

Myosetsuji News

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GUIDANCE FROM SIXTY-EIGHTH HIGH PRIEST NICHINYO SHONIN

On the Occasion of the April Kosen-rufu Shodai Ceremony

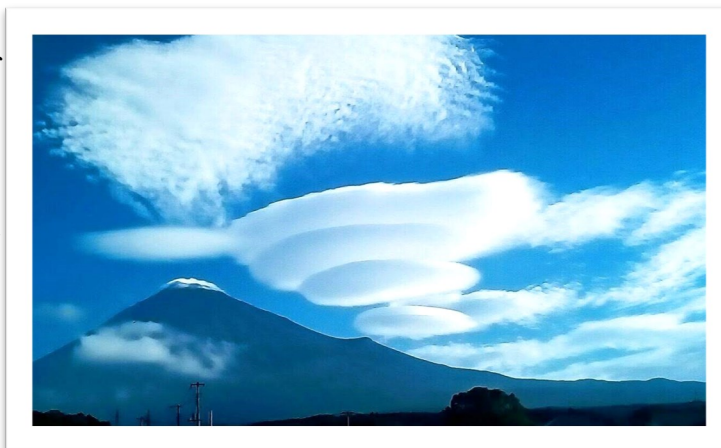
On this occasion of the April Kosen-rufu Shodai Ceremony, conducted here today at the Head Temple, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to all of you for your efforts to participate in this Shodai Ceremony with profound faith.

As I look at the recent conditions both at home and abroad, I see a chaotic aspect not

only domestically but also glob-

ally, due to the novel coronavirus disease. I imagine many people

feel anxious about an uncertain future.



Looking at this state of confusion, I strongly feel that once again, we should reaffirm the Daishonin's will conveyed in his *Rissho ankoku-ron*. Then, we must know that what can fundamentally save us from hardships is none other than the true Buddhism of the Three Great Secret Laws of our Founder, Nichiren Daishonin, the

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Gosho Quote for June 2021

The Opening of the Eyes (Kaimoku-sho)

I hereby make a great pledge. Even if I am told that I will assume the position of the sovereign of Japan if I cast aside the Lotus Sutra and follow the Sutra of Meditation on the Buddha of Infinite Life (*Kammuryoju kyo*) and look forward to an afterlife; even if I am told that my father and mother will be beheaded if I do not utter the *Nembutsu*; and regardless of the various such great obstacles I may encounter, I will never succumb to them so long as the wise men do not overturn my teachings. All other great obstacles are like dust before the wind. I shall be the pillar of Japan. I shall be the eyes of Japan, and I shall be the great vessel of Japan. This is what I pledge, and I shall never abandon it.

(Gosho, p. 572)

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

(Continued from page 1)

True Buddha in the Latter Day of the Law.

Concerning the cause of chaos throughout the world, the Daishonin teaches us the following in the *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. 234; *The Gosho of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 2, p. 3)

He clearly states that this world is in a state of confusion, misfor-

tune and suffering because “all people have gone against the correct Law and become wholly devoted to evil doctrines.” This “correct

Law” signifies the Three Great

Secret Laws—the True Object of Worship of the Essential Teaching, the Daimoku of the Essential Teaching, and the High Sanctuary of the Essential Teaching. “Evil doctrines” signifies heresy, which is the slander of heretical religions and doctrines.

Therefore, unless we eliminate the slander of heretical teachings, which is the root cause of misfortune and chaos, we will not be able to actualize the security of the nation and world peace and, above all, achieve our own happiness.

Thus, the Daishonin states in the *Rissho ankoku-ron* 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. 247)

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

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. In any case, the seed of Buddhahood can be found nowhere other than the Lotus Sutra. (*Gosho*, p. 1316)

The poison drum of “Poison-drum relationship” refers to a drum smeared with poison. [This is a metaphor expounded in the Nirvana Sutra.] It is said that when a drum smeared with poison is beaten, all those who hear the sound of this drum will die [whether they wish to hear it or not]. In other words, to make those who slander listen to the Lotus Sutra means to make them form a relationship with it, which will be the cause for attaining Buddhahood. It also is called a reverse relationship. All living beings inherently possess the Buddha nature. Through listening to the correct Law, forming a relationship with it, and then awakening to it and practicing it, our Buddha nature will become manifest so that we can achieve the attainment of Buddhahood. Now,

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

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in the Latter Day of the Law, even those with a reverse relationship, to say nothing of those with a positive relationship, will be saved in the future without fail, if they are made to listen to Nam-Myoho-Renge-Kyo of the Three Great Secret Laws.

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

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 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. [Zhanghan] wrote, "You must understand the reasons for choosing [shoju or shakubuku], without adhering solely to either one of

them." (Gosho, p. 403)

He also indicates the following in the Gosho, *On Practicing According to the Buddha's Teachings* (Nyosetsu shugyo-sho):

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? Whomever 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, when the world is in chaos due to the novel coronavirus disease, that we must unite together based on the spirit of many in body, one in mind (*itai doshin*), and resolutely do shakubuku—refuting heresy and revealing the truth.



In the Gosho, *The Doctrine of Ichinen Sanzen* (Ichinen sanzen homon), it is stated as follows:

Even if a medicine is compounded with one hundred or one thousand ingredients, one's illness will not be cured unless one puts it in his mouth. Even if one owns treasure in a storehouse, he will starve unless he opens it. Even if one carries medicine in his pocket, he will die unless he takes it. (Gosho, p. 110)

At this very time, each of us must reaffirm the Daishonin's will conveyed in his *Rissho anko-ku-ron* and all members of each chapter must become united as one, based on the spirit of *itai doshin*, and determinately stand up to do shakubuku—refuting heresy and revealing the truth—and advance forward.

I sincerely wish that each of you will devote yourself to your practice for oneself and others, aiming toward the kosen-rufu of the entire world.



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