

**“Heritage of the Ultimate Law of
Life and Death”**

Feb. 11, 1272 (Age 51)

All disciples and believers of Nichiren should chant Nam-Myoho-Renge-Kyo in *itai-doshin* (many in body, one in mind) without attachment to their own minds, to become as inseparable as fish and the water in which they swim. This is called the Heritage of the ultimate law of life and death. This is the object of Nichiren’s propagation. When you are so united, even the great aspiration for Kosen-rufu can be fulfilled without fail.

(Gosho p.514 『生死一大事血脈抄』)

Nichiren Shoshu Myosenji

It is important that each Temple and group first make concrete annual plans specifically for achieving shakubuku, preparing both short and long-term goals for each activity. Then with the same resolve, everyone must exert forth utmost efforts in the advancement of shakubuku.

Without this basic plan within the organization, action will become meandering and unstable like that of “a ship without a helm” or “a horse without a bit”, and goals cannot be accomplished.

Therefore, the entire Hokkeko should maintain a strong sense of purpose, and should carry the same aspiration to foster the unity of *itai-doshin* and the accomplishment of shakubuku goals. It is important to carry out shakubuku activities that involve all members with unity in the Hokkeko even though there may be various ways that members attend shakubuku activities.

In other words, if all your actions are entirely carried out in *itai-doshin*, you will establish a strong circle of solidarity that will never be defeated by obstacles. You will be able to achieve shakubuku goals by forming a solid and active Hokkeko.

Nichiren Daishonin states the following on the importance of *itai-doshin* (many in body, one in mind) in the “Heritage of the Ultimate Law of Life and Death”: ‘All disciples and believers of Nichiren should chant Nam-Myoho-Renge-Kyo in *itai-doshin* (many in body, one in mind) without attachment to their own minds, to become as inseparable as fish and the water in which they swim. This is called the Heritage of the ultimate law of life and death. This is the object of Nichiren’s propagation. When you are so united, even the great aspiration for Kosen-rufu can be fulfilled without fail. But among Nichiren’s disciples, if there are persons who practice in *itai-ishin* (many in body, differences in mind), it would be as in the case of the owner of a castle who destroys his own castle from within.’ (Gosho page 514)

The Daishonin teaches the importance of *itai-doshin* in other Goshos as well. As with anything, when accomplishing something, one will obtain good results when one joins powers as opposed to separating them. In the same way, without the unity of *itai-doshin*, we can not achieve the great aspiration for Kosen-rufu.

The key to obtaining the unity of *itai-doshin* and spirit and courage to conduct shakubuku is the practice of Shodai.

(New Year’s Address for 2013)