

Myosetsuji News

ISSUE 223

JANUARY 1, 2020

NEW YEAR'S ADDRESS BY HIGH PRIEST NICHINYO SHONIN

As we welcome the New Year, the 768th year since the establishment of Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism, I am very pleased that Mr. Koichiro Hoshino, the Dai-Koto of the Hokkeko organization and chairperson of the Hokkeko Federation, along with all Nichiren Shoshu believers throughout the world, are greeting the New Year in a spirit of renewal.

As the Sixty-seventh High Priest Nikken Shonin passed away last year,

all priests and lay believers of Nichiren Shoshu deeply grieve

over his demise. The late Nikken Shonin frequently gave

guidance for nurturing and developing all Nichiren Shoshu believers and the Hokkeko organization over the long period of 27 years, when Nichiren Shoshu was in a time of upheaval. All of us sincerely and respectfully offer our deepest gratitude to the late Nikken Shonin for his vast virtues.

The slogan for this year is, "The Year of Achieving Our Shakubuku Goal." It is the

year in which all Nichiren

(Continued on page 2)



Gosho Quote for January 2020

Reply to Hyo'e-sakan

(Hyo'e sakan dono-gohenji)

Changes certainly occur when the high tide yields to low tide, when the moon rises and sets, when summer gives way to autumn, or winter turns to spring. The same is true when a common mortal attains Buddhahood. At a critical moment, he definitely will encounter the three obstacles and four devils. The wise will rejoice, while the foolish will retreat.

(Gosho, p. 1184)

NEW YEAR'S ADDRESS BY HIGH PRIEST NICHINYO SHONIN (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 1)

Shoshu believers and Hokkeko chapters must complete their shakubuku goal for our objective—achieving a membership of 800,000 Hokkeko believers by the 800th anniversary of the advent of our Founder, Nichiren Daishonin. Thus they should unite with each other in the spirit of *itai doshin*, overcome any obstacles, and definitely accomplish this objective, which they pledged to achieve in front of the Gohonzon.

Nichiren Daishonin states the following in *On the Buddha's Behavior* (Shuju onfurumai -goshō):

In the more than two thousand two hundred and twenty years since the Buddha's passing, not even the likes of Mahakashyapa, Ananda, Ashvaghosha, Nagarjuna, Nanyue, Tiantai, Miaole, and Dengyo have propagated Myoho-Renge-Kyo. The five characters of Myoho-Renge-Kyo are the core of the Lotus Sutra and the origin of all Buddhas throughout the entire world. Upon seeing the signs that these five characters now must be propagated, I, Nichiren have set the precedent, today, at the beginning of the Latter Day of the Law. My disciples, you must follow

one after another and become greater than Mahakashyapa or Ananda and, moreover, surpass even the Great Teacher Tiantai or Dengyo. If you are afraid of threats by the authorities of this tiny island, what will you do if you should be reprimanded by King Emma



[after your life ends]? I declare that those who call themselves the Buddha's envoys but who are frightened by such threats should consider themselves to be inferior believers. (Goshō, p. 1057)

As we respectfully read this Goshō passage, we must remember Nichiren Daishonin's behavior of propagating the

Law while enduring persecutions, carrying out the practice based on the spirit of "one's life is insignificant while the Law is supreme. You should be willing to give your life to propagate the Law." We surely must accomplish the objective of achieving a membership of 800,000 Hokkeko believers, no

matter what obstacle may occur. This is because our objective will be truly precious and beneficial to us, only when we actually achieve it.

Nichiren Daishonin also preaches in *The Opening of the Eyes* (Kaimoku-shō) as follows:

Those with weak faith always forget what they have promised when the crucial moment comes. (Goshō, p. 574)

Whether we are able to joyfully report the achievement of our shakubuku goal to the Gohonzon, or fail to accomplish it and be judged as "those with weak faith," all depends on our upcoming struggles and efforts. I would like to conclude my New Year's address with my heartfelt hope that all Nichiren Shoshu believers in every Hokkeko chapter will keep this in mind, advance in practice more than ever, and accomplish our shakubuku goal without fail.

NEW YEAR'S ADDRESS BY OVERSEAS DEPARTMENT CHIEF REV. GYOYU URUSHIBATA

To all Nichiren Shoshu priests and Hokkeko members throughout the world: Happy New Year 2020!

On this first day of the year, I extend my sincere New Year's greetings to all of you, and I pray wholeheartedly for the peace and advancement of kosen-rufu in each country.

The passing of the former High Priest Nikken Shonin last year brought deep sorrow to all priests and lay believers of Nichiren Shoshu. However, the plans for kosen-rufu for the eternal future set by Nikken Shonin were inherited by the current High Priest Nichinyo Shonin, and Nichiren Shoshu is now advancing forward again.

The late High Priest Nikken Shonin visited many countries, strongly pioneered worldwide propagation by Nichiren Shoshu, and gave hope, courage and conviction for the achievement of kosen-rufu. The present High Priest Nichinyo Shonin is

furthermore proceeding with the plans of the late High Priest Nikken Shonin, continuing the wide stream of the propagation of true Buddhism, which is certain to spread in each country.

