



Myohoji Bulletin

September, October, November & December 2017

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Guidance from Sixty-eighth High Priest Nichinyo Shonin On the Occasion of the July Kosen-rufu Shodai Ceremony July 2, 2017 (Excerpt)

In the Goshō, Many in Body, One in Mind (*Itai doshin ji*), the Daishonin teaches us the most important point to keep in mind, as we take on the challenge to achieve our goal. He states:

With the spirit of many in body, one in mind, they (the Atsuwara believers) will achieve everything, whereas, in the case of one in body, many in mind, they will not accomplish anything. This has been proven in more than 3,000 volumes of Chinese non-Buddhist literature. For example, there was a battle between King Zhou of Yin with his 700,000 soldiers and King Wu of Zhou with his 800. King Zhou was defeated due to disunity, whereas King Wu won because of unity. An individual at odds with himself will not achieve anything, because his heart is not dedicated to a single purpose. Even if there are 100 or 1,000 people, if they are united with one heart, they can definitely accomplish anything. (*Goshō*, p. 1389)

As the Daishonin asserts in this Goshō, the key to success depends on achieving unity, based on the spirit of *itai doshin*.

It's a fact that in every chapter that is producing good results, the members are devoting themselves to do shakubuku, based on unity in the spirit of *itai doshin*. All of the members of these chapters have awareness, pride and confidence as soldiers for kosen-rufu. And, they advance toward the challenge of doing shakubuku with great delight, aiming toward the achievement of their goals.

The Daishonin 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] 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 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. (*Goshō*, p. 1316)

In the Latter Day of the Law, shakubuku is the correct method of propagating the Law in every respect. This is because the method of shoju, which was used in the Former and Middle Days of the Law, cannot save those without the seed of Buddhahood.

In the same Goshō, the Daishonin teaches as follows:

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September

September 3 (Sunday)

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

September 10 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Gonan-e Ceremony
Okō Ceremony

Children's Okō in Kyakuden

September 17 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Higan-e Ceremony
Japanese Lecture

Young Adult Meeting

September 21 (Thursday)

6:30 PM: Evening Gongyo
7:00 PM: Introductory Meeting

September 24 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Monthly Memorial
Chinese & Korean Lectures

October

October 1 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Kosen-rufu Gongyo
Make Paper Flowers after
Ceremony

October 8 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Oeshiki Ceremony

October 15 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Shodai Ceremony
Japanese Lecture

Young Adult Meeting

October 19 (Thursday)

6:30 PM: Evening Gongyo
7:00 PM: Introductory Meeting

October 22 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Morning Gongyo
Temple Clean up

October 29 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Monthly Memorial
Chinese & Korean Lectures

November

November 4 (Saturday)

2:00 PM: New Members Seminar

November 5 (Sunday)

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

November 12 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Okō Ceremony
Children's Okō in Kyakuden

November 16 (Thursday)

6:30 PM: Evening Gongyo
7:00 PM: Introductory Meeting

November 19 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Mokushi-e Ceremony
Japanese Lecture

Young Adult Meeting

November 26 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Monthly Memorial
Chinese & Korean Lectures

December

December 3 (Sunday)

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

December 10 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Okō Ceremony
Children's Okō in Kyakuden

December 17 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Monthly Memorial
Chinese & Korean Lectures

December 24 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Morning Gongyo
December 31 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Morning Gongyo
4:00 PM: New Year's Eve
Gongyo

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Nichiren Shoshu True Buddhism
Orthodox Teaching of
Nichiren Daishonin

Even if the Law does not suit the capacity of the people, one should nevertheless strongly teach and make them listen to the five characters of the title of the Lotus Sutra. This is because there is no other way apart from this to attain Buddhahood. (*Gosho*, p. 1315)

Shakubuku is the ultimate method that helps the people sever their attachments to erroneous teachings. Moreover, it leads them to the correct teaching that brings forth true happiness. Thus, it is different from persuading someone to buy something. Shakubuku involves a serious discussion that reaches one's heart. We must be aware that the words and attitude of those who perform shakubuku have a significant impact on the people they speak with.

