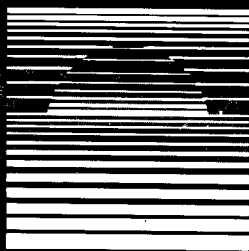


TOWARD OUR COMMON GOAL OF CORRECT FAITH

A Response to Recent Allegations



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**Compiled by the
New York Youth Division
Research Committee**

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Preface

In recent years many NSA members have found their correct practice of Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism threatened by serious obstacles arising from within our organization of Nichiren Shoshu believers. The 67th High Priest Nikken Shonin spoke about this situation during his visit to Vancouver in June of 1981. He cautioned believers:

... I am sure that these people, motivated by their jealousy and hatred of those with the true faith, will continue to disseminate their false, fabricated and malicious propaganda throughout the world... I hope you will not be swayed by such people or such propaganda in the least, but that you will continue your sincere practice of true Buddhism without even giving in to the slightest doubt.

Because of our sincere desire that all NSA members be able to continue to practice joyfully and confidently, and after consultation with the Nichiren Shoshu priesthood and the Soka Gakkai International, we have decided to point out erroneous allegations made by a group of dissident priests and their followers.

This group, acting against the repeated admonitions of both the 66th and 67th high priests, had initiated a well-organized campaign to spread confusion and distrust among Nichiren Shoshu members throughout the world, focusing especially on NSA. Dur-

ing the past year and a half, a group supporting the former chief priest of the New York Temple, Reverend Kando Tono, has launched a particularly vigorous anti-priesthood and anti-Soka Gakkai attack. Their activities follow the same pattern as those observed in Japan and other places throughout the world where the unity of the believers has been disturbed. One is forced to question the purpose of their actions.

To refute allegations which go against the guidance of the high priest or to debate these criticisms just for the sake of debate is meaningless. But the possibility of preventing even one member from being led into useless confusion by these distorted teachings impels us to publish this commentary.

The first section of this pamphlet presents a discussion of this situation and gives guidance in faith based on Nichiren Daishonin's teachings and the guidance of the 66th and 67th high priests of Nichiren Shoshu. In the second section, the chief priest of the New York Temple, Reverend Hosho Shiina, explains the correct attitude of a priest. The final section contains sermons by the 67th high priest relating to this situation and to the correct practice for all Nichiren Shoshu believers.

In reading this material and reflecting on this situation, please understand that it is not at all extraordinary that these problems have occurred among believers. In the light of the Gosho, that is to be expected. What is remarkable is that because we have continued to invoke the Law—chanting daimoku, doing gongyo—and never surrendered to these devilish functions, we have now been able to establish an even more beautiful harmony between priests and lay believers. We have also been able to strengthen within our organization a solid core of devoted members who have shown that even in the coldest winter or the fiercest hurricane, their commitment to seek and to propagate true Buddhism will not be

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extinguished. This is an immense benefit.

Because of this great benefit which evolved out of ten years of struggle, we are now able to embark—fully united with the high priest of Nichiren Shoshu—on the next important phase of *kosen-rufu*: the era of international propagation. Because of the hardship and struggle we have endured, millions of unhappy people in this world will meet and embrace the Gohonzon. That is the Daishonin's will and that is the greatness of this religion. □