Nichiren Daishonin states the following in *On Rice and Grains* (Beikoku-gosho):

I entrust you with the responsibility of propagating true Buddhism in your province. The seeds of Buddhahood can sprout in response to a particular karmic relation. (*Gosho*, p. 1242)

In order to repay their debts of gratitude for the compassion of the High Priests, the Hokkeko believers in each country are devotedly practicing for the achievement of kosen-rufu in each country, where they have been entrusted by Nichinyo Shonin and Nikken Shonin to propagate true Buddhism.

There are many obstacles toward advancing kosen-rufu throughout the entire world. We sometimes may face danger. But even under such an adversity, the Hokkeko believers all over the world, with absolute faith in the benefits of the Dai-Gohonzon, are advancing in practice earnestly every day, in order to accomplish their shakubuku goals, based on the golden words, "The seeds of



Windows in the Main Hall

Buddhahood can sprout in response to a particular karmic relation."

This year is the final stage toward achieving a membership of 800,000 Hokkeko believers. Originally, our High Priest Nichinyo Shonin gave us the objective, "to achieve a membership of 800,000 Hokkeko believers by the year 2021, when we will be celebrating the auspicious occasion of the 800th anniversary of the advent of our Founder, Nichiren Daishonin."

Since then, the Hokkeko members all over the world set their shakubuku goals, planned shakubuku activities yearly, monthly, and daily in detail, and took action, with unity between priests and lay believers in each Hokkeko chapter, aiming toward the accomplishment of the objective given by the High Priest.

This is the final year of our practice toward the objective for 2021. I would like to ask everyone in each

(Continued on page 4)



Women's Room on the 2nd Floor

NEW YEAR'S ADDRESS BY REV. GYOYU URUSHIBATA (CONTINUED)

country to renew your determination to achieve the shakubuku goal this year, and strive forth, in order to accomplish the shakubuku goals for 2021.

The Nichiren Shoshu Head Office set the slogan for this year as, "The Year of Achieving Our Shakubuku Goal." I would like to discuss the meaning of this slogan. The objective of achieving a membership of 800,000 Hokkeko believers shall be accomplished by the 31st day of December in 2020, as it was set at the beginning.



This date is the deadline for accomplishing the objective. Thus, all organizations of every country, with unity between priesthood and laity and in the spirit of *itai doshin*, must earnestly carry out shakubuku with strong determination and achieve the objective in both name and reality. This is the meaning of the slogan, "The Year of Achieving Our Shakubuku Goal."

Relative to this, the Overseas Department proposes the following three practical points for overseas believers:

Take actions based on the joy arising from conducting daily Gongyo and Shodai.

Advance kosen-rufu through shakubuku based on the spirit of *itai doshin*.

Develop your faith and practice through consistent attendance at the monthly Oko Ceremony and going on tozan pilgrimages.

1: Take actions based on the joy arising from conducting daily Gongyo and Shodai.

Conducting Gongyo and Shodai constitute our basic

practice as Hokkeko believers of Nichiren Shoshu. This is the source of benefits. Through this practice, our life force naturally arises from within our life, making our daily life fruitful.

The world today is filled with turmoil, such as racial discrimination, poverty, and conflicts between various religions. In such a chaotic situation in the world today, we can gain the strong power to overcome difficulties, lift our state of life,



and open up a life of happiness by conducting Gongyo and Shodai. With this conviction, let us do Gongyo and Shodai every day.

2: Advance kosen-rufu through shakubuku based on the spirit of *itai doshin*.

First and foremost, it is necessary for the priests and lay believers to unite in the spirit of *itai doshin*, in order to achieve our shakubuku goals.

If all members of the Hokkeko chapter work together, put shakubuku into action, and steadily conduct activities in practice, such as home visitations to develop the faith and practice of fellow members, then the path toward kosen-rufu will open, and propagation of true Buddhism will move forward.

3: Develop your faith and practice through consistent attendance at the monthly Oko Ceremony and going on tozan pilgrimages.

(Continued on page 5)

NEW YEAR'S ADDRESS BY REV. GYOYU URUSHIBATA (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 4)

The Oko ceremony officiated every second Sunday is the ceremony for us to repay our vast debt of gratitude due to the three treasures: the Buddha, the Law, and the priesthood, while we eradicate our negative karma and renew our pledge to carry out shakubuku.

The benefits through attending the Oko Ceremony give us energy and peace of mind, so that we are able to live our daily lives in peace. The Oko Ceremony also is the important occasion to listen to the lecture of the guiding priest and learn the teachings of Nichiren Shoshu.

Furthermore, the practice of going on tozan pilgrimages to Head Temple Taiseikiji is the foundation of faith for Nichiren Shoshu believers.

The Head Temple is our principle sacred ground where the Dai-Gohonzon of the High Sanctuary of the Essential Teaching, which is the very life of Nichiren Daishonin, is strictly protected. It is also the place where the High Priest resides, protecting the lineage of the Lifeblood Heritage of the Law, leading us to the attainment of Buddhahood.

