The Framework

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October Edition of Creative Life

President Ikeda's study lecture series

The Buddhism of the Sun, Illuminating the world

Sowing the seeds of buddhahood -- The Sacred Work of the Buddha to Bring Happiness to All People

Sensei writes, after attending a lecture on the lotus sutra by my mentor Josei Toda on Sep 13 1948

when the scorching heat of summer had subsided and refreshing autumn rains nourished the earth, I expressed my deep emotions in my diary.

I am awed by the depth and greatness of the Lotus Sutra.

The way to true happiness for humanity lies only in the Lotus Sutra…

I find myself moved to tears by the boundless compassion of Nichiren Daishonin, who, motivated solely by his wish to lead all people to enlightenment, fought against adversity to bring the brilliant light of dawn to a dark and evil age.

Convinced of my good fortune and the importance of

Nichiren Daishonin's compassion -- The desire to lead all people to enlightenment

Convinced of my good fortune and the importance of my mission, I strengthened my resolve, writing:

"Mr Toda is truly a teacher for all humanity.. Young People must advance, forever forward. Young people must advance, to ensure the eternal transmission of the law!"

Seventy-five years have passed since then and the path of kosen rufu that I have walked in the spirit of oneness with my mentor has crossed rugged mountains and rushing torrents to become a great open road travelled joyously by Boddhisattvas of the Earth emerging in every country and region of the globe.

Nothing is more reassuring than seeing ever-growing numbers of outstanding young people following in my footsteps.

SHARING BUDDHISM WITH FRIENDS

* September 8, 2002, marked 45 years since Mr Toda made his declaration calling for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons and entrusted the fulfillment of this goal to young people. That day, I attended a world peace gongyo meeting with youth training course participants from 50 countries and territories.
* In the question and answer session that followed a young woman from Australia asked me about the best way to share Nichiren Buddhism with people of her own age.
* Praying for her happiness and that of her friends, I replied that it was important to be sincere, cheerful and confident when she spoke about how wonderful Nichiren Buddhism is
* Tell them about living a life of conviction.
* Explain to them how you have forged a life of value while enjoying proof of the power of your buddhist practice and how you are advancing with courage and boundless hope for the future
* Ultimately, it all comes down to you proudly sharing your conviction and experience in faith. Doing so plants the seeds of happiness and hope in your friends lives. These seeds will undoubtedly take root, bud and eventually flower. Until then it is enough that you continue chanting and wait for that time to come.
* The Method for spreading Nichiren Buddhism is sowing the seeds of Buddhahood. Sincere dialogue with others based on continued prayer will reach them on the deepest level of their lives. It will enable them to forge a profound connection to Nichiren Buddhism that will be a cause for their happiness.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BUDDHA

* The term Thus Come One in this chapter's title is the first of the ten honorable titles of the Buddha.
* It means having come from the realm of truth
* The thus come one does not passively dwell in the realm of truth
* The thus come one actively comes from it, appearing before living beings and preaching the law to lead them to enlightenment
* As expressed in his words " May all beings be happy !", Shakyamuni worked tirelessly for the happiness of all living beings throughout his life
* The "Life Span" chapters revelation of the Buddhas original enlightenment in the remote past affirms that this struggle is not limited to the present, but continues eternally into the future. Furthermore, this eternal Buddha does not exist apart from people in the real world
* This buddha is the noblest person among them awakened to lifes eternal nature preaching the great law to lead all living beings to enlightenment, and striving forever to achieve that goal
* In short the purpose of life for shakyamuni is to truly dedicate to peoples happiness

