

***Reply to Myoshin ama***  
**(Myoshin ama gozen-gohenji)**

Aug. 16, 1275 (Age 54)

[Your illness must be the work of the Buddha, just as described in the Vimalakirti Sutra (*Jomyo-kyo*) and the Nirvana Sutra.] These sutras describe the reason why those who are ill should be able to attain Buddhahood. Illness can motivate one to pursue the path to supreme enlightenment. Furthermore, among all ailments, the five cardinal sins, the disbelief of the *icchantika*, and the slander of the Law are the serious illnesses that truly pained the Buddha. Without a single exception, the people of Japan today are affected by the most critical disease of all—the serious affliction of grave slander.

(Gosho p. 900 / Nichiren Shoshu Monthly September 2021)

Nichiren Shoshu Myosenji

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