

*From the High Desert, I Bring you Good News!*

## **Welcome to the First Edition**

Shoda Kanai

*My View Point (As I heard and as I see)* written by Mrs. Kumiko Kanai is on hiatus since she moved to Hawaii. Instead, a new corner has been created for special anecdotes plus periodic guest contributors. If you wish to write something short to share your experience with Buddhism, please contact the temple.

I found this article created from a fellow priest on Facebook. This has been translated from Japanese.

Question (Q): “Where is the Buddha (仏)?”

Answer (A): “*MINAMI*”

Q: “South (南)?” (*minami* means south)

A: “No, *MINAMI* (皆身)” (kanji character for everyone + body=everyone’s body)

A: “Buddha is inside *watashi* (私)” (*watashi* means me or I)

A: “Buddha resides within us”

A: “Buddha resides within the character of ‘me or I’”

<i>watashi</i>	<i>hotoke</i>
私	私

Kanji can be very interesting! They are pictograms so many times images and stories can be derived just by looking deeply at each character. So in this case, we have the Buddha within us when we say “I”!

I have been looking at the character “私” many times, but failed to notice “仏”. My brain is more wired to see the entire character, rather than the parts.

Even though we do not see the Buddha within us, Buddha is always there, just like in the character “*watashi*.” It is when we gain wisdom that we start to “see” our surroundings, especially our very own Buddha-nature. So let us seek out these little mysteries around us.