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## Sadness as Nobuo “Nakai” Nojiri Becomes a Buddha, Part 3

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## Sadness as Nobuo "Nankai" Nojiri Becomes a Buddha by Alice Murata

The second daughter, Kay, was divorced and living in the Nojiri household at then time of this interview. Her son, Daniel, was attending Lake Forest College. The youngest daughter, Louise, was also living at home and studying to be a social worker. She used to work for Patrick Murphy and was working at a hospital. Her daughter, Lindsay, was attending Bucknell University and 16 year old son, Jeffrey, was in high school. To accommodate each grandchild with their own room he enlarged his home.

Residing in the Chicago area was one brother and four sisters. There was one brother and one sister living in the Sacramento area and the youngest brother in

Hawaii. In the earlier years the siblings got together and as many as fifty family members gathered for holiday potluck dinners. This ended as the family grew larger with marriages and extended family members.

Concerned about his memory, Nojiri said it was not like it used to be. "I forget everything, and say that's good. If you remember everything you get mad all the time. You forget, that's good." You remember all things, that's when you're kids. You remember and talk about it. Nobody knows it and nobody gets mad, but if you talk about yesterday's things, you say, "Maybe I did wrong. I talk wrong thing. Japanese way, American way

are very different. Always different."

Talking about his son-in-law, Nojiri said he "graduated from University of Tokyo, so he's always thinking. He doesn't say anything but he always thinks inside, I finish best school, I had best education. So he (is) proud about it. He doesn't show it, but I know. So, if something is wrong, he says no right away. But I don't know too much about it so I can't say (it's) wrong, you know."

The way young people think is different from how Kibei think. Nojiri said "If I talk to the young people today, they don't understand me. I understand them. The way they think, I think is

different. Before the war, you have to take care of father, mother, no matter what happens to you. You have to Okoko, they call it. Then, you have to die for the country and so and so. Nowadays you don't have to go, no army or navy, nothing. You volunteer. If you don't want to, it's okay. Those days you have to. Already different right there, see. So I had those kind of education in my mind. But still deep inside I have that. So I talk something like that, he says, 'Wow, that's old style.' I know it's old style. You have to forget that. You have to follow the new ways, but I can't do it at a certain point. Gradual change is alright. Afraid if you change too much, going to lose everything. It's pretty

hard to understand each other. It's a different way of looking at things. Communication is also hard because of language."

"Sometimes my daughters don't understand what I am saying. They look Japanese if you go outside but inside educated 100 percent American. I can tell right away but I don't want to force my ideas on them. So, I just tell them. Some day they might be thinking about something and think oh, oh this is the stuff. I tell them once, because if they understood they could do it a little bit different too. They can take my idea or not, up to them. Then, they go the other way. They stop, they don't know what to do. Then, they might come back to me and ask me."

*to be continued...*