

“Letter to Priest Nichiro in Prison”

Oct. 9, 1271 (Age 50)

Others read the Lotus Sutra with their mouths alone, reading only the words, but do not read it with their hearts. And even if they read it with their hearts, they do not read it with their actions. Praiseworthy indeed are those like you who read the sutra with both body and mind!

(Gosho p.483 『土籠御書』 / MW5-127)

Nichiren Shoshu Myosenji

68th High Priest Nichinyo Shonin's Guidance

Shakubuku is not a theory. It cannot be achieved without taking any action, just as a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. If you take resolute action, you will gain wisdom and be protected by the guardian deities. Thus, you will achieve your shakubuku objectives without fail.

If you cannot achieve your objectives, you must reflect upon yourself to see whether you have only been referring to the theory of shakubuku rather than taking action to realize it. You will never achieve shakubuku if you just sit down and discuss the idea of shakubuku.

There is an old saying: If there is no dark obscurity in purpose, there will be no reputation for brilliance; if there is no hidden secret in the performance of duties, there will be no awe-inspiring majesty in achievements. (*Xunzi: A Translation and Study of the Complete Works*, vol. 1, p. 138)

In other words, there can be no prize without unseen efforts, and there can be no golden achievements if you neglect your work when you are out of sight.

The same is true with shakubuku. Making a wholehearted effort to do shakubuku continually is of utmost importance. Finding time in our busy schedules and persevering in conducting shakubuku will result in our attaining enlightenment in our present form and our saving people from their sufferings.

(On the occasion of Kōsen-rufu Shodai Ceremony at Head Temple – Nov. 6, 2011)