

'Learning From the Gosho' Available Soon

The popular series "Learning From the Gosho: The Eternal Teachings of Nichiren Daishonin" by SGI President Ikeda has just been compiled and published in a convenient paperback edition.

Learning From the Gosho contains innumerable insights into the teachings of Nichiren Daishonin, as expressed in his personal writings to many of his followers. In addition to commentaries on such familiar letters as "The Opening of the Eyes," "Happiness in This World" and "The One Essential Phrase," Mr. Ikeda explains significant passages from letters not yet found in the *Major Writings* series, including "Gift of an Unlined Robe," "The Ultimate Teaching Affirmed By All Buddhas of Past, Present and Future," "A Letter of Condolence" and others.

Among the many important points made is the following regarding "Letter to the Mother of Oto Gozen":

Spirit means inner state of life, or one's heart. It decides what we devote our lives to. It is the fundamental prayer on which we base our existence. A person's spirit is invisible but becomes manifest at a crucial moment. Not only that, it also controls everything about a person, each moment of every day — it is the fundamental determinant of one's life.

The Kegon Sutra says, "The heart is like a skilled painter." Like a great painter, the heart freely creates representations of all things. One's heart is the designer, the painter, the sculptor and the architect of his or her being.

The Great Teacher T'ien-t'ai cites this sutra passage in explaining the doctrine of a life-moment possessing three thousand realms. He uses the image of a great painter to explain that the heart manifests in the three thousand realms of all phenomena.

It is our spirit, our life-moment, that counts. Our spirit is our hopes, our prayers. And it can also be identified with the subconscious.

"What kind of future do I envision?" we may ask ourselves. "What kind of self am I trying to develop? What do I want to accomplish in my life?" We should paint this vision of our lives in our hearts as specifically as possible. This "painting" becomes the design for our future. The power of the heart enables us to actually execute a wonderful masterpiece in accordance with that design. This is the doctrine of a life-moment possessing three thousand realms.

Learning From the Gosho will soon be available at all SGI-USA bookstores. Price: \$5.00.

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