

SIGN POSTS: Applying Nichiren Daishonin's Writings to Daily Life Hot Water Into Cold

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You may have tried to practice its teachings to some extent, but whenever you were persecuted, you ceased to live by the sutra. That is like boiling water only to pour it into cold water, or like trying to strike fire but giving up half way. ("On the Buddha's Behavior," *The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 1, p. 176)

The new year is a time to make resolutions. We see evidence of this throughout society. For example, January sees the highest sales of diet pills, exercise machines, fitness club memberships and nicotine patches.

It makes sense that the sales rate would be high in January, but why so much higher than the rest of the year? My guess is that eventually people just give up. I've done it and I am sure others have, too. It's so easy to make resolutions, but so hard to follow through with them. Obstacles come up, and the reality of how much time and effort it takes to get the results we want makes it easier to just forget our resolutions. As Nichiren Daishonin describes in this letter, we often fail to move forward in the face of adversity.

I recently heard a member explain that she wasn't going to make any determinations for the new year, because her determinations for the years before had not been achieved. I could definitely relate to her frustration. Four of my five determinations for this year are carried over from years past.

But instead of not including them again on my list, the fact that they have not yet been reached made me more determined than ever to accomplish them THIS YEAR! Considering the efforts I have already put into them, I am not going to throw them away now.

As the Daishonin describes in this Gosho, that would be like throwing hot water into cold. SGI President Ikeda said recently, "The patience to wait wisely, steadily bringing the time and conditions to ripeness — this capacity holds the key to a life finally victorious." I will keep these words in mind as I work on my determinations for 1998.

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