



Myohoji Bulletin

September, October, November & December 2010

www.nst.org/myohoji

Guidance from Sixty-eighth High Priest Nichinyo Shonin On the Occasion of the May Kosen-rufu Shodai Ceremony July 4, 2010 (Excerpt)

The Nichiren Shoshu priesthood and laity are striving to achieve the goals for 2015 and 2021. I believe this is not an easy task at all, as the great Law of the sowing hidden in the depths of the Lotus Sutra is most difficult to believe and most difficult to understand. However, as the golden words of the True Buddha indicate, if we powerfully move forward, aiming toward the achievement of worldwide kosen-rufu, we definitely will receive immeasurable benefits.

One will encounter hardships and obstacles if one tries to uphold one's practice for kosen-rufu. This is unavoidable. It is essential, however, to overcome every obstacle and to do shakubuku. This means, first of all, one must have absolute faith in the Dai-Gohonzon. Second, one must persistently practice based on one's firm conviction. The Gosho, "On Prayer" ("Kitō-shō") reads:

Even if one misses while pointing at the earth, even if one ties up the sky, even if the ebb and flow of the tide ceases, and even if the sun rises in the west, the prayers of the votary of the Lotus Sutra will never be unanswered. (Gosho, p. 630)

Furthermore, the Daishonin teaches in "Reply to Kyōō" ("Kyōō dono-gohenji"):

Summon up your faith and pray to this Gohonzon. Is there any reason your prayers will not be answered? (Gosho, p. 685)

The "Orally Transmitted Teachings" ("Onji kuden") teaches:

Ichinen sanzen (three thousand realms in a single life-moment) arises from the single character "faith." The attainment of Buddhahood by all Buddhas of the three existences is also based on the single character "faith." A sword that extirpates fundamental darkness is the single character "faith." Believing and understanding with no doubts leads one to overcome fundamental darkness. (Gosho, p. 1737)

We must have absolute conviction in the Dai-Gohonzon and maintain faith with no doubts. If our words and actions are based on the firm belief that "taking faith in the Dai-Gohonzon is the only way to attain true happiness," then we will touch people's hearts. This will certainly lead us to achieve shakubuku.

Another important point is one's constant actions. The Bodhisattva Never Disparaging (Fukyō; twentieth) chapter of the Lotus Sutra illustrates in detail the behavior of Bodhisattva Never Disparaging, who appeared near the end of the Middle Day of the Law of Buddha Awesome Sound King. Bodhisattva Never Disparaging taught that Buddhahood is inherent in the minds of all living beings. He recited the following:

I have profound reverence for you. I would never dare treat you with disparagement or arrogance. Why? Because you are

September

September 5 (Sunday)

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

September 12 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Gonan-e Ceremony
Okō Ceremony
Children's Okō in Kyakuden

September 15 (Wednesday)

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

September 19 (Sunday)

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

September 26 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Monthly Memorial
Chinese Lecture
Korean Lecture

September 27 (Monday)

7:00 PM: Basics of Practice Meeting

October

October 3 (Sunday)

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

October 10 (Sunday)

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

October 17 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Shodaikai
Japanese Lecture
Young Adult Meeting

October 20 (Wednesday)

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

October 24 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Hokkeko General
Meeting

October 31 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Monthly Memorial
Chinese Lecture
Korean Lecture

November

November 7 (Sunday)

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

November 14 (Sunday)

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

November 17 (Wednesday)

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

November 21 (Sunday)

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

November 28 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Monthly Memorial
Chinese Lecture
Korean Lecture

November 29 (Monday)

7:00 PM: Basics of Practice Meeting

December

December 5 (Sunday)

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

December 12 (Sunday)

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

December 15 (Wednesday)

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

December 19 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Shodaikai
Japanese Lecture
Young Adult Meeting

December 26 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Monthly Memorial
Chinese Lecture
Korean Lecture

December 31 (Friday)

4:00 PM: New Year's Eve Gongyo

Rev. Taishin Takano,
Chief Priest
Myohoji Temple

1401 N. Crescent Heights Blvd.
West Hollywood, California
90046-3812
Tel: 323-656-2888

Nichiren Shoshu True Buddhism
Orthodox Teaching of
Nichiren Daishonin

(continued) all practicing the bodhisattva way and are certain to attain Buddhahood. (Hokekyo, p. 500; The Lotus Sutra, Watson, pp. 266-7)

As this phrase consists of twenty-four characters, it is referred to as "the twenty-four-character Lotus Sutra."

Bodhisattva Never Disparaging, who simply went about bowing to people, was spoken ill of and cursed by those who were offended by his actions. He was even beaten and pelted with wooden sticks, or tiles and stones. Undaunted, however, he continued preaching the twenty-four-character Lotus Sutra. Through this practice, Bodhisattva Never Disparaging was able to expiate all of his negative karma from the past.

Furthermore, when Bodhisattva Never Disparaging was at the point of death, he heard from up in the sky the verses of the Lotus Sutra that had been previously preached by the Buddha Awesome Sound King, and he immediately gained the benefit of achieving the purification of his six senses and extended his life by two hundred ten million nayutas of years. Until his death, he continued to preach the Lotus Sutra. Furthermore, after his

passing, he encountered innumerable Buddhas and he widely preached the Lotus Sutra to the people. With the benefits of such deeds, he was able to attain Buddhahood. Those who had persecuted Bodhisattva Never Disparaging fell into hell once. They too, however, were saved through their reverse relationship formed by hearing the Lotus Sutra.

I think these strenuous actions of Bodhisattva Never Disparaging demonstrate the attitude that those in the Latter Day of the Law must have in conducting shakubuku. His practice of bowing and preaching the twenty-four-character Lotus Sutra to every person, believing that Buddhahood is inherent in the minds of all people, is extremely important. He endured the difficulties and obstacles caused by his persistence and continued to preach the Lotus Sutra. We must learn from his actions. The remaining latter half of this year is a crucial period for our practice. With absolute conviction in the Dai-Gohonzon and following the example of the persistent practice of Bodhisattva Never Disparaging, I pray that every chapter across the country will achieve this year's goal without fail, based on unity between priesthood and laity in the spirit of itai-dōshin. •

Higan-e Ceremony— September 19 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 19 at 10:00 AM. Toba applications were mailed to believers in August. Please submit toba requests by September 12. Thank you.

Oeshiki Ceremony—October 10

The Oeshiki Ceremony—also called Otaï'e—is the celebration of the eternal life of Nichiren Daishonin. The ceremony will be held at Myohoji Temple on October 11. The Head Temple Taiseikiji, 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.

Hokkeko General Meeting—

Myohoji Temple will be celebrating its General Meeting on **Sunday, October 24 at 10 AM** with a special ceremony and program. This will be a wonderful time to remember our temple's history and renew our determination for the future. Overseas bureau chief Rev. Urushibata and NST chief priests from around the country will be visiting.



Mokushi-e Ceremony—Nov. 21 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 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 14, believers may complete annual toba applications for the year 2011. 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. Iwakiri for more information.

New Year's Temple Events

The last evening Gongyo of 2009 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 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. Also, each monthly Oko lecture will be read from the Nichiren Shoshu Monthly for that month. So, please remember to bring your copy of the Nichiren Shoshu Monthly!

NST Myohoji Temple Hours

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