

Myosetsuji News

ISSUE 230

AUGUST 1, 2020

GUIDANCE FROM SIXTY-EIGHTH HIGH PRIEST NICHINYO SHONIN

On the Occasion of the June Kosen-rufu Shodai Ceremony

On this occasion of the June Kosen-rufu Shodai Ceremony, conducted here today at the Head Temple, just as last month, only the priests residing on the Head Temple grounds are participating, due to preventative measures we have taken because of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

During this time of hardships, I feel that we should pray for the resolution of this situation as soon as possible. Then, we must

unite in the spirit of *itai doshin* and devote ourselves to our practice for oneself and others all the



more, so that we can overcome the current difficulties.

Regarding epidemics, the Daishonin teaches us the following in the Goshō, *Reply to Nakatsukasa sa'emom-no-jo* (Nakatsukasa sa'emom no jo dono-gohenji). I will present this guidance in a colloquial style:

The epidemic, which has been spreading since last year up to this year in the land of Japan, is not due to the 404 illnesses that are caused by an imbalance of the four elements of earth, water, fire, and wind. Thus, even good physicians such as Hua Tuo and Bianque cannot cure such a dis-

(Continued on page 2)

Gosho Quote for August 2020

Rissho ankoku-ron

(On Securing the Peace of the Land Through the Propagation of True Buddhism)

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 abandoned 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. 672; The Gosho of Nichiren Daishonin-2, p. 3)

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

(Continued from page 1)

ease. Moreover, this epidemic is not a mild illness that can be healed by Hinayana teachings or provisional Mahayana teachings. Therefore, no matter how hard the priests of the various sects pray, such attempts will be in vain. Rather, it will worsen the situation. Even though it may stop spreading temporarily this year, the epidemic will occur again, year after year. And in the end, a matter of grave concern will take place, and the disease finally may end. In the Parable (*Hiyu*; third) chapter of the Lotus Sutra, the risk of taking care an illness without knowing its cause is taught, stating: “Though he might practice the art of medicine and by its methods cure someone’s disease, the person would grow sicker from some other malady and, perhaps in the end would die.” Moreover, in the Nirvana Sutra it states: “King Ajatashatru of Rajagriha had boils on his entire body. This dis-

ease was caused by his state of mind. It was not merely a physical illness. Thus, it is beyond all reason to think that it could have been cured with medicine.”

Commenting on a passage from the Emerging from the Earth (*Juji yujutsu*; fifteenth) chapter, the Great Teacher Miaole teaches in the *Annotations on the Words and Phrases of the Lotus Sutra* (Hokke mongu ki) that “a wise man knows the origin and what the outcome will be, just as a snake knows exactly the

ways of a snake.” The current epidemic is like the boils of King Ajatashatru. Just like his boils could be healed only by Shakyamuni Buddha, the current epidemic can be terminated only by the Lotus Sutra. This is because the disease is not simply due to physical illness. It originates from slander of the true



Law. (*Gosho*, p. 1240, Summary) The Daishonin expounds in this



passage that rampant epidemics can only be completely cured by the Lotus Sutra—the good medicine of Nam-Myoho-Renge-Kyo of the sowing hidden in the depths of the Life Span chapter of the Lotus Sutra.

It is taught by the Daishonin in the *Gosho, Reply to Ota nyudo* (Ota nyudo dono-gohenji) as follows:

(Continued on page 3)



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

(Continued from page 2)

The seventh volume of the Lotus Sutra, the sutra that equally leads everyone to enlightenment, states, “This sutra is the supreme medicine for the illnesses of all the people of the entire world. If a sick person is able to hear this Law, then his or her illness will instantly be eradicated, and this person will obtain eternal youth and immortality. (*Gosho*, p. 911)

As just stated in this passage, the Daishonin describes the tremendous benefit of Myoho-Renge-Kyo. Concerning the novel coronavirus disease, which is currently spreading in Japan



and around the world, as the Daishonin teaches, we must be aware that it is vital for us to clear up the disease with the great good medicine of Myoho-Renge-Kyo.

The Daishonin teaches the following in the *Gosho, Letter to Ueno* (Ueno do-no-goshosoku):

Therefore, immeasurable Buddhas in the ten directions including both Shakyamuni Buddha and Taho Buddha, the Bodhisattvas of the Earth such as Jogyo, bodhisattvas taught by the Buddha of the theoretical teaching, namely Manjushri, Universally Worthy and others, those in the world of learning such as Shari-



putra, Heavenly King Daibon, guardian deities like the sun and moon, the eight kinds of lowly beings, ten demon daughters, both large and small various deities throughout the land of Japan—all of these Buddhas, without exception, will protect those who take faith in the Lotus Sutra and single-mindedly devote themselves to their practice, just as a shadow invariably follows its body. Please think of this over and over. If one constantly and wholeheartedly devotes oneself to one’s practice, this will ensure peace and security in this lifetime and good circumstances in the next. (*Gosho*, p. 923)

Now is the time for each one of us to receive the vast and boundless benefits of Myoho-Renge-Kyo and devote oneself to the practice for oneself and others all the more, so that we can overcome any illness and powerfully move forward. I sincerely pray for your further efforts in your practice.



putra, Heavenly King Daibon, guardian deities like the sun and moon, the eight kinds of lowly beings, ten demon daughters, both large and small various deities throughout the land of Japan—all of

**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

