

“Conversation between a Sage and an Unenlightened Man”

1268 (Age 47)

When one carries out the single practice of exercising faith in Myoho-renge-kyo, there are no blessings that fail to come to one, and no good karma that does not begin to work on one's behalf. It is like the case of a fishing net: though the net is composed of innumerable small meshes, when one pulls on the main cord of the net, there are no meshes that do not move. Or it is like a garment: though the garment is comprised of countless tiny threads, when one pulls on a corner of the garment, there are no threads that are not drawn along.

(『聖愚問答抄』 Gosho 408 - Ref. MWND Vol. 5)

Shakubuku is the merciful practice to save all living beings... the ultimate purpose of the establishment of true Buddhism, and the one great reason why the True Buddha from the infinite past of kuon-ganjo appeared in the Latter Day of the Law—to lead all mankind onto the direct path to attain Buddhahood.

Thus, we must keep in mind the boundless compassion of the True Buddha, Nichiren Daishonin. In order to repay our debt of gratitude for the great compassion of the Gohonzon, each one of us single-mindedly must devote all of our energy to the practice of shakubuku and the advancement of worldwide kosen-rufu.

The “Orally Transmitted Teachings” (“Ongi kuden”) states: Nichiren determines that shakubuku is the essential practice, while shōju is the theoretical practice. This is the meaning of the passage, “the Lotus Sutra is the teaching of shakubuku, the refutation of the provisional doctrines.” (“Hokke shakubuku ha gonmonri.”) (Gosho, p. 1700)

Nichiren Daishonin judges that between the two practices of shakubuku and shōju, shakubuku is the appropriate practice in this age of the Latter Day of the Law. The Profound Meaning of the Lotus Sutra (Hokke gengi) teaches: The Lotus Sutra is the teaching of shakubuku, the refutation of the provisional doctrines. (Gakurinban Gengikai-ehon, vol. 2, p. 502)

He teaches us that shakubuku is the practice for the Latter Day of the Law. **Thus, I would like you to know that shakubuku is the utmost Buddhist practices that follow the Buddha's true intention.** I would like to conclude my address by sincerely praying that all of you will make a determination to carry out shakubuku activities with all your might, in order to achieve our objectives for 2015 and 2021, and further, for the establishment of kosen-rufu throughout the world. I pray that you surely will accomplish your shakubuku goals for this year without fail.

(On the occasion of Kōsen-rufu Shodai Ceremony at Head Temple – Apr. 6, 2013)