

# EMBLEMS OF NICHIREN SHOSHU

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IT HAS been a long-standing tradition in Japan for families to have their own crest or coat of arms. As its crest Nichiren Shoshu uses the emblem of a crane, which is Nichiren Daishonin's symbol. It is emblematic of longevity.



NIKKO SHONIN'S emblem is a turtle whose outer shell represents protection by indestructible armor.



NICHIMOKU SHONIN'S emblem is *sho-chiku-bai*: the pine tree (*sho*), which is an evergreen, representing eternal life; bamboo (*chiku*), suggesting straight and moderate; and the apricot tree (*bai*), indicating a sweet and pleasant scent.



SHAKYAMUNI BUDDHA used an emblem known in Japanese as *Ho-rin* to represent his entire collection of Buddhist teachings.

*Ho* signifies the Law, and *rin* indicates a wheel. Hence *Ho-rin* = 'Wheel of the Law.' *Ho-rin* has three aspects:

1. The sun and its rays, which reach out in eight directions, or all directions.
2. A sword, which destroys heretical religions.
3. A wheel, which can travel anywhere.

It was Shakyamuni's wish that his teachings spread far and wide.