

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

# Myosetsuji News

ISSUE 249

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GUIDANCE FROM SIXTY-EIGHTH HIGH PRIEST NICHINYO SHONIN

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

February 6, 2022

### Reception Hall, Head Temple Taisekiji

On this occasion of the February Kosen-rufu Shodai Ceremony, conducted here today at the Head Temple, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to those who have participated, based on firm faith, under the chaotic conditions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



As you know, this is the month when our Founder, Nichiren Daishonin was born. On February 16th of the first year of Jo-o (1222), Nichiren Daishonin made his advent into this world, as Shakyamuni already had prophesized in the Lotus Sutra. The Daishonin's transient status was [the reincarnation of] Bodhisattva Jogyo (Superior Practice), while his true identity is the True Buddha from the infinite past of *kuon-ganjo*.

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## Gosho Quote for March 2022

### *Reply to Kyo-o* (Kyo-o dono-gohenji)

The lion, the king of beasts, will take three steps forward and one step back, to prepare to spring forth, releasing the same force whether it goes after a tiny ant or strikes out at a ferocious animal. I, Nichiren, am in no way inferior to the lion king, in inscribing this Gohonzon for your protection. This is what is meant by the words of the sutra: "the power of...the lion's ferocity." You should believe in this mandala with the utmost sincerity. Nam-Myoho-Renge-Kyo is comparable to the roar of a lion. What illness could possibly hinder you? It is said that the Demon Goddess and her Ten Demon Goddess Daughters will protect those who uphold the Daimoku of the Lotus Sutra.

(Gosho, p. 685)

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

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The purpose of his advent was to lead all those without the seed of Buddhahood in the Latter Day of the Law to enter the Buddha way, and enable them to attain Buddhahood in one's present form, through Myoho-Renge-Kyo, the enlightenment of the True Buddha of the infinite past of *kuon-ganjo*.

However, the current situation is that many people in the world today lose sight of the correct Law due to the poison of slander. As a result, they are suffering the direst distress.

Teaching the Daishonin's correct Law and performing shakubuku to those who suffer great misery is the essential mission that we are expected to fulfill.

The Daishonin teaches 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 opportuni-

ty, 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)

The Daishonin teaches that the root cause for the nation being in



turmoil, disasters, and the people suffering from the agony of misfortune and confusion, is solely due to the poison of the slander of heretical teachings. Unless we eliminate these slanders, the people's true happiness, world peace, and the security of the land will not be realized.

Herein lies the most important reason for us to exert our utmost efforts to refute slanders and do shakubuku.

In the *Gosho*, *On Chanting the Daimoku of the Lotus Sutra* (Sho hokke daimoku-sho), the Daishonin expounds as follows:

In the Latter Day of the Law, there are many who do not possess the seed of Buddhahood. There are only a few who possess it. Thus, there is no doubt that the people [in the latter Day of the Law] will fall into the evil paths. [Since they are going to fall into the evil paths one way or another,] we should strongly teach and make them listen to the Lotus Sutra and let them form a poison-drum relationship with it. Thus, now is certainly the time to create a reverse relationship by propagating the Lotus Sutra. (*Gosho*, p. 231)

The "poison-drum relationship" indicates the attainment of enlightenment through a reverse-relationship, despite the slander of true Buddhism. It is said that when a drum smeared with poison is beaten, all those who hear the sound of the drum will die, whether they wish to hear it or not. Even if someone hears the Law and opposes it,

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

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through the relationship of hearing the mystic Law, this person will eventually sever his or her earthly desires and attain Buddhahood. This is likened to beating a drum smeared with poison, [which is a metaphor expounded in the Nirvana Sutra.]

This means that all living beings inherently possess the Buddha nature. They can attain enlightenment through listening to the true Law, awakening to it, and practicing it. Now, in the Latter Day of the Law, even the common mortals without the seed of Buddhahood can be saved without fail in the future, if they are led to listen to Nam-Myoho-Renge-Kyo of the Three Great Secret Laws and form a relationship with the true Law.

The Daishonin also teaches the following in the Goshō, *Attaining Enlightenment at the Initial Stage of Faith through the Lotus Sutra* (Hokke shoshin jobutsu-shō):

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. There-

fore, 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 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. (*Goshō*,

p. 1316)

As the Daishonin teaches in this Goshō passage, we must strongly teach the Lotus Sutra—Myoho-Renge-Kyo of sowing the seed of the true cause—to those who do not possess the seed of Buddhahood.

Now, in the Latter Day of the Law, when the condition of the world is extremely chaotic due to the poison of heretical teachings, it is important to eradicate slanders with shakubuku, instead of the shōju method applied during the Middle Day of the Law.

Today, Nichiren Shōshū is powerfully advancing forth, based on unity between the priesthood and laity in the spirit of *itai doshin*, as we aim toward the achievement of the propagation of Myoho-Renge-Kyo throughout the entire world.

At this very time, I sincerely pray that the members of all Hokkeko chapters and organizations will unite as one, based on the spirit of *itai doshin*, and courageously perform shakubuku, keeping in mind this year's slogan "The Year of Advancement with the Spirit to Repay Our Debt of Gratitude" and "Let's Do Shakubuku Now!" With these efforts, I hope you will achieve this year's shakubuku goals without fail.

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