NAM MYO HO RENGE KYO IS THE ULTIMATE TITLE OF HONOUR OF A BUDDHA

* The "Thus Come One" is a general designation for the buddhas of the ten directions and the three existences and a special designation for the three buddhas [ the three buddha bodies ]
* [ reward body - manifested body - dharma body ]
* The designation of "Thus Come One" refers in general to all living beings, while it specifically means Buddhas followers
* The daishonin regarded " Thus come one" the ultimate title of a buddha. He declares "Nam Myo Ho Renge Kyo " the heart of the life span chapter, is the mother of all buddhas throughout the ten directions and three existences.
* In other words Shakyamuni and all Buddhas attained enlightenment through NMHRK. Nichiren Daishonin the Buddha of the Latter Day of the law revealed this one fundamental law for the sake of

living beings into the eternal future

* Hence the designation of a true Thus Come One therefore is not limited to Shakyamuni and the other Buddhas, All people who chant and spread NMHRK which is the seed or cause for the enlightenment

of all Buddhas and manifest the boundless life state of the buddha within them are also Thus come one

* Namely the daishonin's disciples who embraces the mystic law are buddhas in reality

**What does it mean by " The title of honour for one who is eternally endowed with the three bodies in NMHRK"**

* Eternally endowed which can be translated literally as not created or not made refers to the truth just as it is, inherent and eternal
* The focus is on ordinary peoples potential

* Ultimately the thus come one is each person who upholds the mystic law, ordinary people who manifest the eternally inherent life state of buddhahood, are the true Thus come ones. this is the view of what it means to be a buddha, the view of shakyamuni and the view of attaining buddhahood

* While we endeavor to spread NMHRK the fundamental law of the universe and life and bring forth our own and others buddhahood. These are the noble actions of a buddha, isnpired by the wish to lead all people to enlightenment

* The true aim of nichiren buddhism is to awaken people who will stand up with the same vow as the buddha - ordinary people who will strive for the eternal happiness of all humanity.

* Because the law that one embraces is supreme then the person who embraces it must accordingly be foremost among all others

* The mystic law is the teaching of the great wisdom of equality transcending and embracing all differences

**What are the three bodies ?**

[ the three buddha bodies ]

[ reward body - manifested body - dharma body ]

* The Dharma body indicates the essential property of a Buddha, which is the truth or Law to which the Buddha is enlightened
* The reward body indicates the wisdom, or the spiritual property of a Buddha, which enables the Buddha to perceive the truth. It is called reward body because a Buddha’s wisdom is considered the reward derived from ceaseless effort and discipline.
* The manifested body indicates compassionate actions, or the physical property of a Buddha. It is the body with which a Buddha carries out compassionate actions to lead people to enlightenment, or those actions themselves.

 ATTAINMENT OF BUDDHAHOOD IN ONE S PRESENT FORM

 Thus come ones secret and transcedental powers

* Attaining buddhahood in ones present form - that is, revealing the state of buddhahood in our lives just as we are- comprises the essence of the Thus Come Ones secret and transcendental powers "Secret" here indicates the teaching that enables ordinary people to attain buddhahood

Lotus sutra in contrast to numerous buddhist scriptures teaches that ordinary people can attain buddhahood right here and now just as they are

* NMHRK is the one and only secret teaching for attaining buddhahood in our present form
* Daishonin says that the single word faith or to believe is key to accessing that teaching
* Strong faith in the mystic law is the way to vibrantly tap the life state of buddhahood
* ALL LIVING BEINGS ARE BUDDHA
* NAM MYO HO RENGE KYO is the great teaching that opens the way to enlightenment

 THE SIGNIFICANCE OF OUR DIALOGUE MOVEMENT

* Our efforts to sow the seeds of buddhahood constitute a great dialogue movement for peace that will shine brilliantly in human history

Significance

* Firstly, sowing the seeds of Buddhahood is a way to create connections. It is the sacred task of bringing people in touch with the mystic law and opening the way to happiness for all
* Our efforts to sow seeds of the mystic law in the latter day of the law where self interest and the pursuit for momentary pleasures prevail are magnificent endeavour to forge connections with buddhism
* The more we help one person after another form such connections and plant seeds our philosophy of respect for life will spread throughout society
* Second sowing seeds of buddhahood means not discriminating it is a noble undertaking to bridge divisions and bring people together transcending all differences
* Third sowing seeds of buddhahood means having faith. It is admirable causes of promoting a way of life based on respect for others