

**SIGN POSTS: The Greatness of My Dad**  
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**There is the sorrow of parting from one's lord, of parting from one's parent...none of which can be lightly dismissed.... But the sorrow of having lost one's parent or child seems only to deepen as the days and months pass. (*The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 4, p. 162)**

Not a day passes by that I don't think about my dad. He passed away two years ago in July, so when July comes around I tend to think about him more than usual. I find encouragement in this Gosho, which Nichiren Daishonin wrote to Konichi-bo when her son died. Because he shared her sorrow in such a human way, she eventually overcame it, gaining confidence that her son was protected by her strong faith.

My dad never practiced Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism but came to support my practice. He was against it for awhile and I never thought he would become as supportive as he did. I truly believe that he saw the growth and development in my life and my mother's, which changed his mind about our practice. He even got to the point of chanting on special occasions every now and then when he felt comfortable.

My dad was a wonderful human being, well respected in society. I am always wondering where he is and what he is doing now. What comforts me is that I don't have to be passive regarding this, as the Daishonin teaches in this Gosho. "If you...grieve for [your son] and offer prayers for him day and night..., how can he not be saved?" the Daishonin asks Konichi-bo (MW-1, 166-67). I have full confidence that my prayer to the Gohonzon every day for my dad's well-being and happiness will permeate the universe and touch his life. I know it's affecting him and that makes me happy.

I also know that his sincere efforts to support my practice and chant whenever he could were a great cause for his eternal life. I am doing my best to exert as much effort as I can for my life and for others' lives, because I know that by showing actual proof I will show the greatness of my dad.

**WT**