

**Guidance from Sixty-eighth High Priest Nichinyo Shonin
On the Occasion of the March Kōsen-rufu Shōdai Ceremony
March 1, 2015
Reception Hall, Head Temple Taisekiji**

On this occasion of the March Kōsen-rufu Shōdai Ceremony, conducted here today at the Head Temple, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the large number of participants in attendance.

The month of March already has begun. I imagine that all of you, based on unity between the priesthood and laity in the spirit of *itai dōshin*, are devoting yourselves to your practice day and night, aiming toward the achievement of your shakubuku goal.

This is the month when Second High Priest Nikko Shonin was born.

Most of the chapters already have achieved their goals. If there are chapters that have not yet done so, I sincerely hope that these chapters will strive to do shakubuku with all their might to accomplish their goals.

As I always mention, shakubuku is the greatest act of compassion to save all living beings.

In order to carry out shakubuku with firm determination and courage, one must constantly chant Daimoku with a strong spirit. The most important thing is to do shakubuku based on the benefit of chanting Daimoku.

The Lotus Sutra teaches that all people equally possess the ten worlds. That is, we all possess the ten kinds of life conditions—from the highest state of Buddhahood to the lowest state of hell. These are the life conditions of the four noble worlds and the six paths. The life condition of Buddhahood moves one to improve the world. Such a person will love and cherish others, have a strong sense of justice, value peace, build a character with a deep sense of compassion, gain the trust of many people, and make others feel pleasant. On the contrary, one who is fascinated by devilish functions will become contentious and steeped in evil influences. Such an individual has a self-centered nature and takes pleasure in disruptive behavior. A person like this, with egocentric and biased views, will bring conflict and spread anger in society.

This condition is the root cause for all disasters today and brings forth all kinds of evil phenomena and misfortune.

We must know that in light of Buddhism, all calamities, including both natural and man-made disasters, are derived from the life conditions of humans. The Daishonin clearly reveals this in his *Risshō ankoku-ron*.

Therefore, we must never allow devils to run rampant. Instead, we must take up the challenge of refuting evil and revealing the truth. Then, we must save the world with the function of our lives, fused with the supreme Dai-Gohonzon.

The Soka Gakkai has made the following insane announcement, as if their heads were broken into seven pieces:

We will not consider the Gohonzon of the second year of Kō'an (1279) to be the object of worship for us to uphold.

(Seikyō shimbun, November 8, 2014)

The Gakkai has come to commit the gravest of slanders by renouncing faith in the Dai-Gohonzon of the High Sanctuary of the Essential Teaching, misleading many Gakkai members to misfortune.

True happiness will never arrive, if we distance ourselves from the Dai-Gohonzon of the High Sanctuary of the Essential Teaching, the one great reason for the Daishonin's advent into this world.

We must denounce the appalling, grave slander of the Soka Gakkai and save as many Gakkai members as possible.

I pray that you will revere the venerable words of both the Daishonin and Nikko Shonin, the founder of true Buddhism and the founder of Head Temple Taisekiji, and strive to propagate the mystic Law (*Myōhō*), with the noble mission of saving all mankind. And, I sincerely hope that all the Hokkeko chapters throughout the nation will participate in the Grand Ceremony to commemorate the 770th anniversary of the birth of the Second High Priest Nikko Shonin, which will take place on March 7 and 8, as well as the commemorative ceremonies to be held over ten days starting from March 22, and the commemorative general meetings. It is my sincere wish that you will receive tremendous benefits from attending these ceremonies.

I pray from the bottom of my heart for your further devotion to your practice.