

Plotting Your Eternal Future
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Staff Writer

Whether we view death as a graduation to look forward to or as a cause for sober self-reflection, we have to come to terms with it. For many of us, this may raise logistical questions regarding our physical remains.

There are no hard-and-fast rules in Buddhism about cremation or burial. It's up to us whether we want our remains to be interred in a family plot, flung into the ocean or sprinkled in a flower bed. And there are no prohibitions against donating our bodies for medical or scientific purposes.

Further, our enlightenment is not determined by formal ceremonies, financial offerings or special cemetery plots; rather, enlightenment and rebirth are determined by our faith and prayer.

For members who choose to be interred near other SGI members, the SGI-USA has made arrangements with Rose Hills Memorial Park in Whittier, Calif., to provide cemetery property and services.

The organization has purchased 100 plots to sell, and an additional 600 plots will probably become available in the future. The area, which was named Oasis of Eternity by SGI President Ikeda, will be demarcated by a special SGI-USA monument.

Each burial plot includes an underground vault that can hold the cremated remains of two people. (No pets or other animals may be interred here.) The SGI-USA will conduct two formal memorial services annually for deceased members in the SkyRose Chapel on the cemetery grounds.

The package price of \$3,500 per plot also includes a specially designed granite grave marker with the SGI eight-petal lotus logo.

Plots are being sold on a first-come-first-serve basis. For more information, please call Tony Sugano at (310) 260-8981 or send your name, address and telephone number to Oasis of Eternity, 525 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90401-1403.

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