

The Daimoku of the Lotus Sutra

(“*Hokke Daimoku-sho*”)

Coming upon this sutra is as rare as encountering the *udumbara*¹⁾ flower, which blooms only once every three-thousand years, or a one-eyed turtle²⁾ finding [a floating sandalwood log] which only happens once in countless aeons. To encounter the Daimoku of the Lotus Sutra is more difficult than placing a needle on the ground and throwing a poppy seed⁴⁾ from the palace of the great King Bonten³⁾ so that it is pierced by the tip of the needle.....Thus, you should be aware [of how extraordinary it is] to be able to chant the Daimoku of the Lotus Sutra.

(*Goshō*, p.355)

1) *Udumbara*: In the scriptures, this is the flower of a plant that blooms only once every 3,000 years. The blossoms are said to foretell the coming of Buddhas and wheel-turning kings.

2) *One-eyed turtle*: This story appears in the parables of numerous sutras, such as the Former Affairs of King Wonderful Adornment (*Myoshogonno honji*; twenty-seventh) chapter of the Lotus Sutra. It explains the difficulty of encountering true Buddhism.

3) *Palace of the Great King Bonten*: The residence of the great King Bonten (Skt. Mahabrahma). It is located within the threefold world, in the first meditation heaven in the world of form.

4) *Poppy seed*: The seed of the poppy or mustard plant. In Buddhism, it is used to symbolize tiny and minute things.

High Priest Nichinyō Shōnin’s Guidance

(On the occasion of Kosen-rufu Shodai ceremony December 2023)

The principle of *rissho ankoku* (securing the peace of the land through the propagation of true Buddhism) is the way to fundamentally purify the chaotic and muddled world of the Latter Day of the Law dominated by the five impurities, as manifested by natural disasters, tragic incidents, and accidents. The concrete practice to achieve this purification is *shakubuku*.... It is important for us to sincerely convey to the other person that we cannot achieve true happiness without the correct faith. Words that exude confidence and sincerity will move the person’s heart.

So, what can we do to have strong conviction? It is developed by having absolute faith in the Dai-Gohonzon and devoting ourselves to Gongyō and Shodai day and night, without neglect.