

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

Myosetsuji News

ISSUE 248

FEBRUARY 1, 2022

GUIDANCE FROM SIXTY-EIGHTH HIGH PRIEST NICHINYO SHONIN

On the Occasion of the January Kosen-rufu Shodai Ceremony

On the first day of the early spring of the 770th anniversary of the establishment of true Buddhism, I wish you a Happy New Year!

By participating in the first Kosen-rufu Shodai Ceremony of "The Year of Advancement with the Spirit to Repay Our Debt of Gratitude," I believe you have welcomed the new year, feeling refreshed, and have renewed your pledge to make further efforts in your practice.

As you know, this year, "The Year of Advancement

Myosetsuji Temple Members:

We welcomed the 800th anniversary of the advent of Nichiren Daishonin in 2021. On this occasion, it was decided to hold this exhibition for the purpose of exposing to as many people in the world as possible, Nichiren Daishonin's life and teachings. It is our earnest desire that you, your family members and friends will join us at Myosetsuji Temple for this once in a lifetime event.

Sincerely,

Rev. Shinga Takikawa
Myosetsuji Temple Chief Priest

Dennis Haggerty
Myosetsuji Temple Koto

Nichiren Daishonin 800th
Anniversary of the Advent
Special Exhibition
February 5-16 2022

NICHIREN SHOSHU TEMPLE MYOSETSUJI
42 St. Pavers Blvd, Flushing, NY 11355 USA

Note:
Full NYC Covid-19 safety protocols will be in effect for this exhibition including:
• Proof of Vaccination for people over 5 years old
• Masks
• Social Distancing
• Temperature Checks

with the Spirit to Repay Our Debt of Gratitude," is the significant year in which all of us must achieve unity between the priesthood and laity in the spirit of many in body, one in mind (*itai doshin*). We must make a great advancement toward the propagation of the true Law throughout the entire world, in order to repay our debt of gratitude to the three treasures.

Today, Japan and many other countries are in chaos due to the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), which is causing confusion and disorder all over the world. At this very time, we should reaffirm the

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Gosho Quote for February 2022

Repaying Debts of Gratitude (Ho-on-sho)

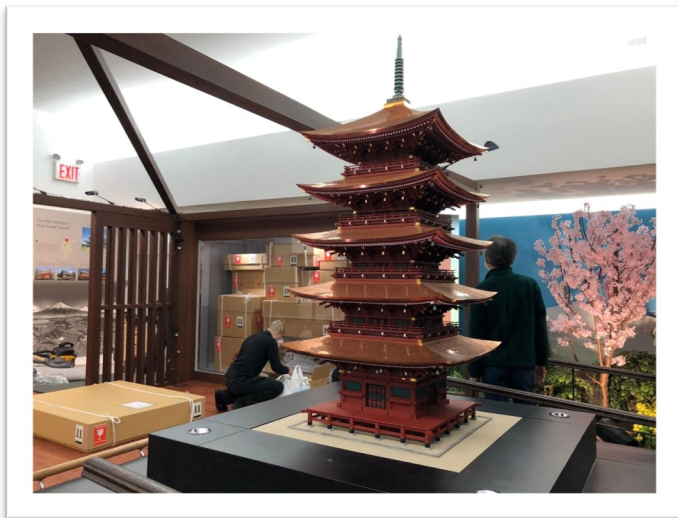
This is a matter of foremost importance concerning Buddhism. In examining the sutras, based on my humble perspective, I see that those who claim that there is a sutra superior to the Lotus Sutra, regardless of who they may be, cannot avoid the blame that they have slandered the Law. Thus, if we follow what is stated in the sutra, how can people such as these not be regarded as enemies of the Buddha? If I am fearful and fail to point out this fact, then the distinctions of superiority and inferiority among the entirety of the sutras will have been made in vain. (*Gosho*, p. 1003)

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

(Continued from page 1)

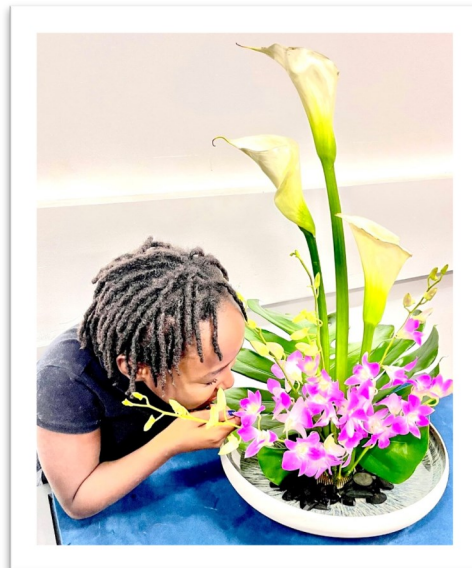
Daishonin's will conveyed in his

of refuting heresy and revealing the truth, aiming toward the establishment of the Buddha land.



