent years, the lines have been deteriorating because of an influx of squatters living in the area. In March of this year, it was reported that a Peruvian mining company destroyed some lines as they excavated for materials. Because of the environment over time and because of humans within a few short years, there have been slow and sudden, sometimes shocking, changes to the Nazca Lines.