

SIGN POSTS: Great Events
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Great events do not have small omens. When great evil occurs, great good will follow. Since the worst slander already prevails throughout the country, the supreme True Law will spread without fail. (*The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 5, p. 161)

Upon returning from the recent SGI World Youth Training Course, I felt compelled to examine in more depth my understanding of the temple issue. I recall in late 1990 that when news came of Nichiren Shoshu's intention to dismiss SGI President Ikeda as head of the world's lay organizations, many members were asking, "Why is this happening?" I was, too. Although I didn't really have any close ties with the local priests, I thought "Can't we all just get along?"

On the surface it seemed like just some misunderstanding between Nikken and President Ikeda that could somehow be rectified. However, in the six years that have passed since Nichiren Shoshu excommunicated the SGI, it has become clear to me that the Nikken sect's intention is to destroy the SGI and gain control of the vast membership.

Nichiren Daishonin writes, "Great events do not have small omens." Over these six years our organization has developed in ways that would never have been possible if still under the constraints of Nichiren Shoshu. We are now able to develop as Buddhists more freely — empowering ourselves through study and expanding our presence in society. While the 1991 excommunication at first seemed like a mere severance of ties with Nichiren Shoshu, it was actually a magnanimous liberation.

In this Gosho passage, at first I felt that "spread without fail" meant that by virtue of being the truth, that somehow it would prevail. President Ikeda has continuously emphasized how imperative it is for each of us to speak out against slander and boldly declare what is right — not to think that someone else will do it. I know now that the "supreme True Law will spread without fail" only when I take responsibility and clearly state what is right and what is wrong.

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