In order to achieve this, the most important thing for us is to achieve the unity of many in body, one in mind.

The Daishonin teaches us the following in the Gosho, *On the Heritage of the Ultimate*



ed, even the great aspiration for kosen-rufu can be fulfilled without fail." And focusing on the same goal, all members of each Hokkeko organization should courageously conduct shakubuku, based on the spirit of *itai doshin*.

Rissho ankoku-ron (On Securing the Peace of the Land Through the Propagation of True Buddhism), and each of us must devote ourselves to the practice for oneself and others, so that we can receive the vast and boundless benefits of the mystic Law (*Myoho*). Whatever difficulty we may confront, I believe we must resolutely perform the shakubuku

Law of Life and Death (Shoji ichidaiji kechimiyaku-sho):

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, 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)

It is essential that each one of us take to heart these golden words, "When you are so unit-

If your chapter or organization is not making as much progress in shakubuku as expected, it is necessary to make sure whether the members are united, based on the spirit of *itai doshin*, towards your goal. Then, you must try to improve the situation as needed.

It is stated in the Gosho, *Letter*



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

(Continued from page 2)

to *Ben-ko Nissho* (Ben donogoshosoku) as follows:

Although I have been praying emphatically with all my might,



there has been no sign of proof up to now. This indicates to me that some of you have discarded

your faith. (*Gosho*, p. 998)

Even if one prays so earnestly that he racks his brain, receiving no sign of proof signifies that some of us have the mind of many in body, many in mind.

We must, once again, keep in mind how important unity based on many in body, one in mind is in our faith and practice.

The Daishonin also teaches the following in the *Gosho*, *Many in Body, One in Mind* (Itai doshin ji):

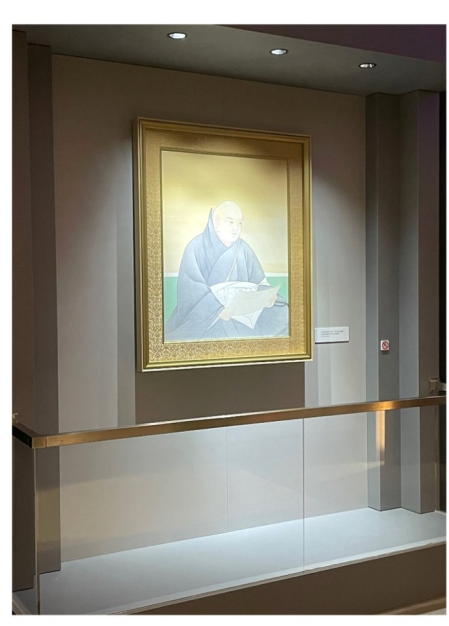
Although there are many people in Japan, they will find it difficult to accomplish anything because of disunity. In contrast, I believe that despite their small numbers, if Nichiren and his followers have the spirit of many in body, one in mind, they certainly will accomplish their great purpose and the Lotus Sutra will spread. No matter how numerous evils may be, they will never defeat the single truth. (*Gosho*, p. 1389)

I think these golden words are familiar to you. This is extremely important guidance for our faith and practice. Thus, we must take this lesson to heart.

I sincerely pray that now, in the challenge of propagating the true Law, each of you will bear in mind how crucial unity, based on the spirit of *itai doshin*, is. Regardless of age and gender, or one's position in the organization, I wish all members of each Hokkeko organization will unite, based on



the spirit of many in body, one in mind, and courageously step forward to do shakubuku, so that they will achieve the shakubuku goals they pledged in front of the Gohonzon without fail. With these efforts, I hope we will be able to repay our debt of gratitude for the vast benefits of the Buddha.



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