



Myohoji Bulletin

June, July, August, September 2017

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Guidance from Sixty-eighth High Priest Nichinyo Shonin On the Occasion of the May Kosen-rufu Shodai Ceremony May 7, 2017 (Excerpt)

“The Parable of the Poisoned Arrow” is one of the most famous Buddhist parables. It is contained in the Collection of Medium-Length Agama Sutras (*Chu-agon-kyo*).

You probably know this story. In simple terms, it goes as follows:

One of Shakyamuni’s disciples begged his master to answer various questions: “Is this world everlasting? Or is it in flux? Will the world end? Does the Buddha still exist after his passing?” Shakyamuni did not answer these questions in a straightforward way. Instead, he responded by saying, “Suppose a man is wounded by a poisoned arrow [and people bring him to a surgeon]. Suppose the man should say, ‘I will not let this arrow be taken out until I know what sort of a person shot me. What is the name of the person? Was the person tall or short? Was the person a townsman or a villager? What is this arrow made out of? What is the name of the doctor who will examine me?’ And, if he refuses to allow the arrow to be removed before all of these questions are answered, this person will die. What is most important is first to remove the poisoned arrow and provide first aid.”

This parable warns us that we tend to postpone what we need to place emphasis on now. Instead, we focus our eyes on other issues. In other words, it is essential that we know what is most important right now.

What we must accomplish now, by any means, is for all the chapters to achieve their shakubuku goals, which they vowed to accomplish in front of the Gohonzon. Then, with these achievements, we should welcome the 800th anniversary of the advent of our Founder Nichiren Daishonin in 2021.

In the *Gosho*, *Attaining Enlightenment at the Initial Stage of Faith through the Lotus Sutra* (Hokke shoshin jo butsu-sho) the Daishonin teaches:

If they hear the Lotus Sutra, which enables people to attain Buddhahood, this [encounter] becomes the seed [of Buddhahood] for them, and they eventually will attain enlightenment without fail. Therefore, Tiantai and Miaole follow this notion and expound [in their commentaries] that one should tirelessly teach the Lotus Sutra. It is like those who falter and fall to the ground, but are able to use that very ground to push themselves up to stand again. In the same way, even

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June

June 3 (Saturday)

2:00 PM: Buddhist Seminar

June 4 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Kosen-rufu Gongyo
Teen Group Meeting

June 11 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Oko Ceremony
Children’s Oko in Kyakuden

June 18 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Monthly Memorial
Japanese Lecture
Young Adult Meeting

June 25 (Sunday)

10:00 AM:
Myohoji Temple
50th Anniversary Ceremony

July

July 2 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Kosen-rufu Gongyo
Teen Group Meeting

July 9 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Urabon Ceremony
Oko Ceremony
Children’s Oko in Kyakuden

July 16 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Shodai Ceremony
Japanese Lecture
Young Adult Meeting

July 23 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Gongyo

July 30 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Monthly Memorial
Chinese Lecture/Korean Lecture

August

August 5 (Saturday)

2:00 PM: Buddhist Seminar
in Kyakuden

August 6 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Kosen-rufu Gongyo
Teen Group Meeting

August 13 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Oko Ceremony
Children’s Oko in Kyakuden

August 20 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Shodai Ceremony
Japanese Lecture
Young Adult Meeting

August 27 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Monthly Memorial
Chinese Lecture/Korean Lecture

September

September 3 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Kosen-rufu Gongyo
Teen Group Meeting

September 10 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Gonan-e Ceremony
Oko Ceremony
Children’s Oko in Kyakuden

September 17 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Higan-e Ceremony
Japanese Lecture
Young Adult Meeting

September 24 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Monthly Memorial
Chinese Lecture/Korean Lecture

**Note: Introductory meetings will be held at 7:00 PM
on the third Thursday in the Kyakuden**

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Nichiren Shoshu True Buddhism
Orthodox Teaching of
Nichiren Daishonin

if they descend into hell, they will rise again before long and attain Buddhahood. The people in the Latter Day of the Law will definitely fall into hell as a result of turning their backs on the Lotus Sutra. 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)

“The poison-drum relationship” is a metaphor expounded in the Nirvana Sutra. It is said that when a drum smeared with deadly poison is beaten, all those who hear the sound of the drum will instantly die. The poison-drum relationship also is called a reverse relationship. Teaching and making a slanderer listen to the teachings of the Lotus Sutra corresponds to forming a relationship with true Buddhism, which will be the cause for the attainment of Buddhahood for the slanderer. •

Group Tozan 2017 Schedule

Summer Study Tozan

Leave U.S.: August 16
Return to U.S.: August 22

Chapter Tozan

Leave U.S.: October 20
Return to U.S.: October 26

Gotai-e Tozan

Leave U.S.: November 17
Return to U.S.: November 22

Schedule is subject to change.

Confirm dates and itinerary prior to events.



The Urabon Ceremony: Annual Memorial Service for the Deceased (July 9)

The *Urabon* Ceremony dates back to the days of Shakyamuni in India and is described in the Sutra of the Festival of the Dead (Skt. *Ulambama*; Jpn. *Urabon*). Through this sutra, we learn that the deceased are unable to make causes and help themselves, so we, the living, help relieve their suffering in their deceased states and increase their fortune by requesting toba tablets for them and praying to the Gohonzon together with the priests for their peace and happiness.

This annual ceremony for the deceased will be celebrated together with the Oko Ceremony on July 9, at 10 AM. An application for toba memorial tablets is enclosed with this mailing. Please return your toba requests by July 2.

Gonan-e Ceremony: Commemorating the Tatsunokuchi Persecution (September 10)

The Tatsunokuchi Persecution occurred on September 12, 1271. It is one of the four great persecutions that Nichiren Daishonin underwent. Through these persecutions, he proved the predictions made in the twenty-line verse of the Encouraging Devotion (*Kanji*; thirteenth) chapter of the Lotus Sutra of the trials and tribulations the True Buddha would endure while propagating the Lotus Sutra in the Latter Day of the Law. The Tatsunokuchi Persecution was the Kamakura Government’s failed attempt to execute Nichiren Daishonin.

Through this event, the Daishonin cast off his transient identity as the reappearance of Bodhisattva Jogyo and established his true identity as the True Buddha of the infinite past of *kuon ganjo*. We will be celebrating this very significant ceremony together with the Oko Ceremony on September 10, at 10 AM.

Equinox Memorial Higan-e Ceremony (September 17)

The *Higan-e* Ceremony is the traditional memorial service performed twice a year on or about the same day as the spring and fall equinox. At the *Higan-e* Ceremony we offer toba memorial tablets to repay our debts of gratitude. Myohoji Temple will observe the fall *Higan-e* on Sunday, September 17 at 10:00 AM.

Toba applications will be mailed to believers in August. Please submit toba requests by September 10. Thank you.

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To learn more about our dynamic practice, we encourage you to subscribe to the *Nichiren Shoshu Monthly*, published 12 times a year. Since the purpose of the Monthly is specifically for study, each edition is packed with in-depth material dealing with some of the more complex issues of Buddhism, as well as the more basic Buddhist concepts.

NST Myohoji Temple Hours

Open: Mon. - Sat.: 6:15 AM
Sun.: 8:00 AM
Closed: Mon. - Fri.: 8:00 PM (8:30 PM in July)
Thurs.: 8:30 PM
Sat. & Sun.: 5:30 PM (6:00 PM in July)

Gongyo
Morning: Mon. - Sat.: 6:30 AM
Sun.: 10:00 AM
Evening: Mon. - Fri.: 6:30 PM
Sat. & Sun.: 4:00 PM