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## **My pilgrimage to Japan**

At the turn of May and June 2009 I was fortunate to travel far East - to Japan and stay and live in one of Yokohama's temple - Korinji. Though the season of cherry-tree blossom has just passed Japan welcomed me with its courtesy, gentleness and on every-side pulsing harmony. Starting from ordinary things like housing, shopping, through getting along with millions of inhabitants of the biggest metropolis of the world, and ending in the admirable gardens and astonishing temples and shrines. One may ask why astonishing? For me it was like looking into future and past at the same time. Thousands of those old wooden temples are located just next to the modern buildings made from concrete and glass, or just next door. It looks like there is always a right time to stop and make a think. In this law and order I felt their relation with surrounding world, respect for time and other beings. Their world seemed to me quiet, kind, delicate, but also firm and perfectly organized. But in spite of so many rules and restrictions facilitate their life I did not have any impression of imprisonment. And everywhere was so clear.

I was charmed by their attitude for work. In spite of working for almost all day they did not seem to me unhappy. They looked fulfilled being able work for their country or others. When I come back to Poland some people asked me how they can work for so many hours, what about their private life? For me it was clear. When you asked yourself who looks happier, then it's easy to get the answer. When to dedicate your life for someone else, then it became valuable and successful. I have got the same impression when I started to learn some useful phrases. I was surprised when I discovered that in Japanese there is not such a thing like: I HAVE a beautiful view from MY window. We should rather say something like: beautiful view is through this window. Subjects like "I" or even objects like "view" is often optional. It can stay only with verb. That makes me realized that "I" or "we" are just guests in this world. Amazing thing. Their life is determined by what they are doing, ours by when and how I can relaxed - I think.

I realize that it's impossible to get to know Japan or Japanese in one month. But thanks to my teacher - Myoshu sensei and so many people who dedicated their life for Buddha, Dharma and Sangha I was fortunate to experience all of it on the highest level. Without them it would not be possible. I feel outstanding being able to live as a ordinary monk in Korinji, to participate in the morning gongyo in Honzan, to visiting so many temples, to bow in front of the altar, to burn the incense - and breath in this well knowing fragrance and remembering how was it before...

I would like to thank for this opportunity to Myoshu sensei. Without her help and efforts it would not be possible to experience all of that. I realize that this is only a substitute, but it is for me a great treasure. I have a lot of thing to learn, with Namu Amida Butsu.

Gassho.