



GLOSSARY

A

Amida -;(Skt. Amitayus or Amitabha) The Buddha worshipped by Nembutsu, or Pure Land believers. He is said to abide in the Pure Land of Perfect Bliss in the western part of the universe. He appeared in the Sutra of the Buddha of Infinite Life and made 48 false vows.

B

Bodhisattva - a state of being deeply compassionate; also, one who aspires to attain Buddhahood or enlightenment but postpones it to dedicate his or her life to saving others. One of the 10 worlds.

Bodhisattva Jofukyo (also Fukyo) - Bodhisattva Never Despising, a bodhisattva described in the 20th chapter of the Lotus Sutra who revered everyone he met as a potential Buddhas.

Bodhisattva Jogyo - Superior Conduct; One of the four bodhisattvas and the leader of the Bodhisattvas the Earth. In the 21st chapter of the Lotus Sutra Shakyamuni Buddha transfers all his teachings to this bodhisattva.

Bodhisattva Monjushiri - (Jap. Monju) - one the bodhisattvas attending Shakyamuni.

Bonten - (Skt. Brahma) - In Buddhism he is one of the two major tutelary gods, together with Taishaku.

Buddha - enlightened one. One who has awakened to the ultimate reality, the eternal truth of all things.

Buddhahood - the state of enlightenment. The highest state of realization and absolute freedom. The highest of the Ten Worlds (q.v.).

D

Daimoku - 1) Chanting of *Nan-myoho-renge-kyo*. 2) The title of a sutra; most specifically the title of the Lotus Sutra, *Myoho-renge-kyo*.

Dainichi - (Skt. Mahavairochana) the Buddha worshipped in the Shingon, or True Word sect. In the teachings of this sect Dainichi is a Buddha in the property-of-the Law aspect which is one of the three aspects (or bodies) of a Buddha.

Dai-Gohonzon – also known as *Kaidan* Gohonzon, it is the name given to the large object of worship enshrined at the head temple Taisekiji in Japan (see Gohonzon).

Daishonin - Great Sage. A title given to Nichiren, indicating his status as the Buddha of the Latter Day of the Law.

Dengyo - (767-822 A.D.) a Buddhist sage and founder of the Tendai sect (a Lotus Sutra sect) of Buddhism in Japan.

F

The five desires - the desires that arise from contact of the five sense organs (eyes, ears, nose, tongue and body).

The Four Great Bodhisattvas - Jogyo, Muhengyo, Jyogyo and Anryugyo. These are the leaders of the Bodhisattvas of the Earth who are mentioned in the 15th chapter of the Lotus Sutra. They represent respectively the four virtues of the Buddha's life: true self, eternity, purity and happiness.

Four Heavenly Kings - In the 26th chapter of the Lotus Sutra they vowed to protect the Lotus Sutra. In ancient Indian cosmology, these four were regarded as the protectors of the four continents.

Four Lower Worlds (also the four evil paths)- the first four of the Ten Worlds (q.v.). They are Hell, Hunger, Animality and Anger. Rage is the world of Hell; greed is the world of Hunger; having no sense of reason or morality is the state of Animality; and perversity is the world of Anger.

G

Gohonzon - the object of worship in Nichiren Shoshu Buddhism. Representing Buddhahood or perfection in all conditions of life, it is the physical manifestation of the ultimate Law. It is enshrined in every believer's home. There are no ranks among Gohonzons. The Gohonzons enshrined in the temples and in the home are of equal value and efficacy.

Gongyo - morning and evening prayer. The morning and evening recitation of the second and sixteenth chapters the Lotus Sutra and the chanting of *Nan-myoho-renge-kyo*.

Gosho - the writings of Nichiren Daishonin.

H

Hoben Chapter - *Expedient Means*. This is the second chapter of the Lotus Sutra. In this chapter, Shakyamuni explains that all life is equal, and that the sole purpose for all Buddha to appear in the world is to enable all living beings to attain Buddhahood.

I

Ichinen Sanzen - A single thought (a single being) contains everything. A theoretical system based on the Lotus Sutra put forth by T'ien-t'ai that clarifies the relationship between the phenomenal world and the ultimate reality.

J

Jodo - a Pure Land sect of Buddhism in which adherents aspire to be reborn in the Pure Land of Amida Buddha. Pure Land sects believe that the Buddha Amida resides in a remote part of the universe. Whereas, Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism teaches that the Buddha exists only within our 5 or 6 foot bodies, and the Buddha land is to be found all around us and in our hearts, if only we could see it.

Jodo-Shin - True Sect of the Pure Land focuses on the compassion of Amida.

Juzu;- prayer beads

K

Kanji - Japanese writing system employing Chinese characters.

