

***Reply to the Wife of Abutsu-bo***

(Abutsu-bo ama gozen-gohenji)

September 3, 1275 (Age 54)

**You must make a pledge to achieve the great aspiration for kosen-rufu and pray for your attainment of enlightenment. There is no doubt that one will fall into the hell of incessant suffering, if one commits a slight slander or harbors disbelief. For example, even if a boat sailing across the ocean is sturdy, all the passengers surely will die together if bilge water accumulates. Even if the embankments of a filled rice paddy are firm, the water eventually will leak if there is an opening even as small as an ant hole. Therefore, you must bail out the bilge water of slander and disbelief, and build a strong embankment for your faith. If the offense of a believer is minor, you should take the initiative to forgive him and enable him to attain benefits. If it is grave, you should encourage him to strengthen his faith so that he can expiate the offense.**

(Gosho p. 906 / Nichiren Shoshu Monthly March 2023)

Nichiren Shoshu Myosenji

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