



# THREE JEWELS

Fall 2007

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## Links to Buddhist Websites

[Blue Lotus Temple](#)  
[Ten Directions Zen Community](#)  
[Woodstock Zen Group](#)  
[Dharma.org](#)  
[Human Potential Foundation](#)

## Contact Us

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## I, Me, Mine

### ~ Bhante Sathi, Triple Gem of the North, Minnesota

About 250 B.C.E., a Greek king called Milinda skillfully debated with eastern philosophers about religion. Being tired of this, the Buddhist monks went searching for someone to defeat the king in a debate. They discovered a child with worthwhile potential, took him under their wing, and provided education to master the skills needed to defeat the king.

At age seven, he was ordained as a Buddhist monk and named Nagasena. Because of his talent, he was able to master the enriched teachings and became enlightened. Soon Nagasena's name became popular around the region for his ability to understand and debate.

The king heard of Nagasena, and sought to challenge this young monk, who was now 18 years old. Knowing the Buddhist philosophy somewhat, but not quite understanding the teachings, Milinda had a clever idea. He believed he could trick this young boy by confusing him in a philosophical debate about his identity. He would ask who he was and wait for him to say, "I am Nagasena." Then he planned to argue back the concept of "non-self" as a response, and by that defeat Nagasena. So Milinda paid Nagasena a visit.

Upon entering the room he said, "I came to meet Nagasena." Nagasena said, "I am known as Nagasena. People call me by this name. But though I was given this name, it is just a designation, a label, a concept, an expression, because there is no person as such to be found." The King replied, "If there is no Nagasena, then who uses the robes, food, lodging, and medicine people offer?"

Nagasena asked Milinda how he traveled here. The King replied, "By chariot." Nagasena replied, "Please tell me, King, which part do you call the chariot? Is it the roof or the wheel or the whole thing?"

The King replied, "It is a combination."

Nagasena said, "That is why people call me Nagasena. The combination of my experiences is what people call Nagasena."

This enlightened exchange depicts the concept of "me".

First of all, we create who we are with our attachments. For example, "This is my favorite cup." "This is my cancer pill." Connecting the inanimate object, or cancer pill, to our state of health, personifies it as if it were attached to our body. The word "mine" or "my" can be stronger than cement.

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Small children create strong but two distinct parts to attachment, me or mine, and second, that which is outside of me. "Me" is what we go after, such as "that toy is mine." "Outside" of me may be, "I live with my mom and dad."

There is nothing wrong with the word "my" until we attach it to the word "mine." A good example of this is the exchange of our breath. We all breathe but we are not attached to it. When we exhale we don't get sad because the breath has been exhaled, never to return. We just use it. It is just there.

If we are attached to all aspects of life in the same way as our breath we won't experience the pain of loss. It helps to just live and help each other and be present in the moment, just as our breath is.

When we become attached to an idea, especially when we want it to be permanent, then suffering, or *dukkha* arises. When a loved one dies, sadness follows. However, being sad will not change the outcome. It is better to observe your sadness mindfully. This is helpful to cope and move on.

Buddha explains that we are trying to find out who we are. If others see us as we really are then there is no longer a "me." We are a non-self. Just as in the story of King Milinda, "I am known as Nagasena."

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**Blue Lotus Board Plans for a Dedicated Temple  
~ Glen C. Ebey, Temple Board President**

Over the past year, Blue Lotus Buddhist Temple board members have on a number of occasions mentioned plans to secure a dedicated temple site. While we have been quite fortunate to have use of the Congregational Unitarian Church facilities, it has always been Bhante Sujatha's long-term goal for us to have a facility of our own. An active building committee has been formed and is currently exploring options to achieve this goal.

Buying a building represents a major financial commitment. Besides a monthly mortgage payment, there are regular utility and maintenance costs just like we all experience with our own homes. There is no way we can make such a major commitment without a reasonable expectation that we will have the income necessary to operate the new temple on an ongoing basis. We need the support of all temple members to make this a reality.

