

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

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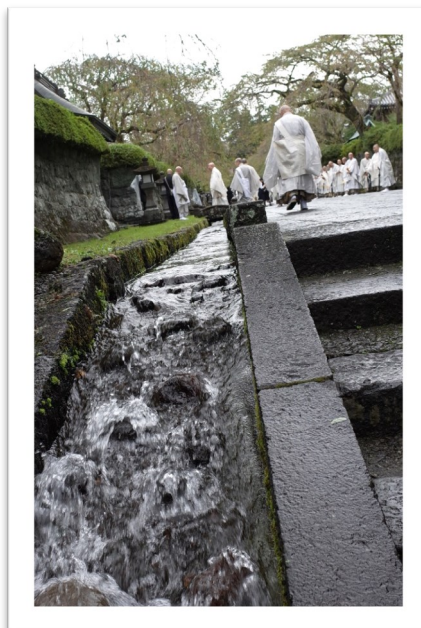
NOVEMBER 1, 2021

GUIDANCE FROM SIXTY-EIGHTH HIGH PRIEST NICHINYO SHONIN

On the Occasion of the October Kosen-rufu Shodai Ceremony

On this occasion of the October 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.

Though the state of emergency for the Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) was lifted, the situation continues to be



uncertain. I feel that we must chant Daimoku, based on unity amongst the members of each chapter in the spirit of *itai doshin*, and conduct shakubuku. And, we must further devote ourselves to propagate Myoho-Renge-Kyo, as we aim toward the establishment of the peaceful Buddha land.

The Daishonin teaches the following in the Gosho, *On Chanting the Daimoku of the Lotus Sutra* (Sho hokke dai-

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Gosho Quote for November 2021

On Practicing According to the Buddha's Teachings

(Nyosetsu shugyo-sho)

"The Lotus Sutra is the teaching of shakubuku, the refutation of the provisional doctrines." Since these are the golden words [of the Buddha], eventually every person who clings to the provisional teachings will surrender [to the true Law] and become a follower of the King of the Law. Then, all the people throughout this world will discard the provisional teachings and take faith in the one vehicle of Buddhahood. When the mystic Law (*Myoho*) alone prevails in the land and the entire nation chants Nam-Myoho-Renge-Kyo, the wind will blow gently without causing the branches to rustle, and the rain will fall softly without breaking a clod. The world will become like the times of Fuxi and Shennong. The people will be able to drive away disasters and misfortune and gain the ability to live long lives. The principle of the eternity and immortality of both the person and the Law will be revealed. Be assured that all of these events will occur. There is no doubt about the written evidence [in the sutra] of, "peace and security in this lifetime." (*Gosho*, p. 671)

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

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moku-sho):

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)

Today, in the Latter Day of the Law, we must strongly teach Myoho-Renge-Kyo to those without the seed of Buddhahood and make them listen to it, so that they can form a poison-drum relationship with it. In other words, now is the time to make them form a reverse relationship.

The poison-drum relationship is a metaphor expounded in the Nirvana Sutra. The poi-

son-drum is a drum smeared with poison. It is said that when a drum smeared with poison is beaten, all those who hear the sound of the drum will instantly die, whether they wish to hear it or not. Making the slanderers listen to the Lotus Sutra, even if they do not wish to listen, indicates making them form a relationship with the Lotus Sutra, which is

with the Lotus Sutra in the past.

The Daishonin expounds the following in the *Gosho*, *Reply to Ueno* (Ueno donogohenji):

Once there was a jealous woman in India who so hated her husband, that in a fit of anger, she destroyed everything in her home. Fury transformed

her appearance, her face twisted with rage....She seized the fifth scroll of the Lotus Sutra, which for years her husband had recited, and brutally stomped on it with both feet. Later she died and fell into hell, all except for her feet. The guards of hell tried to beat them



the cause for the attainment of Buddhahood. Even if they do not listen and oppose it, they eventually will attain Buddhahood through a reverse relationship. This is likened to a drum smeared with poison.

Furthermore, those with a reverse relationship, those who once slandered the Lotus Sutra, eventually will be able to attain enlightenment through this very relationship they formed

down with iron staves, but were unable to do so...(*Gosho*, p. 1358; *The Gosho of Nichiren Daishonin*, Vol. 1, p. 39, Summary)

In the same *Gosho*, it is stated as follows:

Because by trampling upon the Lotus Sutra, her feet had formed a relationship with it, and although it was a reverse

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

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relationship, they benefitted from it. (*Gosho*, p. 1359; *The Gosho of Nichiren Daishonin*, Vol. 1, pp. 39 & 41)

This jealous woman did not fall into hell due to a reverse relationship that was formed when she trampled on the Lotus Sutra with both of her feet. In other words, it is extremely important to form a relationship with the Lotus Sutra, for the sake of one's attainment of Buddhahood, even if it is a reverse relationship.

The Daishonin teaches the following in the *Gosho*, *Attaining Enlightenment at the Initial Stage of Faith through the Lotus Sutra* (Hokke shoshin jobu-tsu-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. (*Gosho*, p. 1316)

For those who slander the true Law, it is important to continue to persevere with sowing the seed of Buddhahood into their lives and doing shakubuku. Even if they oppose it, which will create a poison-drum relationship, they eventually will be converted to true Buddhism.

Today, in the Latter Day of the Law, erroneous teachings are prevalent throughout the

vealing the truth—which is the sole and best method. Shakubuku is the ultimate practice of compassion that can save all living beings in the Latter Day of the Law.

Though the state of emergency just has been lifted, when we look at the chaotic condition of the world due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), we can see that now is the time for us to exert

all our energy. We must resolutely conduct shakubuku—refuting heresy and revealing the truth—not only for the individual's happiness, but also for the happiness of all mankind and for world peace, as we aim toward kosen-rufu of the entire world.



country. Because of this, many people unknowingly are deceived by evil influences, and they cannot escape from the life condition of unhappiness due to the poison of heresy. In order to save them, we should not use the method of shoju, which was employed during the Former and Middle Days of the Law. Rather, we must use the method of shakubuku—refuting heresy and re-

I offer my sincere prayers that you will achieve unity, based on the spirit of *itai doshin*, and devote yourselves to do shakubuku, so that your efforts will be recognized and witnessed by the three treasures.

**MYOSETSUJI
TEMPLE**

143-63 BEECH AVE.
(ENTRANCE ON
PARSONS BLVD.)
FLUSHING, NY 11355

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