

“An Offering of Polished Rice”

“Hakumai ippyō-gosho”

1280 (Age 59)

The word “Nam” is placed at the beginning of a phrase in order to venerate and worship any god or Buddha. To explain, this word is derived from Sanskrit, and is translated as “devotion” in China and Japan. It means to offer one’s life to the Buddha. Depending upon one’s position in society, some people may have a wife and children, servants, a manor, gold and silver, and so on, while others may not. Whether or not one possesses these treasures, there is nothing more precious than life. That is why sages and wise men in the past have offered their lives to the Buddha and thereby attained enlightenment.

(Gosho p.1544 / Selected Gosho Passages p.32)

Nichiren Shoshu Myosenji

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