

# KOYASAN



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## HAPPY NEW YEAR - HOMAGE to the THREE TREASURES

January 1, 2017 *The Year of the Rooster*  
Imamura Junkun, Bishop of Koyasan Beikoku Betsuin

We would like to cordially express our gratitude to all of you for the preservation of the Betsuin as well as your kind support of the priests and the staff for this past year. We count on you for your continued cooperation and kindness for this year as well. We pray for your happiness for this upcoming new year. As we approach the New Year, we renew our state of mind, and have a newly found determination. There is something that Kobo Daishi wrote in the past and it serves as a general motto. Rightfully, it is a motto that should be credited to a person named Saishigyoku of the Later Han Dynasty era (25 – 220AD); it is the opening of two stanzas, that is part of a larger motto containing twelve stanzas.

Hito no tan o iunakare

*Thou shall not speak ill of others*

Onore no cho o tokunakare

*Thou shall not boast of thine position or deeds*

Kobo Daishi, whom we have worshipped as a Buddha for a period of 1,200 years, has offered these words that must not be forgotten, not even for one moment. When I remember these words, it is quite apparent that not talking behind someone's back; not talking bad about someone or not boasting about ourselves is extremely important, but I also clearly understood how extremely difficult it is to not do these things.

Even for people who are considered to be "Buddha-like", they have their defects and shortcomings, and even for people who are considered to be "devil-like," there are some good traits somewhere within them. According to our own preconceived notions and thoughts, we are apt to look at a person's appearance reflected through our own cloudy, dirty mirror and pass judgment. But when we notice a person's bad trait, we tend to want to boast about ourselves. And the moment we speak out, that person may counterattack unexpectedly and it develops into a quarrel. When we insist that our thinking is absolutely correct, it ultimately becomes a debate or a fight because we all have various ideologies. When thinking about these things, I certainly would like to preserve the words of Kobo Daishi this year. However, even when we promise ourselves, "I'd like to do this or that," or "I will stop doing this or that", we forget before long and can no longer keep our own promises. For as long as we live, this is something that we just cannot avoid. Moreover, this is actual proof that we are living. Kobo Daishi will

always protect us although we are keenly aware of our sins and cannot keep our vows. Please chant "Namu Daishi Henjo Kongo" and pray for health and happiness of your families and friends. It is said that from long ago, to pray for someone else's happiness from the heart brings about our own happiness.

*Namu Daishi Henjo Kongo*

## UPCOMING EVENTS !!!

### NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE (SHUSHO-E)

Perhaps the largest event of the year, the Buddhist temples in Los Angeles are offering Oshogatsu on New Year's Day. Koyasan Buddhist Temple will hold its Fire Rite on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. Bishop Junkun Imamura will officiate. The Traditional Shingon Fire Ritual Service begins with chanting mantras and beating of the drum with the goal of



bringing joy, enlightenment, good health and peace of mind. The year 2017 is the "Year of the Rooster" (1921, 1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005, 2017). Ema (wish tablet), Omamori (amulet), Omikujii (fortunes), Hamaya (Lucky arrows) and consecrated Ofuda (talisman) will be available. The temple is opened from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., January 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### NEW YEAR GATHERING

We are going to have a New Year's potluck gathering on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 12:30 p.m., after the annual General Membership and Fujinkai Meetings. Please RSVP and let us know the potluck dish that you will be bringing. The dish should serve 10 people. In lieu of bringing a dish, donations are accepted. We are also planning to have games with prizes, bingo, and more. Koyasan Taiko Group will be performing. Invite your friends and join us in our New Year's gathering.

