

Myosetsuji News

ISSUE 238

APRIL 1, 2021

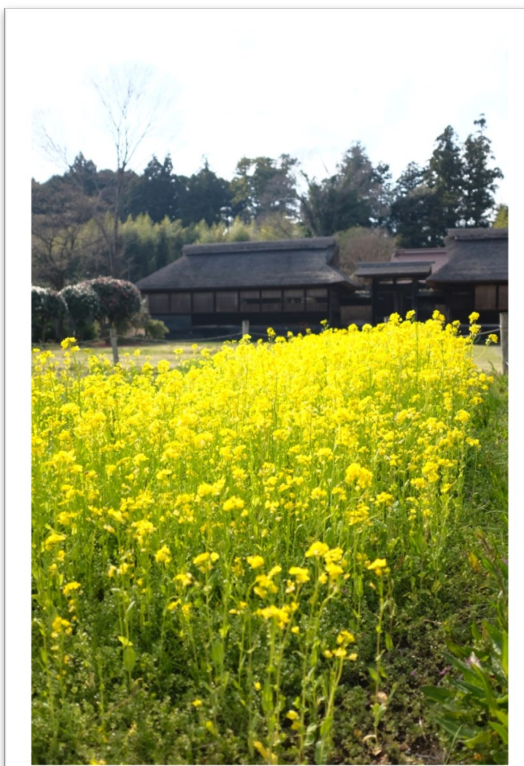
GUIDANCE FROM SIXTY-EIGHTH HIGH PRIEST NICHINYO SHONIN

On the Occasion of the February Kosen-rufu Shodai Ceremony

On this occasion of the February Kosen-rufu Shodai Ceremony, conducted here today at the Head Temple, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to those who have participated, based on firm faith, under the chaotic conditions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

To welcome the auspicious occasion of the 800th anniversary of the advent of our Founder, Nichiren Daishonin this year, Nichiren Shoshu made a vow to establish a membership of 800,000 Hokkeko believers. Then, the chief priests and lay believers of

Nichiren Shoshu temples throughout the world united together, based on



the spirit of *itai doshin*, and courageously conducted shakubuku—refuting heresy and revealing the truth, overcoming innumerable difficulties. As a result of these efforts, we splendidly have achieved our goal. I offer you my hearty congratulations.

This is solely due to your firm faith and strong determination toward the achievement of our goal. In addition, it is the result of your tireless efforts. I highly respect your hard work. I extend my sincere congratulations to you!

As you know, this is the month when our Founder, Nichiren Daishonin was born. Eight hundred

(Continued on page 2)

Gosho Quote for April 2021

On Remonstrating with Hachiman

(Kangyo Hachiman-sho)

India was called the land of the moon. It is a name, indicating the advent of Shakyamuni Buddha. *Fuso* is the name for ancient Japan, the land of the rising sun. Indeed, how could a sage not appear in this land? The moon travels from west to east, which is a sign of the Buddhism that originated in India spreading to the East. The sun rises in the east, which is an auspicious sign of the Buddhism that emerged in Japan gradually returning to India. Moonlight, when compared to the sun, is not as brilliant. Shakyamuni Buddha expounded the true teaching for only eight years. Sunlight is brighter than the light of the moon, and this signifies that the Buddhist teaching [of Nichiren Daishonin] in Japan shall illuminate the infinite darkness of the fifth Five-hundred-year Period. (*Gosho*, p. 1543)

GUIDANCE FROM SIXTY-EIGHTH HIGH PRIEST NICHINYO SHONIN (*CONTINUED*)

(Continued from page 1)

years ago, on February 16th of the first year of Jo-o (1222), the Daishonin was born in a fishing village called Kataumi, located in Tojo Village in Nagasa County of Awa Province (currently Kamogawa City, Chiba Prefecture).

Shakyamuni already had prophesized the Daishonin's advent into this world in the Latter Day of the Law, 3,000 years ago in the Lotus Sutra. Shakyamuni stated in the Wondrous Powers of the Tathagata (*Jinriki*; twenty-first) chapter of the Lotus Sutra as follows:

Just as the sunlight or moonlight dispels the darkness, this person will practice [Myoho-Renge-Kyo] in the world and eliminate [the fundamental] darkness of all living beings.

(*Hokekyo*, p. 516)

Concerning this passage, the Daishonin teaches the following in the Gosho, *Letter to Jakunichi-bo* (Jakunichi bo-gosho):

The sutra states, "Just as the sunlight or the moonlight dispels the darkness, this person will practice [Myoho-Renge-Kyo] in the world and eliminate [the fundamental] darkness of all living beings." Carefully ponder on the meaning of these words. "This person will practice [Myoho-Renge-Kyo] in the world" means that Bodhisattva Jogyo makes his advent in the first five hundred

years of the Latter Day of the Law, reveals the light of the five characters of Nam-Myoho-Renge-Kyo, and illuminates the fundamental darkness of earthly desires. The efforts of Nichiren and his followers to have all the people in the country of Japan embrace the Lotus Sutra are the work of the envoy of Bodhisattva Jogyo. (*Gosho*, pp. 1393-1394)



Precisely this passage, "Just as the sunlight or the moonlight dispels the darkness, this person will practice [Myoho-Renge-Kyo] in the world and eliminate [the fundamental] darkness of all living beings," indicates Shakyamuni Buddha's prophecy. That is, Nichiren Daishonin will make his advent in the Latter Day of the Law as the True Buddha from

the infinite past of *kuon ganjo*.

