

ADVANCING WITH THE GOSHO

Attaining Buddhahood as we are

One who embraces the Lotus Sutra will realize that hell is itself the Land of Tranquil Light. . . . This teaching is of prime importance, but I will impart it to you just as Bodhisattva Manjushri explained the secret teaching of the attainment of Buddhahood in one's present form to the dragon king's daughter. After hearing it, strive even more earnestly in faith.

From "Hell Is the Land of Tranquil Light", WND-1, pp. 456-57.

« **THE DAISHONIN FURTHER ENCOURAGES** the lay nun Ueno [in the quoted passage] by making a reference to the dragon king's daughter, who demonstrates the principle of "attaining Buddhahood in one's present form" in the "Devadatta" (12th) chapter of the Lotus Sutra. . . .

The general view regards Buddhahood as a distant summit that requires climbing a steep and arduous path to attain. Reaching it is so difficult that we have no idea if we will ever make it, and the task is so all-consuming that we are unable to think of others.

But Nichiren Buddhism offers a completely different view of attaining Buddhahood. It teaches that anyone can reach the summit of Buddhahood instantly. That is the great power of the Mystic Law—the teaching that embracing the Gohonzon is in itself observing one's own mind, or attaining enlightenment.

In other words, in any given instant, we can—just as we are and wherever we may be—attain Buddhahood and, from that lofty summit, serenely gaze upon our surroundings and circumstances. . . .

The drama of the enlightenment of the dragon king's daughter, who vowed to relieve the sufferings of all living beings, is not merely some fable from the past. This drama of bringing joy to others is taking place around the world now through the harmonious and inspiring efforts of Soka women. »

Excerpt from "A Compass Guiding Us to Lives Brimming with Joy and Pride"¹

PERSPECTIVE

In the 12th chapter of the Lotus Sutra, Bodhisattva Manjushri reports that the dragon king's daughter, aged eight, has attained enlightenment. Bodhisattva Wisdom Accumulated refuses it, believing it's impossible—convinced as he is that to attain Buddhahood, endless eons of difficult practices are required; and that, in any case, women are excluded from that capacity. Suddenly, the dragon girl appears in the assembly and addresses Shakyamuni: "[H]aving heard his [the Buddha's] teachings, I have attained enlightenment—the Buddha alone can bear witness to this. I unfold the doctrines of the great vehicle [the Lotus Sutra] to rescue living beings from suffering."² Before the incredulous eyes of Bodhisattva Wisdom Accumulated, Shariputra and others, she gives Shakyamuni a jewel of enormous value, that symbolizes the nature of Buddha and the fact that all living beings possess the potential to attain Buddhahood in their life. And then states "Watch me attain Buddhahood!"³ Suddenly, she expounds "the wonderful Law for all living beings everywhere in the ten directions"⁴ |

KEYWORDS

Attaining Buddhahood as we are, where we are · Sharing the joy of the Law

A BRILLIANT ALLIANCE IN EACH DISCUSSION MEETING

JUNE is a month of celebration for the SGI Spain's women, as it contains important commemorative dates for the Women's Division and the Young Women's Division. Besides, this year we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the five eternal guidelines that Daisaku Ikeda presented to each division, as Kaneko Ikeda reminded us in her recent message.⁵

In addition to the personal commitment to deepen our understanding of these guidelines, we want to take a first step in a joint movement of women and young women for the next ten years, towards the hundred years of our foundation. Starting by the discussion meetings, along with all the divisions, let us illuminate each one its own reality, location and society as a whole.

With great joy, here we introduce an excerpt from a message that Ikeda Sensei has sent for this occasion, thus joining our joyful circles of dialogue.

There is not a single person who cannot become happy through faith in the Mystic Law. As the Daishonin affirms, the *shoten zenjin*, the protective forces of the universe are sure to protect us and we will walk the path of good fortune and the path of peace and security.

Everything will open from the sound of your daimoku. With the spirit of 'from here and right now', please allow the unique flowers of your lives, like the cherry, peach, plum and damson blossoms, flourish fragrantly!

When a woman has a strong will, she has the conviction that enables her to overcome all limitations, transform her environment and create a great path for a brilliant future. This is the epitome of a life based on a vow as exemplified by our Soka women.

I hope you will bring forth courage through prayer infused with your vow, create hope, and let yourselves shine, so that you illuminate your families and communities and create winning lives of wisdom and value-creation.

My wife and I will continue to sincerely send prayers to each one of you, the precious women of Europe. My greatest wish is that you will become truly happy. Moreover, that each of you without exception will advance with head held high, leading lives of great victory.

Please make your health your greatest priority! Please be happy and be victorious! |

1. See this issue, pp. 28-30.
2. *LSOCS*, chapter 12, p. 227.
3. *Ib.*, p. 228.
4. *Ib.*
5. See this issue, pp. 6 y 7.