

## Nikko Shonin's Letter of Remonstrance

I Nikko, disciple of Nichiren, would like to appeal to you once more.

I urge you to cease putting the theoretical teachings ahead of the Lotus Sutra, to practice the essential teaching of the Lotus Sutra and to have correct belief in the true Law. If you do this, then the world will be peaceful and secure.

Along with this letter, I will submit additional letters:

- One scroll of the *Rissho Ankoku Ron* written in the 1<sup>st</sup> year of Bunno (1260)
- One letter of remonstrance by Daishonin written in the 5<sup>th</sup> year of Bun'ei (1268)
- One letter by Daishonin written in the 8<sup>th</sup> year of Bun'ei (1271)
- One principal goshō by Daishonin

So often have I told you all the details contained in these letters. Nevertheless I say once again, to discard heretical teachings and propagate the true Law in this world is the best way to govern the country. It is the way rulers of high virtue in past eras governed, and those times were the best in history.

In China, T'ien-t'ai refuted the doctrines of the ten major schools of Buddhism, all of which were heretical. He prevailed over these various heretical sects during the Sui Dynasty, and successfully brought peace to the entire country. In Japan, under Emperor Kammu, Dengyo refuted the six heretical sects and freed people from the anxiety of invasion by foreign countries.

To say Shakyamuni's words are ever-abiding is evil. Whether you are looking at the world from within Buddhism or from outside of Buddhism, throw away what is evil and keep what is good to govern the country well, are the words of Shakyamuni. Lately, however, when you see in this country disasters in the heavens and on earth, society declining and confusion growing worse every year, it is proof that the religion the Kamakura Shogunate believes in is not benefiting society or the people.

During the Middle Day of the Law Dengyo propagated the theoretical teachings of the Lotus Sutra, while at the beginning of the Latter Day of the Law Daishonin spread the essential teachings of the Lotus Sutra. This is the sequence of propagation of the Lotus Sutra established by Shakyamuni. Dengyo himself understood his role and his limitations. You must, as soon as possible, wake up and make a resolution in favor of the true Law of Buddhism.

In conclusion, because it is the age of the Latter Day of the Law, you must practice the essential teachings of the Lotus Sutra. Day after day there will be increasing disasters in the country, relatives and friends will kill each other and invasions from foreign countries will intensify. All of this is detailed in the Daishonin's *Rissho Ankoku Ron* and the goshu, and it has come true. That is why you have to stop practicing the theoretical teachings of the Lotus Sutra and take faith in and practice the true Law of the essential teachings of the Lotus Sutra. The world will then be peaceful and secure. For the sake of the country and the true Law I repeat this again.

3<sup>rd</sup> month of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Gentoku (1330)