

**LEARNING FROM SHIJO KINGO — 2**  
**Achieve the Seemingly Impossible**  
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**Employ the strategy of the Lotus Sutra before any other. Then, just as the sutra says, “All enemies are crushed.” These golden words will never prove false. (*The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 1, p. 246)**

In this letter, dated Oct. 23, 1279, Nichiren expresses his heartfelt delight in hearing of Kingo’s survival in an ambush laid by his enemies. He explains that Kingo survived because of his strong faith and good fortune. Then he teaches Kingo that he should first use “the strategy of the Lotus Sutra” to be victorious in any situation.

The strategy of the Lotus Sutra is our faith in the Gohonzon. When we face an obstacle, we must first pray to the Gohonzon to tap the wisdom, strength and good fortune with which to win in our challenges. SGI President Ikeda once said:

We must pray and make efforts. Then it is important to have the unshakable confidence to leave everything else to the Gohonzon. When we genuinely devote ourselves to the Mystic Law, we can bring forth infinite wisdom and strength, making the impossible possible.

In any case, our prayer is fundamental. When we resort to methodology, forgetting to pray first, we end up spinning our wheels and eventually coming to a deadlock.

When we encounter a difficult problem or situation for which there seems no solution, we must first decide that “I will overcome this problem” or “I will resolve this situation” and then pray earnestly to the Gohonzon. It is important to set aside all methodology and offer a resolute prayer first.

This is the strategy of the Lotus Sutra, that is, faith. As we chant daimoku in this way, we tap abundant wisdom from which to derive the best plan — as well as the powerful life force with which to put the plan into action.

Furthermore, as we exert our ingenuity and make further efforts toward the problem’s resolution, people and things in our environment will come to our aid; this is the meaning of what Buddhism calls the protection of the Buddhist gods. As a result, we can make things that seemed impossible before become possible now.

When a crisis arises, instead of reacting with “I’m in trouble! What should I do?” we must first go to the Gohonzon with the attitude that “I’m in trouble! I’ll pray to the Gohonzon!” Although we may wish to overcome an obstacle, if we immediately resort to methodology, our efforts often become futile.

Buddhism explains that all the causes of our suffering lie within our lives, as do our solutions. When we begin everything with our prayer to the Gohonzon, we are seeking a solution to our problem within. But when we resort only to methodology, we are seeking a solution outside — a mistaken view of life leading us to further confusion and suffering.

SGI President Ikeda once stated, “By doing gongyo and chanting daimoku, we allow our supreme wisdom to shine forth and we walk along the path toward victory in life.” Our intellect may be limited, but, at the same time, all of us are intrinsically endowed with unlimited wisdom.

The strategy of the Lotus Sutra is the key to free our innate Buddha wisdom, so that we may win in seemingly impossible circumstances.

**WT**

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