

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

# Myosetsuji News

ISSUE 235

JANUARY 1, 2021

GUIDANCE FROM SIXTY-EIGHTH HIGH PRIEST NICHINYO SHONIN

## On the Occasion of the November Kosen-rufu Shodai Ceremony

On this occasion of the November 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 attendance today, despite your busy schedules and various other matters.

The month of November already has begun, and we have only two months remaining this year. I imagine that all of you are devoting yourselves to your practice, day and night, aiming toward

this year's shakubuku goals.

The Daishonin teaches the fol-



lowing in the Gosho, *Attaining Enlightenment at the Initial Stage of Faith through the Lotus Sutra* (Hokke shoshin jobutsu-sho):

If they hear the Lotus Sutra, which enables people to attain Buddhahood, this [encounter] will sow the seed of [Buddhahood] into their lives, and they eventually will attain enlightenment without fail. Therefore, Tiantai and Miaole follow this notion and expound in their commentaries that they should tirelessly teach the Lotus Sutra. It is like those who falter and fall to the ground and who are able to

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Gosho Quote for January 2021

### *The Bodies and Minds of Ordinary Beings*

(Shujo shinshin gosho)

One who presented a simple meal of millet to the Pratyekabuddha became the Universal Brightness Buddha (Fumyo nyorai). One who offered a mud pie to the Buddha became the sovereign of Jambudvipa. Even if a person performs good deeds, if these deeds are offered to that which is not true, they may bring forth great evil, but they will never produce any good effect. However, even if a person is unintelligent in mind and presents only paltry offerings, if he extends them to an individual who embraces the truth, he will receive tremendous merits. How much more so would be the merit of those who make sincere offerings to the true Law?! (*Gosho*, p. 1217)

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

(Continued from page 1)

use that very ground to push themselves up to stand again. In the same way, even if they descend into hell, they will rise again before long and attain Buddhahood. The people in the world today have turned their backs on the Lotus Sutra and, for that offense, they will undoubtedly fall into hell. Therefore, in any case, one should strongly teach and make people listen to the teachings of the Lotus Sutra. Those who follow and take faith in it will be able to attain enlightenment, and even those who slander it will likewise attain Buddhahood in the end through the poison-drum relationship. (*Gosho*, p. 1316)

I think you are familiar with this passage. If you read this passage once again, I think you will notice that a very important teaching is indicated. In other words, it shows the benefit of a reverse relationship. Even those who do not take faith in Myoho-Renge-Kyo and oppose it, can attain enlightenment without fail through hearing it. This is because hearing the Lotus Sutra will create the sowing of the seed of Buddhahood into their lives.

This sown seed will become mature and enable them to attain Buddhahood without fail.

Firmly believing in the absolute and boundless benefit of the mystic Law (*Myoho*) that will save all people, whether they take faith in it or slander it, we must strongly teach and make others listen to the teaching of Myoho-Renge-Kyo and shakubuku as many people as possible.



In particular, now in the Latter Day of the Law, those without the seed of Buddhahood undoubtedly will fall into hell. This is because, even though they do not directly slander the Lotus Sutra, they believe in heretical teachings that go against the Lotus Sutra. Thus, whether they know it or not, they are committing the offense of slandering the Lotus Sutra, and this definitely will lead them to fall into hell. In any case, we should strongly teach people

the Lotus Sutra. It is certain that those who follow and take faith in it will be able to attain enlightenment, and even those who slander it will likewise attain Buddhahood in the end through the poison-drum relationship.

In the *Gosho*, *On Discerning Cause and Effect in the Ten Worlds* (Jippokai myo inga-sho), the Daishonin teaches as follows:

Even good people, who are not greedy and do not commit other sins, will fall into the world of hunger if they commit slanders, or if they unknowingly come to believe in slanderous teachings by closely associating with slanderers. Only a man of wisdom understands this. We certainly must be fearful. (*Gosho*, p. 208)

We occasionally commit the same offense of slandering the Law by becoming friendly with those who slander. Before we know it, we are influenced by them. In order to avoid this, it is essential for us to strongly teach and make others listen to the Lotus Sutra. Moreover, we ourselves also will be able to walk the Buddhist path of attaining Buddhahood without committing

(Continued on page 3)

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

(Continued from page 2)  
slander.

For both those with a positive relationship and reverse relationship, the seed of Buddhahood is none other than the Lotus Sutra. If the people in the world, based on their shallow ideas, claim that one can attain enlightenment by believing in the provisional pre-Lotus Sutra teachings, then why did the Buddha, by strongly teaching the Lotus Sutra, expound that both those who slander it and those who take faith in it will receive benefits? Why did the Buddha state the following?

We do not hold our own lives dear but seek only the unsurpassed way. (*Hokekyo*, p. 377)

The Daishonin teaches that those who have the faith to pursue the Buddha’s teaching must deeply understand this.

Here, what is referred to as the “Lotus Sutra” is Nam-Myoho-Renge-Kyo of the meaning hidden in the depths of the Life Span chapter, the core of the Lotus Sutra.

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

By the single practice of taking faith in Myoho-Renge-Kyo, there are no benefits that will not be drawn to you, and there are no benefits that will fail to come, and no good causes that will fail to be accumulated. (*Gosho*, p. 408)

Today, Nichiren Shoshu is making concerted efforts to do shakubuku, every spare moment, with unity between the priesthood and laity, based on the spirit of *itai doshin*, as we aim toward our goal—to achieve a membership of 800,000 Hokkeko believers, when we will commemorate the 800th anniversary of the advent of our Founder, Nichiren Daishonin, which is finally ap-



proaching next year.

As we know, the establishment of a membership of 800,000 Hokkeko believers is the vow that we pledged in front of the Gohonzon to achieve.

Now is the time for us to eliminate the obstacle of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19). All members of each chapter must unite as one and stand up to do shakubuku with determination, in order to achieve our shakubuku goals that we pledged in front of the Gohonzon to accomplish without fail.

I sincerely pray for your further success and achievements. This will conclude today’s address.

**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

