

**SIGN POSTS: Applying Nichiren Daishonin's Writings to Daily Life  
Just the Beginning  
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It was a happy day for me Feb. 2 when the judge at Nikken's cross-examination decided to continue questioning by Soka Gakkai attorneys on May 18. As far as I was concerned, this was a victory: Nikken, who never wanted to appear in court, would now have to appear not once (last Dec. 22), not twice (Feb. 2), but three times (May 18)!

At the same time, I was reminded what a long haul this "Seattle Incident" trial is. I've been covering it for the *World Tribune* since August 1995 and, to be honest, I see no end in sight at this point. Feb. 2 wasn't the end; May 18 won't be either. There in fact might be many more sessions; there might be appeals; what we've seen so far might only be the *beginning* of this trial. Japan's legal system is notoriously slow — big cases like this have even taken 25 years to resolve.

After almost three years of this trial and almost eight years of the temple issue, I think one thing that we're all learning is patience: We have to have the determination to prove the truth, no matter how long it takes, and the wherewithal to wait — and even enjoy waiting — for that moment of truth.

Whenever I feel impatient about the trial or the temple issue (which is almost every day), I remind myself of Nichiren Daishonin's incredible patience and long-range view. "Nam-myoho-renge-kyo will spread for ten thousand years and more" — his dream was to create a people's movement that will last throughout the 10,000 years and more of the Latter Day of the Law. From his perspective, we're only at the beginning of that effort. If we really want to secure humanity's future through this Buddhism, I think we have to have the same kind of patience he did. (If he can wait 10,000 years, I can at least wait until May 18.)

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