Over the next few weeks, you should receive an informational pamphlet containing further details regarding our temple plans. It will contain a mission statement from the building committee and a description of what we are looking for with respect to land and building. At that time, we will also be asking temple members what kind of regular financial commitment they feel can they can make in support of our future temple.

Please take some time to reflect on the importance Blue Lotus Buddhist Temple has in helping you along the path to enlightenment. Consider how you can help keep us a viable and growing organization.

May you be well, happy, and peaceful.

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BLUE LOTUS  
BUDDHIST TEMPLE  
CALENDAR OF  
EVENTS

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Moonlight Meditation

Sunday, October 28, 2007

Sutra Discussion

Saturday, November 10, 2007

Variety Show

Sunday, November 25, 2007

Sutra Discussion

Saturday, December 22, 2007

New Year Blessing/  
Annual Chanting

Monday, December 31, 2007

World Healing Meditation  
McHenry County Church of  
Religious Science

## The Proud Beetle in a Lump of Cow Dung

~ as told in *How to Live Without Fear and Worry*

There once was a beetle that came upon a lump of cow dung. He worked himself into it and liking what he saw, he invited his friends to join him in building a city in it. After working feverishly for a few days they built a magnificent city in the dung and, feeling very proud of their achievement, they decided to elect the first beetle as their king. Now to honour their new king they organized a grand parade through their city. While these impressive proceedings were taking place, an elephant happened to pass by and seeing the lump of cow dung he lifted his foot to avoid stepping on it. The king beetle saw the elephant and angrily shouted at the huge beast. "Hey you! Don't you have any respect for royalty? Don't you know it is rude to lift your leg over my majestic head? Apologize at once or I'll have you punished." The elephant looked down and said, "Your most gracious majesty, I humbly crave your pardon." Thus saying he knelt down on the lump of cow dung and crushed the king, city, citizens and pride in one act of obeisance.

## Something to Think About...

Every fool who is born  
Has an axe within his mouth  
With which he cuts himself  
When he uses wrong speech. Sn. 657

The worse of the two is he  
Who, when abused retaliates.  
One who does not retaliate  
Wins a battle hard to win. S. I. 162

## News & Notes

**Variety Show Fundraiser** - - - The Temple will hold a variety show on Saturday, November 10 at the Congregational Unitarian Church in Woodstock to help raise funds for establishing a temple building. Join us for an evening of entertainment and fellowship starting at 7:00 p.m. Local talent will be featured, including music and comedy. Tickets are \$25.

**Offering Blessings** and loving-kindness is something we do together during each meditation. We gather our good merits, and wish happiness and health to a friend or loved one. Knowing the positive energy just one person can generate, think about the power of the group as a whole. By coming together as a spiritual community, we can offer support to each other during difficult times. If you would like the Blue Lotus meditation group to send a blessing of loving-kindness to you or a family member or friend, please email [info@bluelotustemple.org](mailto:info@bluelotustemple.org) with your request. If you would like to include the person's name, relation to you and difficulty (e.g., illness or death in the family, etc.) we will include him or her with our blessing in the next meditation session.

**Wanted** - Volunteer accountant to assist with Temple bookkeeping. Please contact Bhante Sujatha or any Board member.

*If you want to make a one on one appointment with Bhante Sujatha, please call Blue Lotus Temple at 815-444-8915.*



BLUE LOTUS



BUDDHIST TEMPLE

FUNDRAISER

## Variety Show

7 p.m. Saturday, November 10, 2007  
Congregational Unitarian Church  
221 Dean Street  
Woodstock, Illinois 60098

Join us for an evening of entertainment and community. All proceeds go to the Blue Lotus Buddhist Temple. Tickets: \$25 per person.

Sponsored by

Blue Lotus Buddhist Temple

815-444-8915 ☎ [www.bluelotustemple.org](http://www.bluelotustemple.org)

- Folk Music
- World Music
- Indian Dance
- Sri Lankan Comedy

