

## Questions and Answers on the Temple Issue How Can I Learn More?

### Q: How can I learn more about the temple issue?

A: While we can only scratch the surface in this series in terms of details, many articles and publications about the temple issue have already appeared. Please consult with the leaders in your local area and have them assist you in finding the material you need. Some suggested readings are listed here.

As this is a historic issue and will be relevant to our Buddhist movement for a long time, there is no need to rush. Please proceed at a natural pace. The most important thing to keep in mind as you read is to think about which aspects of the Daishonin's Buddhism the temple issue concerns and how these aspects relate to your faith and practice.

As you start reading about the issue, you will most likely have questions. You may already have some after reading this far. Please ask anyone in the SGI whom you feel might be knowledgeable about anything you don't understand. No question about Buddhism is silly; nothing in Buddhism is taboo or secret.

Praising one of his followers for asking a question about Buddhism, the Daishonin states, "For you to ask a question about the Lotus Sutra is a rare source of good fortune" (*The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 1, p. 221). Asking a question is an expression of one's seeking mind.

Lastly, as you learn more about the temple issue, please share your understanding and feelings with others. Through dialogue, not only can you stimulate an interest about the issue in others, you can also arrive at new and deeper perspectives. Dialogue is mutually beneficial; we can learn from one another, so please don't feel you have to wait until you understand it all before you can talk about it.

Learning about the temple issue is an ongoing process; it is part of the unfolding history of the Daishonin's Buddhism and kosen-rufu and certainly related directly to our study of the Goshu and Buddhism in general. Good luck, good fortune and best of health to you.

### Suggested Reading

— A general introduction to the temple issue is "An Overview of the Priesthood Issue" (*Seikyo Times*, March 1992, pp. 26–35).

— *Issues Between the Nichiren Shoshu Priesthood and the Soka Gakkai*, volumes 1–5 (1991–92), provides a thorough background of the temple issue; especially volume 5, a translation of "The Soka Gakkai's Request for the Resignation of Nikken Abe as Nichiren Shoshu High Priest," presents a comprehensive view of the issue.

— The internal condition of the priesthood is explained in *Voices of Protest: Priests Speak Out for the Reformation of Nichiren Shoshu* (1993).

— Daisaku Ikeda's *Selected Speeches: On the Basics of Buddhism* (1993) provides various discussions on the "eye-opening" ceremony, the meaning of the Gohonzon and the formality of gongyo.

— *Reaffirming Our Right to Happiness: On the Gohonzon Transcribed by High Priest Nichikan* (1996) is a reference issued by the SGI that provides a point-by-point refutation

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of the priesthood's allegations about the Gohonzon as well as the history surrounding its issuance.

— Masahiro Kobayashi's "On the Transmission of the Heritage of the Law" (*Seikyo Times*, December 1992, pp. 26–39) highlights the historical facts that disprove the infallibility of the high priest and sheds light on the often-elusive concept of the "heritage of the Law."

— Detailed accounts of the priesthood's behavior during World War II — including the priesthood's acceptance of the Shinto talisman — can be found in "Demand for the Priesthood's Immediate Apology for Its Support of War" (*Seikyo Times*, October 1992, pp. 20–29).

— Also, please refer to Josei Toda's "History and Conviction of the Soka Gakkai" (SGI-USA *Study Program Entrance-Level Textbook*, pp. 105–20; *Seikyo Times*, June 1991).

*This concludes "Questions and Answers on the Temple Issue"*

### Key Points:

- **Read at your own pace. Some suggested material is listed here.**
- **Discuss what you have learned with others and don't hesitate to ask questions or share your insights. This process will lead all involved to deeper insights and conviction.**

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