

“Reply to Lord Ueno”

(“*Ueno-dono gohenji*”)

Alternative title: “The Dragon’s Gate” (“*Ryumon gosho*”)

November 6, 1279 (Age 58)

My disciples, now is the time to uphold great conviction! We have been fortunate not to have been among the many taken by the devastating epidemics last year and the year before. But the Mongol invasion is now imminent, and few are likely to be spared. Ultimately, death is inevitable for everyone. The sufferings at the time of death are equal in magnitude to the sufferings that we are currently experiencing. Since death is the same in any case, you should be willing to give your life for the sake of the Lotus Sutra. Regard the offering of your life as the reunion of a dewdrop with the sea or the settling of a speck of dust upon the earth.

(Gosho p. 1428 / Nichiren Shoshu Monthly August 2025)

Nichiren Shoshu Myosenji

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