

**“Attaining Enlightenment at the Initial Stage  
of Faith through the Lotus Sutra”**

[“*Hokke shoshin jōbutsu-shō*”]

1278 (Age 57)

**We should strongly teach and make them 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 their reverse relationship with it.**

(Gosho p.1316 『法華初心成仏抄初心』)

Nichiren Shoshu Myosenji

... It is vital for us to maintain the spirit that “we should firmly teach the five characters of the honorable title of the Lotus Sutra, whether or not it is suited to the capacities of ignorant common mortals.” The same Gosho states: “Thus, we should strongly teach and make them 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 their reverse relationship with it.”

Based on our compassion, if we earnestly wish to save someone, we must put these golden words into actual practice and sow the seed of the Buddha. We must shakubuku as many people as possible. Faith is not theory. It is actual practice. Through the practice of shakubuku, we are able to eradicate our negative karma from the remote past and attain Buddhahood in this lifetime.

We now must take to heart the passage from the Teachers of the Law chapter that states, “After I have passed into extinction, one should accept and uphold this sutra. There is no doubt that such a person is assured to attain the Buddha way.” It is vital that we practice not only for ourselves, but also teach others about the great benefits of the mystic Law (*Myōhō*) and shakubuku the many people who suffer from misfortune.

I truly pray that you will remember this. With absolute conviction in the Dai-Gohonzon of the High Sanctuary of the Essential Teaching, I sincerely hope that the members of each chapter will strive in doing shakubuku toward our goals for the coming years 2015 and 2021, based on unity and the spirit of *itai-doshin*. I hope that all the chapters will achieve their goals without fail.

(On the occasion of Kōsen-rufu Shodai Ceremony at Head Temple - May 1, 2011)