

*Summary of Sensei's Gosho Lecture:
"On Practicing the Buddha's Teachings" **

Nichiren read the Lotus Sutra with his life, "refuting the erroneous and revealing the true" to prove universal enlightenment.

His refutation, in our *conflicted age*, provoked the predicted attacks by the *3 powerful enemies*. [1] His victory over devilish functions proved the Lotus Sutra's veracity.

Mr. Makiguchi's *Kachi ron* (Theory of Value) concludes, based on our letter, only when the correct teaching is widely disseminated can a land bring unsurpassed happiness to all. [2]

Practicing exactly as Nichiren taught and never submitting to militarist persecution, Mr. Makiguchi gave his life to this ideal.

Also always pursuing this ideal--even following Mr. Makiguchi to prison, Josei Toda had a large, red, double circle next to our letter's title in his copy of Nichiren's *Writings*.

President Ikeda likewise has read and applied our letter "countless times". [3]

Our letter outlines how genuine disciples strive to realize Buddhism's ideals, unafraid of hardships, just as their teacher instructs.

*Propagation Challenge
(pp. 54-56)*

Our letter fervently calls Nichiren's disciples to selflessly devote themselves to the Law.

Buddhism's vision, universal enlightenment, can only be propagated by those who strive with Nichiren's ardent determination.

Our letter stresses our mission's significance: "Those who believe in this sutra [now] will be subjected to even greater hatred and jealousy than that [faced by Shakyamuni's original disciples]. [4]

It's natural greater hostility would confront a teacher who is ostensibly an ordinary practitioner and disciples steeped in the 3 poisons of greed, anger, and foolishness. [5]

Question 1: What are the origins and functions of hostility faced by Buddhist practitioners?

* **Full lecture:** Nov. 2010. *Living Buddhism*, pp. 50-65.

Context: Nichiren wrote our letter and others on Sado Island when his imminent death was very possible. *WND-1*, p. 402.

Our letter is dated the 5th month of 1273. "Object of Devotion" is dated the 4th month of that year, and "Opening of the Eyes, the 2nd month of 1272.

These latter 2 doctrinally establish Nichiren's teaching of universal enlightenment.

But Nichiren knew everything depends on disciples embracing the correct teaching. Only such disciples can act to assure *kosen-rufu*.

Our letter and another, "On the Buddha's Prophecy" (also from 1273), can always guide such disciples.

"Prophecy" is about fulfilling the westward transmission prophecy for correct Buddhism, and ultimately about its worldwide spread.

And, Nichiren urged our letter be repeatedly read by all his disciples.

Ikeda. Nov. 2010. *Living Buddhism*, pp. 55-56.

[1] **Conflicted age:** The Great Collection Sutra says in this fifth 500-year period (a.k.a. Latter Day of the Law) rival Buddhist schools will quarrel endlessly and Shakyamuni's correct teaching will be lost.

3 powerful enemies: are described in the Lotus Sutra's 13th, "Encouraging Devotion" chapter. These 3 persecutors of the Lotus Sutra's propagators are summarized by Miao-lo as *arrogant lay people*, *arrogant priests*, and *arrogant false sages*.

[2] Makiguchi continued by quoting from our letter: "The Lotus Sutra . . . [refutes] provisional doctrines . . . [and promises] 'peace and security in [our] present existence'." [*WND-1*, p. 392.]

Tsunesaburo Makiguchi. *Kachi ron*, ed. by Josei Toda (Tokyo: Daisanbunmei-sha, 1979), pp. 192-193.

[3] Ikeda. Nov. 2010. *Living Buddhism*, pp. 53-54.

[4] *WND-1*, p. 391.

[5] Therefore, "people shun the good teacher and associate with evil teachers." *WND-1*, p. 391.