

General Lecture Study Material for 1998

THE SGI-USA Study Department has announced the general lecture study material for 1998. It is from the lectures on the writings of Nichiren Daishonin by SGI President Ikeda in his book, *Learning From the Goshō: The Eternal Teachings of Nichiren Daishonin*. The SGI president emphasizes in his lectures the humanism of the Daishonin's teachings and how it applies to the present age. The study department has supplied some additional information that is not in the book. In the beginning of his book, Mr. Ikeda states a few words in general about the writings of Nichiren Daishonin, which follow. (To the right is the schedule for 1998 page numbers refer the location of the works in the book).

THE Goshō, the collected writings of Nichiren Daishonin, elucidates the means for all people to attain enlightenment. It is the eternal teaching. The Goshō is a scripture of boundless hope. As long as we continue to study the Goshō and put its teachings into practice, we definitely will never become deadlocked.

"Some Goshō, of course, are very doctrinal and complex. But we do not necessarily have to understand all of the Daishonin's writings. The important thing is to have a keen desire to read the Goshō and to expose our lives, even for just a short time each day, to Nichiren Daishonin's spirit.

"Having such a seeking mind enables us to securely anchor our lives to the orbit of true happiness, to the path of attaining Buddhahood in this lifetime. And it becomes the engine for advancing kosen-rufu.

"To meet the requests of members, for one year I lectured on "Expedient Means" and "The Life Span of the Thus Come One," the second and sixteenth chapters of the Lotus Sutra. Now begins a series of lectures on the Goshō with the aim of helping members strengthen themselves in the two ways of practice and study.

"I will take up Goshō individually, and may devote more than one installment to particular writings. In the case of longer Goshō, I may limit myself to discussing only a portion. In all instances, my purpose will be to clarify the humanistic philosophy of Buddhism." —*Daisaku Ikeda*

January / February: "The Opening of the Eyes," p. 49

March / April: "The Opening of the Eyes," p. 59

May / June: "Letter to Ko-ama Gozen," p. 95

July / August: "Letter to Ko-ama Gozen," p. 107

September / October: "A Letter of Condolence," p. 154

November / December: "The Ultimate Teaching Affirmed by All Buddhas of Past, Present and Future," p. 178

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