

Akachan Ondo

From Chris

Akachan Ondo is a new dance that I saw in 2020 and thought the dancers at Oregon Buddhist Temple would enjoy. We have waited until 2022 to learn it because the temple has finally reopened and bon odori is going to be live.

Usually, this pdf document starts with information about the dance/song that follows, but for this one I am going to start with the experience. In 2020 the world encountered the covid pandemic and many temples in the US were closed. Obon/bon odori were done virtually. In preparation for the BCA Virtual Obon/bon odori (new in 2020), Wynn Kiyama (OBT), Reiko Iwanaga (San Jose), and Yumi Hatta (BCA) requested that each temple bon odori sensei submit videos of one of our favorite dances –teaching, dancing, and our temple dancing. We (OBT) were on Bon Consortium video number 4 with PJ Hirabayashi, and Junko Kajita (San Diego Buddhist Temple). I wanted to learn/teach Junko's dance. As a result of that video, several new friendships were established; Junko, Shirley, and Yukari from San Diego helped me with Akachan Ondo; Shirley and her friend Theresa from Los Angeles joined the OBT bon odori dancers for practice and Obon (we broadcast both live): and several people from outside the Portland Metro area joined OBT for our Obon bon odori. One small video, during a really difficult time, led to a lot of connections within the bon odori community. The dancing is fun but the connections are really important.

A big thanks to Junko Kajita, Shirley Omori, and Yukari Williams for their help on this dance.

From Junko Kajita, San Diego Buddhist Temple Bon Odori Sensei: “Akachan Ondo literally means baby dance. I interpret it as dancing with the heart, innocence, and free spirit of a baby. It was choreographed by my odori Sensei, Michiko Janet Ikeda of Mesa, AZ, and her odori name was Fujima Kansuju, of the Fujima School of Japanese Classical dance. Mrs. Ikeda choreographed several original Bon Odori dances for the Arizona Buddhist Temple out of necessity because AZ is so far away from other temples, and she did not have a video camera or accessible digital technology at that time in the late 1980's to early 1970's. She learned under Fujima Kansuma who still oversees her instructors and students in Los Angeles. She is over 100 years old, an amazing lady.”

As a side note, Sahomi Tachibana who taught at OBT for twenty-five years is familiar with Fujima Kansuma.

This dance is done with kachi kachi or naruko so it is very heavy with percussion and rhythm. The lyrics remind me that it's good to lose our ego and take a more simple approach to life. Enjoy! Chris Dart, Bon Odori Sensei.

Video Link of Teaching the Dance:

Video Link of Dancing:

This is a video of the dance being done by the Bon Odori dancers of the San Diego Buddhist Temple at a Sakura Festival. Used by permission.

<https://youtu.be/asP6iRXo22I>

Lyrics/translation:

The Japanese from the recording and English translation are by Yukari Williams – Ministers Assistant at the San Diego Buddhist Temple. Thank you Yukari! The spaces in the Japanese were added by me to line up the romaji with the corresponding Japanese. This is not standard Japanese presentation – Chris Dart, Oregon Buddhist Temple

Akachan Ondo

Ah~
あ~え~

Utamo odorimo jozuno nakani
歌も 踊りも 上手の 中に

Hetaga irukara omoshiroi
下手が いるから 面白い

Kururito mawatte hai, hai, hai
くると 回って ハイハイハイ

Ah~

Good singers, Good dancers,

Bad singers, Bad dancers

They are all fun to watch

Let's turn around, hai, hai, hai

Ojigiwo shimasho hai, hai, hai
お辞儀をしましょう ハイハイハイ

Tenonaru hoe hai, hai, hai
手のなる方へ ハイハイハイ

Akachan Ondo de hai, hai, hai
赤ちゃん音頭で ハイハイハイ

Ah~
あ~え~

Bokuno oyajimo anakono mamamo
僕の親父も あの子のママも

Odorū tokiniwa minakodomo
踊る時には皆こども

Futarino maneshite chon, chon, chon
二人の真似して チョンチョンチョン

Toridano Bambide chon, chon, chon
鳥だのバンビで チョンチョンチョン

Kawaiiku mawareba chon, chon, chon
可愛くまわれれば チョンチョンチョン

Akachan Ondode chon, chon, chon
赤ちゃん音頭で チョンチョンチョン

Ah~
あ~え~

Atashi hitorija okiku narenu
あたし一人じゃ大きくなれぬ

Osewa kakemasu korekaramo
お世話かけますこれからも

Kanshade ippai chu, chu, chu
感謝でいっぱい チュチュチュ

Genkide ippai chu, chu, chu
元気でいっぱい チュチュチュ

Egaode ippai chu, chu, chu
笑顔でいっぱい チュチュチュ

Akachan Ondode chu, chu, chu
赤ちゃん音頭で チュチュチュ

Let's bow, hai, hai, hai

Hear the clapping sound? hai, hai, hai,

It's Akachan Ondo, hai, hai, hai,

Ah~

Moms and Dads

Dance like youngsters

Follow the dance, chon, chon, chon

Like a bird and Bambi, chon, chon, chon

Twirl lovely, chon, chon, chon

It's Akachan Ondo, chon, chon, chon

Ah~

I can't grow up without you

Thank you for caring

Many thanks, chu, chu, chu

Full of energy, chu, chu, chu,

Big smile, chu, chu, chu,

It's Akachan Ondo, chu, chu, chu

Ah~

あ~え~

Hitori horiga sonokini nareba
一人一人が その気に なれば

Kitto sutekina otoga suru
きっと素敵な 音がする

Minnano hakushude chan, chan, chan
みんなの 拍手で チャンチャンチャン

Shiawase yoboyo chan, chan, chan
幸せ 呼ぼうよ チャンチャンチャン

Iroiro okorare chan, chan, chan
色々 怒られ チャンチャンチャン

Akachan Ondode chan, chan, chan
赤ちゃん音頭で チャンチャンチャン

Ah~

Let's try, you and I

Create beautiful sound

Everyone, let's clap, chan, chan, chan

Be happy and jolly, chan, chan, chan

Teach me things, chan, chan, chan

It's Akachan Ondo, chan, chan, chan