

The Daimoku of the Lotus Sutra
(Hokke Daimoku-sho)

January 6, 1266 (Age 45)

Coming upon this sutra is as rare as encountering the *udumbara* flower, which blooms only once every three-thousand years, or a one-eyed turtle finding [a floating sandalwood log] which only happens once in countless aeons. To encounter the Daimoku of the Lotus Sutra is more difficult than placing a needle on the ground and throwing a poppy seed from the palace of the great King Bonten so that it is pierced by the tip of the needle. [Imagine] sticking a needle in this world's Mount Sumeru and, on a day with strong wind gusts, casting a thread from another world's Mount Sumeru so that it reaches the other mountain and passes through the eye of the needle. It is more difficult to encounter the Daimoku of the Lotus Sutra than to thread the needle in this way. Thus, you should be aware [of how extraordinary it is] to be able to chant the Daimoku of the Lotus Sutra.

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Nichiren Shoshu Myosenji

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