

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

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GUIDANCE FROM SIXTY-EIGHTH HIGH PRIEST NICHINYO SHONIN

On the Occasion of the August Kosen-rufu Shodai Ceremony

On this occasion of the August 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, based on profound faith, despite your busy schedules.



As you know, the novel coronavirus disease is spreading explosively, manifesting the chaotic conditions of the defiled age of the Latter Day of the Law.

However, at this crucial time, I strongly feel that once again, we must read the *Rissho ankoku-ron* (On Securing the Peace of the Land through the Propagation of True Bud-

(Continued on page 2)

Gosho Quote for September 2021

Reply to the Widow of Ueno

(Ueno-dono goke-ama gohenji)

Those who practice ever more sincerely when they listen to the teachings of the Lotus Sutra are the true devotees of the Buddha's way. Tiantai said, "From the indigo to an even deeper blue." In essence, this means that something dyed with indigo becomes increasingly bluer than the leaves of the indigo plant. The Lotus Sutra is like the indigo. When we deepen our practice, it is like the indigo blue that grows in intensity. (*Gosho*, p. 337)

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

(Continued from page 1)

dhism) and reaffirm the Daishonin's true intention. Then, we must single-mindedly devote every effort to carry out shakubuku.

The Daishonin teaches the following in the *Rissho ankoku-ron*:

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

tions that are based on his true intentions! Indeed, how pitiful it is that they follow the fallacious words of this deceptive and irrational monk [Honen]! 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; *The Gosho of Nichiren Daishonin*, Vol. 2, p. 35)

The Daishonin clearly indicates in his *Rissho ankoku-ron* that the root cause of people's misfortune, confusion and suffering is solely due to erroneous religions and ideas.

Then, we must respectfully read the following 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 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



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)

How deplorable it is that the people go against the Buddha's admoni-



long and attain Buddhahood. The people in the world today have

(Continued on page 3)

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

(Continued from page 2)



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)

While the world is in chaos due to the novel coronavirus pandemic, now is the time for us to establish unity in each



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

chapter, based on the spirit of *itai doshin*, and teach the vast and boundless benefits of Myoho-Renge-Kyo and shakubuku as many people as possible.

guide to maintain enlightenment in the future. Single-mindedly chant Nam-Myoho-Renge-Kyo and encourage others to do the same. This will remain as your only memory from this present, human life. (Gosho, p. 300)



The Daishonin expounds the following in the Gosho, *Questions and Answers on Embracing the Lotus Sutra* (Jimyo hokke mondo-sho):

Apart from the land of eternally tranquil light where the Buddha resides, every realm is a place of suffering. If we leave the realm of [the Buddha's] original enlightenment, what joy can we find? I believe that embracing Myoho-Renge-Kyo, which ensures "peace and security in this lifetime and good circumstances in the next," is the only honor to pursue in this lifetime and is the

When we read this Gosho passage with reverence, we should be profoundly grateful that we have encountered the Buddhism of our Founder, Nichiren Daishonin, the True Buddha in the Latter Day of the Law, which is difficult to meet, and we have taken part in the challenge of the propagation of Myoho-Renge-Kyo. I sincerely wish that you will continue to make further efforts to do shakubuku, aiming toward the propagation of Myoho-Renge-Kyo throughout the entire world.

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