

Myohoji Bulletin

March, April, May, June 2011

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Guidance from Sixty-eighth High Priest Nichinyo Shonin (Excerpt)

February 6, 2011

Concerning the propagation of the Law after Shakyamuni Buddha's passing, the Teachers of the Law (*Hosshi*; tenth chapter of the Lotus Sutra expounds the principle of the three rules of preaching—the robe, the throne, and the room:

Enter the room of the Tathagata, don the robe of the Tathagata, sit on the throne of the Tathagata, and extensively preach this sutra for the sake of the four kinds of believers.
(*Hokekyo*, p. 329)

"Enter the room of the Tathagata" means to arouse one's feeling of great compassion. "Don the robe of the Tathagata" refers to wearing the clothing of gentleness and forbearance. The phrase "sit on the throne of the Tathagata" is explained in the "Orally Transmitted Teachings" ("*Ongi kuden*") as follows:

The throne signifies devoting oneself to the practice without begrudging one's life. This means to reside in the seat of emptiness, liberating oneself from all illusions.

(*Gosho*, p. 1750)

This principle teaches that one should have the mind of gentleness and forbearance, have the firm conviction of not holding

one's own life dear, and propagate the Law with compassion.

Apparently, in the present age, the style of doing shakubuku may differ from one person to another. I believe that everyone should have the attitude based on the principle of the three rules of preaching—the robe, the throne, and the room—and practice shakubuku.

Last year, Nichiren Shoshu made great achievements due to the concerted efforts of the priesthood and laity with forward shakubuku momentum.

In particular, the shakubuku achievement in India is worthy of special mention. According to the report of the Overseas Department, in Mumbai, India, approximately 1,200 people received Gojukai last year. This was all started by the shakubuku activities conducted by only three members.

One of them is a lady who is originally from Malaysia. She became naturalized in Japan 30 years ago and joined Nichiren Shoshu ten years ago. Now, she runs her own travel agency in Mumbai.

Another person is her older brother. He became naturalized in India and lives in Mumbai. Two years ago, he had heart disease

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March

March 6 (Sunday)

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

March 13 (Sunday)

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

March 16 (Wednesday)

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

March 20 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Higan-e
Japanese Lecture

March 27 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Monthly Memorial
Chinese Lecture

Korean Lecture

March 28 (Monday)

7:00 PM Basics of Practice
Meeting

April

April 3 (Sunday)

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

April 10 (Sunday)

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

April 17 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Shodaikai
Japanese Lecture

April 20 (Wednesday)

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

April 24 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Risshu-e
Monthly Memorial

Chinese Lecture

Korean Lecture

May

May 1 (Sunday)

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

May 8 (Sunday)

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

May 15 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Shodaikai
Japanese Lecture

May 18 (Wednesday)

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

May 22 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Gongyo
Clean up

May 29 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Monthly Memorial
Chinese Lecture

Korean Lecture

May 30 (Monday)

7:00 PM Basics of Practice
Meeting

June

June 5 (Sunday)

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

June 12 (Sunday)

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

June 15 (Wednesday)

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

June 19 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Shodaikai
Japanese Lecture

Young Adult Meeting

June 26 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Monthly Memorial
Chinese Lecture

Korean Lecture

Rev. Taishin Takano,
Chief Priest
Myohoji Temple

1401 N. Crescent Heights Blvd.
West Hollywood, California
90046-3812
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Nichiren Shoshu True Buddhism
Orthodox Teaching of
Nichiren Daishonin

and underwent emergency surgery. His doctor told him there was a 99 percent chance that he would die. He then started to chant Daimoku, as his sister had always encouraged him to do. The surgery was successful, and he received the great benefit of escaping death. Afterwards, he made up his mind to stand up and do shakubuku together with his sister and one other member from India.

The third person is originally from India. He was the only active believer in Mumbai and had been practicing Nichiren Shoshu Buddhism all alone. He had no fellow members to practice with. After meeting this brother and sister, he joined hands with them. Then, the three of them started to do shakubuku together. As a result, to everyone's surprise, 1,200 people received Gojukai last year. This is quite an astounding achievement.

Furthermore, they have recently informed the Overseas Department that there are 600 more people waiting to receive Gojukai. They have asked when the priest would be able to come to conduct the Gojukai Ceremony.

Shakubuku activities such as these, which initially were started by only three people, can spread like a great wave, and can even lead to the achievement of 1,200 people receiving Gojukai. It happened because these three members

became united as one and fearlessly devoted themselves to do shakubuku in earnest, upholding the passages, "one's body is insignificant while the Law is supreme" and "willing to give one's life to propagate the Law." This proves that shakubuku can be achieved without fail, as long as one truly does it in earnest. There is a proverb that says:

It is not because it is impossible to do. It is because you do not try to do it.

No matter how capable one may be, if he lacks the ability and the will to get something done, nothing will be achieved. On the contrary, once a person feels motivated and gains confidence, he often demonstrates power beyond his abilities, as is the case with shakubuku.

These three members in India have proven that as long as one has absolute faith in the Dai-Gohonzon, an indomitable will, confidence based on a "can-do" spirit, and makes strenuous efforts, one will never fail to accomplish shakubuku.

Therefore, if any of you feels that shakubuku is not going your way, please do not establish your own limits. Instead, have the conviction that "efforts will always pay off." Then, emulate the firm faith of these Indian members and conduct shakubuku. I assure you that shakubuku can be achieved. •

Higan-e Memorial— March 20

Memorial service performed twice a year on or around the equinox. More information will be mailed at a later date.

The Risshu-e Ceremony: Celebrating the Declaration of True Buddhism—April 24

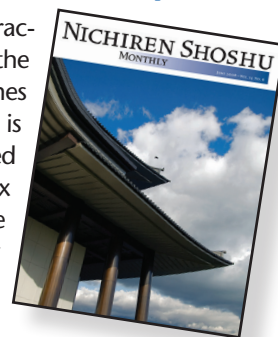
The Risshu-e Ceremony, the establishment of true Buddhism, will be celebrated on April 24 at 10:00 AM.

In the early morning of April 28, 1253, Nichiren Daishonin, at age 32, stood alone in Kasagamori forest at the top of Seicho-zan Mountain waiting for dawn. As the sun rose above the Pacific Ocean, Nichiren Daishonin joined his hands in prayer and began to chant the Daimoku: "Nam-Myoho-Renge-Kyo, Nam-Myoho-Renge-

Kyo..."The significance of the annual Risshu-e Ceremony is to express our gratitude to Nichiren Daishonin. Through his profound mercy, he overcame tremendous obstacles to establish true Buddhism for all eternity. So we commemorate this day by making the determination to follow the Daishonin's example of teaching everyone about Nam-Myoho-Renge-Kyo.

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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 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!



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on the web:

<http://myohoji.nst.org/category/myohoji-bulletin/>

NST Myohoji Temple Hours

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

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