

FROM OUR READERS

EXPLAINING THE DIFFERENCE

I wanted to thank Fay Hovey for submitting such an interesting article on Tibetan Buddhism [“Beyond Precepts to a Full Expression of Joy and Human Revolution”] in the December 2000 issue. I, too, get asked if I practice Zen or Tibetan Buddhism, and I understand your feelings of how American society has placed these sects in the forefront of their minds when they think of Buddhism. I’ve had some trouble explaining the difference.

I work for a non-profit foster-care organization and our workplace is striving to become more diverse. Some of our activities include a sharing session called “the brown-bag lunch”, an opportunity to share our cultural values, any trips we have taken outside the U.S., and any other cultural discoveries. The coordinator for this activity (and other co-workers) has been encouraging me to do a “brown bag” on Buddhism.

I have a phobia about talking in front of others about something that could be open to debate, but this is something that I must do to challenge myself. This article is going to be the basis for my presentation. It has inspired me to share Buddhism with my co-workers.

S. Shanna Stephens, Seattle

ENHANCED UNDERSTANDING

I thoroughly enjoyed the article “Beyond Precepts to a Full Expression of Joy and Human Revolution” by Fay Hovey in the December issue. I’m new to Buddhism, having practiced Nichiren Daishonin’s Buddhism for a little more than two months, and really appreciate Hovey’s knowledgeable distinction between it and Tibetan Buddhism. The article not only enhanced my own understanding of the difference but also gave me a basis for talking about the differences when asked by friends.

Thanks so much for publishing the piece!

Chella Courington, Montgomery, AL

ZEN

Thank you for tackling the subject of Tibetan Buddhism, now if we do the same with Zen, we may really be able to change the world.

I am always amazed by how some SGI members turn green when someone mentions another sect. There is some insecurity there.

The only way to keep people from being insecure, is to teach them.

Bill Endsley, Chicago

CAMBODIAN

I wish to express my sincere thanks for the article by Fay Hovey about Tibetan Buddhism. Her article was easy for a limited-English person like me to read.

Because her article cleared my eyes that were blurred all these years. I am a Cambodian and had to run for my life, escaping that country to seek asylum in the United States twenty-five years ago. I ran from a war-torn country known as a Buddhist country. In 1975–80 Cambodia became known as the cruelest killing machine humans ever experienced since the Nazis thirty-five years before. Because I was brought up in the Hinayana Buddhist tradition, I personally have a profound appreciation for Fay Hovey’s article.

I can use it as a tool in my dialogue about Buddhism that I love to do anywhere, but in particular when I visit Cambodia. It will help me introduce Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism to people in Cambodia, Thailand and Laos, because often the subject of what form of Buddhism they should practice comes up.

I would like to translate this article into Khmer (Cambodian) for our SGI-Cambodia members to enjoy and enrich their knowledge and appreciation of Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism.

Vuthi Seng, Los Angeles