When our life is purified by the magnificent environment and pure air of the Head Temple through going on tozan, our negative karma from slander against the Law since time without beginning is eradicated. Both our body and heart are purified and the determination to propagate surely will well up in our life, together with huge benefits.

We also should understand that all the tozans, including the tozan for representative members, the summer study tozan for overseas believers, personal tozan, and tozans for the new members are essential activities for improving the organization of the Hokkeko chapter and fostering the full-fledged believers who shoulder kosen-rufu.

I wish for all the priests and Hokkeko members to please understand the significance of the slogan for 2020, "The Year of Achieving Our Shakubuku Goal," while comprehending the meanings of the three practical points. Then please willingly join all activities of faith and practice, and take action to courageously strive forth for the achievement of kosen-rufu.

High Priest Nichinyo Shonin gave guidance on the passing of the late High Priest Nikken Shonin as follows:

It is most essential that all of us, based on unity between the priesthood and laity in the spirit of



***itai doshin*, further devote ourselves to our practice for oneself and others, in order to repay the boundless debts of gratitude we owe to the late High Priest Nikken Shonin.**
(Summarized)

In order to repay our vast debts of gratitude for Nikken Shonin, and to repay our gratitude for the compassion of Nichinyo Shonin, let us dedicate ourselves to practicing together.

I ask all the Nichiren Shoshu priests and lay believers, please etch this guidance of High Priest Nichinyo Shonin into your heart. Furthermore, I would like to ask that you again make the resolution to earnestly propagate true Buddhism, in the solid unity of *itai doshin*, in order to achieve true peace in this world, which is now filled with the five impurities, and establish the Buddha land.

I would like to conclude my New Year's address by praying from the bottom of my heart for the happiness of each one of you, and for the peace and advancement of the propagation of the true Law in your country.



2020 Overseas Believers Tozan and Gokaihi Ceremony Schedule

- The Gokaihi Ceremony will be conducted on days that appear on this schedule at 1:30 PM. Shaded cells indicate that there will be no Gokaihi Ceremony on the day.
- Believers may stay at lodging temple on circled dates.
- Members making use of the lodging temple need to arrive no later than nine o'clock at night.
- On April 4, September 19-21, October 5, November 22, lodging is available only for Group Tozan participants.

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

*Jan. 3 : Gokaihi Ceremony begins at 1PM.

February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						①
②	③	4	5	6	7	⑧
⑨	⑩	11	12	13	14	⑮
⑯	⑰	18	19	20	21	⑳
㉑	㉒	25	26	27	28	㉔

March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
①	②	3	4	5	6	⑦
⑧	⑨	10	11	12	13	⑭
⑮	⑯	17	18	19	⑳	㉑
㉒	㉓	24	25	26	27	28
29	⑳	31				

April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

April 5-8 : Mushibarai-e Ceremony

May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	②
③	④	⑤	6	7	8	⑨
⑩	⑪	12	13	14	15	⑯
⑰	⑱	19	20	21	22	23
24	⑳	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	①	2	3	4	5	⑥
⑦	⑧	9	10	11	12	⑬
⑭	⑮	16	17	18	19	20
21	㉒	23	24	25	26	27
28	㉓	30				

July

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	⑥	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	③	4	5	6	7	⑧
⑨	⑩	11	12	13	14	⑮
⑯	⑰	18	19	20	21	⑳
㉑	㉒	25	26	27	28	㉔
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September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	⑤
⑥	⑦	8	9	10	11	⑫
⑬	⑭	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	⑳
㉑	㉒	29	30			

Sep. 17-19 : Kanshi-e Tozan

October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	⑩
⑪	⑫	13	14	15	16	⑰
⑱	⑲	20	21	22	23	⑳
㉑	㉒	27	28	29	30	⑳

Oct. 2-5 : Summer Study Tozan

November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
①	②	3	4	5	6	⑦
⑧	⑨	10	11	12	13	⑭
⑮	⑯	17	18	19	20	21
22	㉓	24	25	26	27	㉔
㉕	㉖					

Nov. 19-22 : Gotai-e Ceremony

December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	⑤
⑥	⑦	8	9	10	11	⑫
⑬	⑭	15	16	17	18	⑲
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Manhattan Introductory Meeting

215 West 98th St. # 3B (between Amsterdam Ave & Broadway)

Manhattan Saturday Evening Gongyo

1214 Fifth Ave. Apt. PHD New York, NY 10029 (Entrance on East 102nd St)

Sunday Ceremonies310 Greenwich St - 2nd fl Community Room (between Duane and Jay Streets)
the closest subway stop is the Chambers St. Station for the 1, 2 & 3 trains**Myoetsuji Temple****January 2020****Let's Chant One Hour Shodai Daily During the Month of January**

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday						
1			Shodai 8:30 AM New Year's Gongyo 9 AM & 11 AM <i>(there will be 2 New Year's Gongyos - you may attend either, but not both)</i> (310 Greenwich Street)	Shodai 7:00 AM Gongyo 7:30 AM	Shodai 7:00 AM Gongyo 7:30 AM	Shodai 9:30 AM Gongyo 10 AM Manhattan Gongyo 5:00 PM
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