

**“Questions and Answers between
a Sage and a Foolish Man”**

1268 (Age 47)

Myoho-Renge-Kyo is the Buddha nature all living beings possess. The Buddha nature is the Dharma nature. And the Dharma nature is enlightenment.... Thus, if you chant this title of Myoho-Renge-Kyo once, the Buddha nature of all living beings will be called and gather around you. The three enlightened properties of the Law, wisdom, and compassionate action of the Dharma nature within you will be drawn forth and then clearly emerge. This is described as attaining Buddhahood.

(*Gosho*, p. 406 - “*Shōgu mondō-shō*”)

Nichiren Shoshu Myosenji

...in “Questions and Answers between a Sage and a Foolish Man” (“*Shōgu mondō-shō*”), he states: Myoho-Renge-Kyo is the Buddha nature all living beings possess. The Buddha nature is the Dharma nature. And the Dharma nature is enlightenment.... Thus, if you chant this title of Myoho-Renge-Kyo once, the Buddha nature of all living beings will be called and gather around you. The three enlightened properties of the Law, wisdom, and compassionate action of the Dharma nature within you will be drawn forth and then clearly emerge. This is described as attaining Buddhahood. (*Gosho*, p. 406)

Taking these golden words deeply to heart, we must not neglect chanting Daimoku and conducting shakubuku. When we single-mindedly strive to practice for oneself and for others, the attainment of Buddhahood in our present form undoubtedly will be realized without fail.

We, in Nichiren Shoshu, are now in the middle of great advancement in shakubuku toward the achievement of our objectives for 2015 and 2021, with unity between priesthood and laity, based on the spirit of *itai-doshin*. In particular, this year’s objective is for all Hokkeko chapters to achieve their shakubuku goals. Thus, it is important to chant Daimoku both individually, and together with the entire chapter for the accomplishment of these goals. Let us take action to conduct shakubuku with the joy and benefit of chanting Daimoku.

There is a close relationship between Shodai and shakubuku. A distinguishing feature of the chapters that achieved their shakubuku goals early is that the members all chant Daimoku together.

I would like to conclude my address with my heartfelt prayer that each of you will bear these points in mind, and make every effort to chant Daimoku more than ever, in order to definitely achieve our shakubuku goals for this year.

(On the occasion of Kōsen-rufu Shodai Ceremony at Head Temple – July 1, 2012)