Karma- the storehouse of all thoughts, words and deeds that are the latent influences deep within the inner realm of each individual life. Karma is of two broad types: mutable karma, the result of which is not absolute or fixed, but is changeable; and immutable karma, always produces a fixed result, such as your biological parents which you cannot change.

Kegon Sect - see Shingon.

Kōsen rūfū – to widely declare and spread True Buddhism.

Ku -a state of latency or potential, the qualitative or spiritual realm of life'

Ku, ke, chu - the three truths, or the three perceptions of existence. *Ke* represents temporary form, *ku* represents nature or potential, and *chu* represents entity. Temporary form indicates the physical or material aspect of life. Nature indicates spiritual or qualitative aspects. Entity indicates the eternal and unchanging life-essence which is neither physical nor spiritual but manifests itself as both.

Kumarajiva - (344-413 A.D.) an Indian scholar noted for his clarity and excellence in translation, he translated a number of Buddhist scriptures into Chinese, including the Lotus Sutra (*Suddharma-pundirika-sutra*), which is the most famous of his translations, and is the translation Nichiren Daishonin relied upon.

L

The Latter Day - see The Latter Day of the Law below.

The Latter Day of the Law - (*Mappo*) – The age beginning 2,000 years after Shakyamuni's death in which the true Buddha will make his advent to open the door for all living beings to attain enlightenment.

The Law - *Namu-myoho-renge-kyo*, the ultimate Law of life.

Lotus Sutra - (Jap. *Hokkekyo*; Skt. *Saddharma-pundirika-sutra*) *The Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wonderful Law*, Shakyamuni's highest teaching, expounded in the last 8 years of his life. The translation known in China and Japan is *Myoho-Renge-Kyo* translated by Kumarajiva.

M

Mahayana - The Great Vehicle. One of the major schools of Buddhism active in Central Asia, China, Korea and Japan that teaches not only individual salvation, but also the importance of leading others to enlightenment as well. The Lotus Sutra is the true, one and only Mahayana Sutra.

Maka Shikan – “Great Concentration and Insight” - a work by T'ien-t'ai (q.v.) of China which reveals his theory of *ichinen sanzen*.(q.v.)

Mara - Devil of the Sixth Heaven (Jap. *Dairokuten no ma-o*) -The most powerful devil who dwells in the highest of the six realms of desire, and he works to prevent believers from practicing True Buddhism and becoming enlightened.

Middle Way - the ultimate reality of all phenomena, which, in Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism is the Law of *Namu-myoho-renge-kyo* (q.v.).

Minobu - an area northwest of Mt. Fuji in Japan where Nichiren Daishonin settled after his release from exile on Sado Island.

Mount Kiyosumi - is where Seichoji Temple, the first temple the Daishonin entered as a child to study Buddhism, was located.

Mount Sumeru - in ancient Indian cosmology this is the central mountain of every world.

Mutual possession of the Ten Worlds (*jikkaigogu*) – each of the Ten Worlds contains the potential for all ten within itself, which means that life is not fixed in any one of the Ten Worlds, but can manifest any of the Ten Worlds, including Buddhahood, at any given moment.

MyohoRengeKyo - 1) Japanese transliteration of the title of a Chinese translation of the Lotus Sutra. 2) The Mystic Law, the Buddha nature of all things. *Myoho* signifies Mystic Law, the mysterious nature and manifestation of life. *Renge* indicates the exquisite aspect of the Law, the subtle, simultaneity of cause and effect. *Kyo* is the teaching or the sutra, and the realization that one's life and all life contain *Myoho-renge-kyo*.

Mystic Law - (Jap. *Myoho*) - the ultimate reality of life and the universe, the Law of *Myohorengekyo*.

N

Namu-Myoho-Renge-Kyo - Odaimoku pronounced *nahn - myo - ho - ren - gay - key - oh*. This is the cause of enlightenment, and it is enlightenment itself. In another words, by chanting it one calls forth enlightenment from within.

Nembutsu - A Pure Land Buddhist sect in China and Japan that worships Amida Buddha (q.v.).

Nichimoku Shonin – (1260-1333) – 3rd high priest of Nichiren Shoshu Buddhism who inherited the teachings of Nichiren Daishonin from Nikko Shonin.

Nichiren Daishonin - The True Buddha; the founder of our faith, born on February 16, 1222, 170 years after the beginning of the Latter Day of the Law (q.v.).

Nichiren Shoshu - 1) the Fuji sect of Nichiren Buddhism, believing that Nichiren Daishonin is the eternal Buddha; worshipping the Gohonzon and the Law of *Myohorengekyo* as the means to attain enlightenment. 2) the division of Nichiren Shoshu at the head temple Taisekiji in Fujinomya, Japan.

