

“Reply to Matsuno”

(“*Matsuno dono-gohenji*”)

Alternative title: “The Fourteen Slanders” (“*Jushi hibo-sho*”)

December 9, 1276 (Age 55)

You wrote in your letter: “Ever since I embraced this sutra, I have never neglected to recite the ten factors (*junyoze*) and verses (*Jigage*) and to chant Daimoku. However, how significant is the difference between the benefits of the Daimoku when a sage chants and when we chant?” There is no superiority or inferiority between them. That is to say, gold in the hands of a fool is the same as that possessed by a wise man. Likewise, a fire lit by a fool cannot be distinguished from one ignited by someone wise. But there is a difference if one chants while opposing the spirit of this sutra.

(Gosho p. 1046 / Nichiren Shoshu Monthly July 2025)

Nichiren Shoshu Myosenji

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