

“Letter to Myomitsu Shonin”

(“Myomitsu Shonin-goshosoku”)

I am profoundly upholding the teaching that the Lotus Sutra reigns supreme above all the sutras the Buddha has preached, now preaches, and will preach¹). I have been chanting the Daimoku, the essence of the Lotus Sutra, myself, and encouraging others [to do the same]. The winding mugwort grows straight when it is planted in a hemp field. A crooked tree can be cut into straight lumber by following the *sumi* ink mark. Likewise, when you chant the Daimoku exactly as taught in the Lotus Sutra, your heart will never go astray. As a matter of course, you must understand that if the Buddha’s heart did not enter our bodies, we would not be able to chant the Daimoku.

(*Goshō*, p. 967)

1) Has preached, now preaches, and will preach: This signifies “preached prior” (*i-setsu*), “preach in the present” (*kon-setsu*), and “preach in the future” (*to-setsu*). “Prior” refers to the past, “present” is the current time, and “future” means “what follows.” A passage in the Teachers of the Law (*Hosshi*; tenth) chapter of the Lotus Sutra states: “And among those sutras, the Lotus is foremost!....The sutras I have preached number immeasurable thousands, ten thousand million; among the sutras I have preached, now preach, and will preach, this Lotus Sutra is the most difficult to believe and the most difficult to understand.” (*Hokekyō*, p. 325; *The Lotus Sutra*, Watson, p. 164) “Sutras I have preached” denote all the sutras taught during the more than 40 years before the Lotus Sutra. The sutra that I “now preach” refers to the “Sutra of Infinite Meanings” (*Muryōgi-kyō*), which represents the opening of the Lotus Sutra. The sutra that I “will preach” is the Nirvana Sutra (*Nehan-gyō*), which was expounded after the Lotus Sutra. The Lotus Sutra far surpasses these three categories of sutras, which are prior, present, and future, and it is difficult to believe and difficult to understand.

High Priest Nichinyō Shonin’s Guidance

(On the occasion of Kosen-ru Shodai ceremony August 2024)

In “Attaining Enlightenment at the Initial Stage of Faith through the Lotus Sutra” (*“Hokke shoshin jobutsu-shō”*), the Daishonin states:

When one hears the Lotus Sutra with one’s ears, this person will become a Buddha without fail, since the seed of Buddhahood will eventually sprout in the future.... One should therefore by all means persistently expound and cause them to hear the Lotus Sutra. (Goshō, p.1316)

Reading these invaluable words should be enough to make you realize how vital it is for us to practice shakubuku with all our being in order to advance *kosen-rufu*. Organize yourselves to have unity (*itai doshin*) in the awareness that doing shakubuku—planting the seed of enlightenment—is the supreme mission and responsibility of all Nichiren Shoshu priests and lay believers.