Thus, when conducting shakubuku, first and foremost, it is essential for one to revere the vast and boundless benefits of the Dai-Gohonzon and devote oneself to chanting Daimoku with absolute conviction. With the joy and benefits of chanting Daimoku, one must perform shakubuku.

Looking at today's chaotic condition at home and abroad, which directly represents the defiled age of the Latter Day of the Law, I strongly feel that each of us must engrave the following golden words into our hearts:

Gonan-e Ceremony—September 10 Commemorating the Tatsunokuchi Persecution

The Tatsunokuchi Persecution is regarded as the time which Nichiren Daishonin cast off his transient identity as the reappearance of Bodhisattva Jogyo and revealed 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.

Higan-e Ceremony—September 17 Equinox Memorial

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 were mailed to believers in August. Please submit toba requests by September 10.

Oeshiki Ceremony—October 8

The *Oeshiki* Ceremony—also called *Otai'e*—is the celebration of the eternal life of Nichiren Daishonin. The ceremony will be held at Myohoji Temple on October 8. The Head Temple Taisekiji, as well as local temples of Nichiren Shoshu, decorate the altar with colorful paper cherry blossoms. Traditionally a portion of the *Rissho ankoku-ron* is read as a symbolic reaffirmation of our determination to undergo all hardships in order to achieve the absolute will of the Daishonin—kosen-rufu.

The very life of the Daishonin is Nam-Myoho-Renge-Kyo, embodied in the Dai-Gohonzon. The person and the Law were embodied in human form, but the body matured, aged and passed away, leaving behind the Dai-Gohonzon for humankind.

Mokushi-e Ceremony—Nov. 19 Memorial for Third High Priest

The *Mokushi-e* Ceremony is the memorial for the Third High Priest, Nichimoku Shonin. He is best remembered for his determination to

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. (*Gosho*, p. 403)

We must be aware that we have the important mission to sow the seed of Myoho-Renge-Kyo of the true cause into the lives of as many people as possible, as we carry out shakubuku.

At this time, I feel the most important thing is, first, the believers who have gathered here today, with determined resolution, must stand up and carry out shakubuku—refuting heresy and revealing the truth—as we aim toward the achievement of our goal.

If each of us takes the initiative to stand up and do shakubuku courageously, I firmly believe that our goal will be achieved without fail.

I sincerely pray that you will further devote yourselves to your practice, so that you will achieve this year's goal. •

practice and propagate true Buddhism. We observe Nichimoku Shonin's passing to remind ourselves to wholeheartedly propagate Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism. The *Mokushi-e* Ceremony is also considered "Children's Day."

Annual Toba Applications

Beginning November 12, believers may complete annual toba applications for the year 2018. By submitting an annual toba application for the deceased, tobas will be inscribed for each Monthly Memorial, the *Higan-e* Ceremonies and the *Urabon* Ceremony. Please contact Rev. Takagi for more information.

New Year's Temple Events

The last evening Gongyo of 2017 will be held New Year's Eve, December 31 at 4:00 PM. New Year's Day Morning Gongyo will be at 10:00 AM and the New Year's Day Evening Gongyo will be held at 2:00 PM. The temple will close at 5:00 PM. Additional information will be available at a later date.

Subscribe to the Nichiren Shoshu Monthly

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 complex aspects of true Buddhism, as well as the more basic concepts.

NST Myohoji Temple Hours

Open:	Mon. - Sat.: 6:15 AM	Gongyo
	Sun.: 8:00 AM	Morning: Mon. - Sat.: 6:30 AM
Closed:	Mon. - Fri.: 8:00 PM	Sun.: 10:00 AM
	Thurs.: 8:30 PM	Evening: Mon. - Fri.: 6:30 PM
	Sat. & Sun.: 5:30 PM	Sat. & Sun.: 4:00 PM