

LETTER TO LAY PRIEST YADOYA¹
[Nichiren Daishonin's Letter of Remonstrance]

I have not received any letters from you since we were in touch last, which strikes me as very strange indeed.

Formerly, in the first year of Shoka era [1257], the year with the cyclical sign *hinoto-mi*, on the twenty-third day of the eighth month, when the hour of the dog gives way to the hour of the boar [around 9:00 PM.], there was a great earthquake. I, Nichiren, consulting various sutras as to why this happened, concluded that, because people put their faith in the teachings of the Nembutsu school or the Zen or other schools, the various benevolent deities who protect this nation of Japan have become angry and have brought about this disaster. If steps are not taken to remedy the situation, this nation of ours will be overthrown by a foreign nation.

I wrote a petition expressing these views and, in the second year of the Shogen era [1260], cyclical sign *kanoe-saru*, on the sixteenth day of the seventh month, I sent it to you, requesting that it be forwarded to the late lay priest of Saimyo-ji.

Since then, nine years have passed. Now I hear reports that this year an official announcement from the great Mongol Empire has been sent to Japan. If the texts of the sutras are to be believed, this is an indication that our country will inevitably be attacked by the men of that nation.

I am convinced that, throughout the country of Japan, I, Nichiren, am the only person who can subdue these barbarians of the west, and I have written a treatise explaining my reasons. For the sake of the Buddhas, I ask that you forward my views to the regent [Hojo Tokimune] privately. I will explain the matter in detail at such time as I am granted an interview with you.

With my deep respect,
Nichiren

The twenty-first-day of the eighth month in the fifth year of Bun'ei [1268]

To the lay priest Yadoya Saemon

¹ From *The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, Vol. II, p.312