

NICHIREN DAISHONIN TEACHES: "AFTER ALL, THE ULTIMATE VOW IS TO PROPAGATE THE DAIMOKU THROUGHOUT THE WORLD." - GOSHO P. 1862

Myosetsuji News

ISSUE 242

AUGUST 1, 2021

GUIDANCE FROM SIXTY-EIGHTH HIGH PRIEST NICHINYO SHONIN

On the Occasion of the June Kosen-rufu Shodai Ceremony schedules.

On this occasion of the June Kosen-rufu Shodai Ceremony, conducted here today at the Head Temple, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to all of you for your efforts to participate in this Shodai Ceremony, despite your busy



Today, we see chaotic conditions both at home and abroad, due to the spread of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

However, as we look at this state of confusion, each of us must once again reaffirm the Daishonin's will stated in his *Riss-ho ankoku-ron*. Then, we must be aware that the teaching that

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Gosho Quote for August 2021

Reply to Shijo Kingo
(Shijo kingo dono-gohenji)

Even if Nichiren sincerely prays for you, if you do not have faith, it will be like trying to light a fire with wet tinder. Earnestly strive to muster your power of faith. Consider your life until now as having been phenomenal. Make certain to employ the strategy of the Lotus Sutra before any other tactics. The golden words, "You have been able to destroy all...who bore you enmity or malice," should never be empty or false. The great essence of tactics and swordsmanship lies in Myoho-Renge-Kyo. Profoundly embrace this faith and practice. The prayers of a coward certainly will never come true.

(Gosho, p. 1407)

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

(Continued from page 1)

can completely solve this distress is none other than the Three Great Secret Laws of our Founder, Nichiren Daishonin, the True Buddha in the Latter Day of the Law.

The Daishonin teaches the following in his *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 his 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)

As this *Gosho* passage states, the root cause for all calamities and confusion is due precisely to the poison of the slander of erroneous doctrines. If we discard all slanders and instead correctly take faith in the Buddhism of our Founder, Nichiren Daishonin, the True Buddha in the Latter Day of the Law, we should be able to overcome various hardships.

Accordingly, we must remember that we will be able to realize peace and security of the country as well as true happiness of as many people as possible only through the power of Myoho-Renge-Kyo.

In the *Rissho ankoku-ron*, the Daishonin further states as follows:

If one desires peace to reign throughout the entire nation without delay, he should first and foremost put an end to the slanders that prevail throughout the



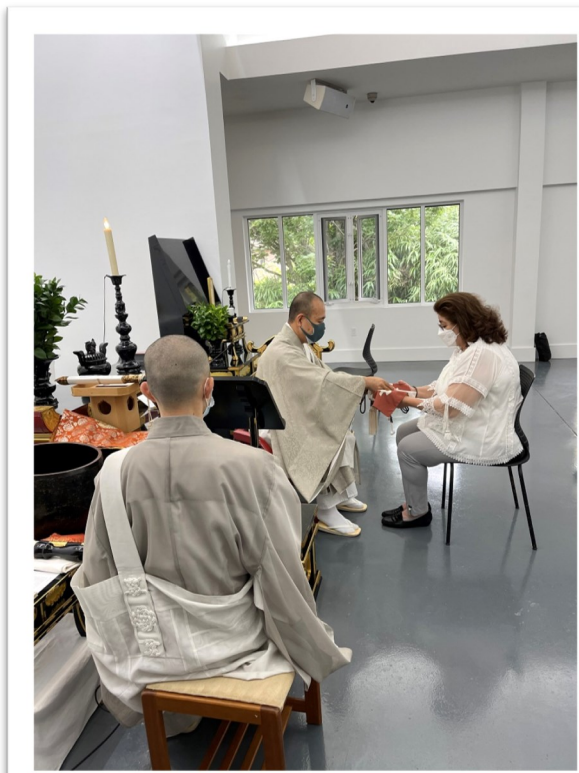
country. (*Gosho*, p. 234; *The Gosho of Nichiren Daishonin*, Vol. 2, p. 35)

The Daishonin declares that in order to save people from such extreme distress we must, before everything else, eradicate the slander of erroneous doctrines, the root cause of all evils, and conduct shakubuku.

Furthermore, the Daishonin expounds the following in the *Gosho, Questions and Answers between a Sage and a Foolish Man* (Shogu mondo-sho):

The world today is defiled with impurities. People's minds are distorted, filled with envy, and provisional and slanderous teachings abound. This makes it difficult for the true

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

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Law to be propagated. At such a time, it is of no use to practice the reading, reciting, and transcribing of sutras, or to contemplate, meditate, or discipline oneself. You simply must perform shakubuku. You should powerfully vanquish slanderous teachings, and use the doctrines to censure erroneous teachings to the best of your ability. (*Gosho*, p. 403)

Here, too, the Daishonin expounds that the most important thing now is for each of us, as a disciple and follower, to single-mindedly do shakubuku, based on a firm resolution. This is especially important when the country is filled with slanderous teachings and the people's minds are confused,

exactly reflecting the defiled age of the Latter Day of the Law.

It is stated in the *Gosho*, *On Practicing According to the Buddha's Teachings* (Nyosetsu shugyo-sho) as follows:

It is nonsense to seclude yourself in the mountains without refuting the enemies of the Lotus Sutra and carry out the practice of shoju at a time when the Lotus Sutra and pre-Lotus Sutra teachings are confused. You only will lose the opportunity to practice the

Lotus Sutra. Now, in the Latter Day of the Law, who is correctly carrying out the practice of shakubuku exactly as taught in the Lotus Sutra? Whom-ever you may meet, conduct shakubuku to the people and refute the teachings of the other sects. Proclaim repeatedly with all your might that the Lotus Sutra is the only teaching that will lead the people to Buddhahood, and that the various other teachings obstruct them from attaining enlightenment and



are the root cause for leading them to fall into hell. (*Gosho*, p. 673)

Now is the time for us to reaffirm the Daishonin's will conveyed in his *Rissho ankoku-ron* and unite as one in the spirit of *itai doshin*, and courageously do shakubuku, as the whole world is in a state of extreme confusion due to the coronavirus pandemic. I sincerely wish that you will make further efforts to devote yourselves to your practice, aiming toward the propagation of Myoho-Renge-Kyo throughout the entire world, wishing for not only one's own happiness, but also the happiness of everyone, as well as world peace and prosperity.



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