

## Dharma Stories - 1

### ABUSE

At one time the Blessed One was staying at the town of Kausambi. In this town, there was one who cherished hard feelings towards him and who bribed a wicked man to circulate false stories about him. Under these circumstances, it was difficult for his disciples to get sufficient food from their begging and there was plenty of abuse.

Ananda said to the Blessed One, “We had better not stay in a town like this. There are other and better towns to go to.”

The Blessed One replied, “Supposing the next town is like this, what shall we do?”

“Then we can go to another.”

The Blessed One replied, “No, Ananda. There will be abuse wherever we go. We had better remain here and bear the abuse patiently until it ceases. Then we can go to another place. Many things must be taken into consideration besides abuse. There are profits and losses, slander and honor, suffering and pleasures. Buddha is not controlled by these external things. They will cease as quickly as they came.”

- \* Review Four Noble Truths.
- \* Review Six Paramitas – patience.
- \* Discuss if you were Ananda - what would you do?

In Okayama Prefecture, Japan, there lived a man who engaged in battle. His name was Tokukuni Urumaro. He had a wife and a son, named Seishi-maru. In those days, Japan was in a critical condition as a result of continuous battles among the different battle groups and revenge was openly permitted among them.

When Seishi-maru was only 8 years old his father was hit by an arrow on a dark night. Seishi-maru immediately thought of revenge and told his dying father about it, but his father told him to forgive it and explained, “You should not revenge because if you revenge, their sons will do the same thing and it will be repeated and the cycle of the evil will never cease.”

Although he was still young when he heard the last words of his father, he realized his mistake and decided to become a Buddhist priest. When he was 13 years old, he went to Mt. Hiei where our founder Shinran Shonin practiced. Later he came to be known as the master of Shinran Shonin. So, Seishi-maru is Honen Shonin, founder of Jodo Shu.

- \* Review Honen Shonin.
- \* Discuss if you were Seishi-maru, what did you do.
- \* Discuss about forgiveness, compassionate mind, etc.

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\* Discuss about wisdom.

Father's wise guidance saved Seishi-maru from ignorance and suffering. A father's guidance is often compared to the Great Wisdom of Amida Buddha. Amida's Wisdom always shows us the way of life. - How we should live it.

\* Discuss the difference between the Seishi-maru's father's wisdom and Amida's Wisdom.