Nichiren Daishonin made his advent into this world as the True Buddha in the Latter Day of the Law, in order to save those without the seed of Buddhahood with Nam-Myoho-Renge-Kyo, the great Law hidden in the depths of the Life Span (*Juryo*; sixteenth) chapter of the essential teaching of the Lotus Sutra. Thus, he could lead all the people around the world to achieve happiness and everlasting peace.

The Daishonin teaches in the Gosho, *Repaying Debts of Gratitude* (Ho-on sho) as follows.

Since Nichiren's compassion is vast, Nam-Myoho-Renge-Kyo will prevail for ten thousand years and beyond into the future. It possesses the beneficial power to open the blind eyes of the people in Japan, and it blocks the path to the hell of incessant suffering. Its benefits surpass those of the teachings of Dengyo and Tiantai, and are far superior to those of Nagarjuna and Mahakashyapa. (*Gosho*, p. 1036)

This passage from the Gosho, *Repaying Debts of Gratitude*, reveals the three virtues of sovereign, teacher, and parent. "Nichiren's compassion is vast" indicates the virtue of a parent, "to open the blind eyes of the people" signifies the virtue of a teacher, and "blocks the path to the

(Continued on page 3)

GUIDANCE FROM SIXTY-EIGHTH HIGH PRIEST NICHINYO SHONIN (*CONTINUED*)

(Continued from page 2)

hell of incessant suffering” represents the virtue of a sovereign respectively.

Our Founder, Nichiren Daishonin is the True Buddha who possesses the three virtues of sovereign, teacher and parent. The great Law that he propagates is superior to all other teachings, including those of Nagarjuna, Mahakashyapa, Tiantai, and Dengyo. It is the unprecedented great Law that has never been propagated before.

Furthermore, as the Daishonin teaches in this passage, this great Law of Nam-Myoho-Renge-Kyo will spread for ten thousand years and into the future, so that all living beings will be saved for eternity.

When I look at the world today, I see that there is chaos everywhere, due to the coronavirus disease. This clearly demonstrates the evil age defiled by the five impurities. Looking in the light of the Buddhist mirror, the condition of the world today is described in the *Rissho ankoku-ron* (On Securing the Peace of the Land through the Propagation of True Buddhism) as follows:

When I, with my limited knowledge, read the sutras, I find that all people have gone against the correct Law and become wholly devoted to evil doctrines. This is why all the guardian deities have aban-

doned this country and sages have left this land, not to return. Seizing this opportunity, devils and demons rush in, bringing disasters and calamities. This is most fearful. We must speak out! (*Gosho*, p. 234; *The Gosho of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol.2, p. 3)

The passage states, “all people



have gone against the correct Law and become wholly devoted to evil doctrines.” We must know well that all kinds of disasters and obstacles occur due to the poison of slander.

Accordingly, it is essential that we sow seed of the Buddhism of the true cause of our Founder, Nichiren Daishonin, into the hearts of as many people as possible, and as soon as possible. Then, we must do shakubuku in order to realize true

world peace and the happiness of all mankind. This is the most important thing for us to do now.

In particular, this year we are commemorating the 800th anniversary of the advent of our Founder, Nichiren Daishonin.

The Daishonin teaches the following:

All disciples and believers of Nichiren should chant Nam-Myoho-Renge-Kyo with the spirit of many in body, one in mind, overcoming all differences among themselves, [to become united with the heart of the Buddha], just like fish being inseparable from the water in which they swim. This is called the Heritage of the ultimate Law of life and death. This is also what Nichiren is trying to propagate now in the Latter Day of the Law. When you are so united, even the great aspiration for kosen-rufu can be fulfilled without fail. (*Gosho*, p. 514)

I sincerely wish that you will keep these golden words in mind and do heartfelt shakubuku to as many people as possible, with unity of the members of each chapter based on the spirit of *itai-doshin*. I also hope that you will further devote yourselves to your practice, aiming to realize the happiness of all people in the entire world and ever-lasting peace.

**MYOSETSUJI
TEMPLE**

143-63 BEECH AVE.
(ENTRANCE ON
PARSONS BLVD.)
FLUSHING, NY 11355

VISIT US ONLINE
AT OUR NEW
WEBSITE:
WWW.NSTNY.ORG

NICHIREN SHOSHU MONTHLY Subscription Form

Please send subscriptions to: Nichiren Shoshu Temple
143-63 Beech Avenue
Flushing, NY 11355

Please make checks or money orders payable to: **Nichiren Shoshu Temple**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Email _____

Please check one:

United States: 3 mos. (\$9.00) 6 mos. (\$18.00) 12 mos. (\$36.00)

Canada: 3 mos. (\$18.25) 6 mos. (\$36.50) 12 mos. (\$73.00)

International: 3 mos. (\$27.00) 6 mos. (\$54.00) 12 mos. (\$108.00)

*SUBSCRIBE TO THE
NICHIREN SHOSHU MONTHLY MAGAZINE TODAY!*

MYOSETSUJI TEMPLE

143-63 Beech Ave. Flushing, NY 11355

Rev. Shinga Takikawa, Chief Priest

Rev. Gyoho Mitani, Assistant Priest