Nikken Abe - 67th high priest of Nichiren Shoshu of Taisekiji temple, who did not have the credentials for his position.

Nikko – Nikko Shonin – (1246-1333) – 2nd high priest of Nichiren Shoshu Buddhism.

Ninth consciousness - the eternal Buddha nature. There are nine classifications of the spiritual functions of perception which are called the nine consciousnesses. The first five are the five sensory perception:; touch, taste, sight, hearing and smell. The sixth is integrating and forming a judgment about the five senses. The seventh consciousness is reason, abstract thought and self-awareness. The eighth is an unconscious realm that is the karmic repository of good and evil effects and new mental actions. The ninth consciousness is pure and undefiled. It is the Buddha consciousness, the essential self.

Nittatsu Shonin - the 66th High Priest of Nichiren Shoshu Buddhism who suddenly passed away July 22, 1979, and was thus unable to appoint a successor.

O

Odaimoku – the honorific way of expressing the term *Daimoku* - the invocation of chanting of *Namumyōhōrengekyō*.

Oeshiki –the highest, most important holiday of Nichiren Shoshu celebrating “Founder’s Day,” or the eternal life of the Buddha, Nichiren Daishonin as well as our eternal life.

R

Rebirth in the six worlds - the souls of living beings transmigrating from one world to another between Hell, Hunger, Animality, Anger, Tranquility (or humanity) and Rapture (or heaven).

Reverse relationship - or poison-drum relationship is a bond or connection formed with *Myoho-renge-kyo* by opposing it or slandering it. Even though one should suffer the consequences of slandering True Buddhism, that he or she had a relationship at all, albeit negative or reversed, he or she will eventually attain Buddhahood.

Rissho-Ankoku-Ron – “On Securing the Peace of the Land through the Propagation of True Buddhism”; a treatise written by Nichiren Daishonin to the feudal Kamakura government in 1260. It explains that misleading beliefs create suffering, while faith in the Mystic Law will enable society to become stable and secure.

S

Sanron sect - Sanron means three treatises. It is a sect based two works by Nagarjuna's (c. 3rd Century India) -- *Chu Ron* and *Junimon Ron* -- and one work by Aryadeva -- *Hyaku Ron*.

Shakubuku – a method of propagating Buddhism teaching a person to the True Law and refuting erroneous views.

Shakyamuni Buddha - sage of the Shakyas. The historical founder of Buddhism on this earth. He is also known by his family name as Gautama Buddha, and his given name Siddhartha.

Shingon - an estoteric Buddhism which, as a means to attain Buddhahood, chants some secret words said to have been uttered by Dainichi Buddha.

Shoshin-kai - (Shoshin Shokaku Undo) - the movement for awakening true faith. An organization of Nichiren Shoshu priests dedicated to teaching, protecting and preserving the purity of the true teaching of Nichiren Daishonin and correcting erroneous beliefs within the priesthood - including those of the high priest - and laity.

Six lower worlds - first six of the Ten Worlds -- Hell, Hunger, Animality, Anger, Tranquility (or Humanity) and Heaven (or Rapture). These are the worlds of delusion and suffering.

Snow Mountains - Himalaya Mountains

Soka Gakkai - SGI - a powerful international lay organization that practices its own unorthodox , secular version of Nichiren Shoshu Buddhism.

Sutra - teaching; scripture.

T

Taho – “Many Treasures Buddha” - He appears in the 11th chapter of the Lotus Sutra to validate the truth of the sutra. It was his vow as a bodhisattva, to appear wherever the Lotus Sutra was being expounded to verify its authenticity and veracity.

Taisekiji - 1) the temple grounds at the foot of Mt. Fuji in Japan where the head temple of Nichiren Shoshu is situated. 2) Also refers to the current organization of Nichiren Shoshu .

Taishaku - (Skt. Sakra Devanam Indra) One of the main tutelary gods of Buddhism, together with Bonten.

Ten worlds - ten potential conditions inherent in every life form that manifests in the continuum of time. They are, Hell, Hunger, Animality, Anger, Tranquility, Rapture, Learning, Realization, Bodhisattva, and Buddhahood. These conditions are inherent in a single entity of life.

Three Treasures - The Buddha, the Law and the Priest are the three treasures of Nichiren Shoshu Buddhism, and what all believers should revere.

T'ien-t'ai - (538 - 597 A.D.) Also known as Chih-i, a Buddhist scholar and priest, the founder of the T'ien-t'ai school of Buddhism in China.

W

Wheel-turning King - In Buddhism those kings who rule with justice and reason rather than by force.