

Funeral condolences for The Most Reverend Jyoushu Sasaki

The Whole of this world is all nothing, if you quickly look back upon 107 years in front of the First Buddha throughout your life.

You are entering an eternal trip, riding on the horse of god backwards. The wind which scatters a flower towards your destination, the castle of Nirvana, is blowing strongly.

If you are recollected, even in your old age, you were the owner of a very fine soul, and were a hero of the Zen monks in the United States.

Moreover, when you were young, you had the special heart to wish, and you self-trained for years at Tenju-in temple in Kyoto and Zuigan-ji temple in Matsushima. As a result, the right law was inherited from The Most Reverend Jyouten Miura and you became one of the founders who descend from Gautama Buddha.

Kurokawa in Miyagi Prefecture was your birth place and you were quite strong from the time of childhood.

Simultaneously, you led people whose many waver through the whole life by your heart of benevolence.

You passed into the United States at the age of 55, subsequent missionary activities continued for 52 years, and you left the distinguished services which were truly excellent in this world. You always believed in the right way and corrected each mistake immediately. You struck mistaken people with a stick. You used the golden hammer properly and your work released people from the pain of life and death. The wind of law is filled in the Zen center by your striving for meditation in Zen Buddhism with many people practicing asceticism every day.

You won the Buddhism missions service prize in Japan. It is filled with the power of your propagation in the streets in United States.

In 1971, I visited Rinzaiji temple and Mt. Baldy Zen center for the first time with The Most Reverend Mumon Yamada. Since then, our friendly exchange continued for 43 years, and the recollections will not be exhausted.

Your smiling face is not forgotten from the time I came to your 105th birthday with 30 persons from Japan in 2006. However, although I am sad, there is no reply from you in this time, and this is the eternal separation here in Los Angeles.

People gathering in this separation sing the song of sadness with shedding tears, and with an infinite sad feeling, we bow deeply to say good-bye.

I would like to remember you and to hand down your virtue of the deceased to future generations.

Finally, it is the last separation from you.

Zen Master Jyoushu! How is the last of life?
Your dead body is cremated and those two forcible eyebrows will be burned.
God of the fire of a very crimson face appears and he will greet you.
Ii...!!

August 26th, 2014

Nine deep bows,
Shunan Noritake
Reiunin temple, Kyoto, Japan