

FROM OUR READERS

JUNG AND THE NINE CONSCIOUSNESSES

THE December issue article "The Nine Consciousnesses and Jung's Theory of the Collective Unconscious" was absolutely fascinating. I'm a psychology major, and Jung is of great interest to me. However, I found some discrepancies in Stacks' quote to suggest Jung saw dreams entirely as showing "... no apparent order and no tendency to systematization, as they would have to do if there were a personal consciousness at the back of them," and as such cannot be interpreted scientifically.

On the contrary, Jung, being a student of Sigmund Freud (founder of psychoanalysis), knew that the makeup of the foundation of the aforesaid science was the interpretation of dreams. So heavily did Jung believe in the importance of dreams that in *The Practical Use of Dream Analysis*, he wrote: "The dream is specifically the utterance of the unconscious... The dream shows the inner truth and the reality of the patient as it really is: not as I conjecture it to be, and not as he would like it to be, but as it is" (p. 95, par. 317).

In fact, Jung wrote numerous texts on his fascination with the dream world, namely: *The Analysis of Dreams*, *On the Significance of Number Dreams* and *General Aspects of Dream Psychology*.

I have not yet decided for myself whether or not dreams hold any deep significance, but one thing is for sure, if Jung were here, he would argue passionately to convince me of it.

ALDO CIMINO,
Sebastopol, Calif.

ARTWORK

AS I review this past year's magazines, I am struck again at your wonderful dedication to sharing artwork with us, your readers. The cover artists, with more pictures and bios in the back, are like a trip to a museum or show with a thoughtful friend. I love them, and I appreciate you bringing them to us. April and May were my favorites.

But, my real reason for writing, though, is to praise artist Blair Thornley's pen and ink. I can vividly bring to mind a half-dozen sketches that charmed and cheered me up. Please have more of them!

The September '96 issue, p. 37, is a prime example: a teenager and his mom sharing a little chat. Much of Ms. Thornley's work just seems to radiate happiness. An earlier sketch of horses illustrating the Lotus Sutra was also so with it, life-full. Please have more.

MELISSE WILLETTE,
Minneapolis, Minn.

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THANK YOU

IT'S 6 a.m. and I've just finished organizing my *Seikyo Times* (recently renamed *Living Buddhism*). I'm writing this letter to say "Thank you" for our publication. I cannot begin to express my debt of gratitude to all people who have had any part in the production of our great magazine.

I say this not out of flattery. For the past sixteen years, this magazine has played an integral part in my human revolution journey and has helped me spread the Buddhist law around the globe. I do mean this quite literally.

I started practicing Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism in Japan in 1980. At that time I was starry-eyed. I thought all I had to do was profess the greatness of Buddhism and my problems would be solved for me. I used to collect articles from the early issues of the *Seikyo Times* from the older (in faith) members in my district. In fact, I have articles dating back to 1976. I wanted to know all I could about Buddhism so I could explain Buddhist concepts to others who questioned my conversion. On the one hand, I had a seeking spirit for the truth. On the other hand, I was arrogant. I thought, somehow, I was more lofty because I began my practice in Japan. I was quite spoiled. Studying all those articles in the magazine helped me dig deeper into my life. I prayed to understand Buddhist concepts and actualize them in my life, not just know them in my head.

Since those beginning days of my practice, I've continued to forge a greater understanding of Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism and somehow impart his teachings to others. I just returned from a five-year stay in Germany. These past five years have been the most difficult years of my practice. Through all my trials, ups and downs, and tribulations —this great magazine was there to guide me toward a deeper understanding of myself and the world around me. I have so many fond memories that I can't express in this letter. Suffice it to say— because of all of the behind-the-scenes efforts of so many—I am still practicing Buddhism with a bit less arrogance and a profound appreciation for all of the hardships I've endured and overcome.

I've traveled around the world, from east to west, and am now living in Tacoma, Wash. I came here with such a sense of urgency to show actual proof of the validity of Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism. I have a tremendous appreciation for the Gohonzon, President Ikeda, wonderful leaders, the SGI as a whole, and the magazine.

I've still got a long way to go. I feel confident knowing that no matter what name you call our great magazine, it will continue to clarify Nichiren Daishonin's teachings, President Ikeda's guidance and guide me in my faith journey.

ELYSE M. GITTENS-OWUSU
Tacoma, Wash.

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