

## WORLD TRIBUNE MAILBOX

### **Chanting Is More Than Prayer**

In the Feb. 27 issue, the editorial was titled “The Right Way To Chant?” I would suggest that a more correct title would have been “The Right Way To Pray?”

Your editorial implies that the only posture one can assume while chanting daimoku is one of petitionary prayer. While it is clear from the Gosho that Nichiren Daishonin sanctioned this kind of practice, it is not the only way to approach practicing with the Gohonzon. For example, in “On Attaining Buddhahood,” Nichiren Daishonin states: “A mind which presently is clouded by illusions originating from the innate darkness of life is like a tarnished mirror, but once it is polished it will become clear, reflecting the enlightenment of immutable truth. Arouse deep faith and polish your mirror night and day. How should you polish it? Only by chanting Nam-myoho-renge-kyo” (*The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 1, p. 5). Notice he does not direct us to pray to polish our minds. I would suggest that praying to polish your mind and polishing your mind are two completely different psychological postures.

In the Gosho “Reply to Gijo-bo,” Nichiren Daishonin states: “‘Single-mindedly desiring to see the Buddha’ also means to see the Buddha in one’s own mind, to concentrate one’s mind on seeing the Buddha, and that to see one’s own mind is to see the Buddha. I have attained the fruit of Buddhahood, the eternally inherent three bodies [by living this sentence]” (MW-2 [2nd ed.], 205). This passage suggests to me that the practice of chanting daimoku encompasses traditional Buddhist meditational postures, such as concentration, mindfulness and insight. We do a disservice to the breadth of Nichiren Daishonin’s teachings and practice when we narrowly define the correct way to chant solely in terms of prayer.

— LEE K. WOLFSON, Pittsburgh

### **Women Are Youth, Too**

As a mother of two young children, I would like to offer my comments about the “Seize the Day” pullout.

It is disturbing to me to see a youth section dominated by one gender. This is not the first time the *World Tribune* has used the title *youth* to headline information or stories solely about males. (The Feb. 27 pullout had all male points of view, and there were six pictures of young men.) How am I to share this with my daughter and expect her to embrace and identify with it? Frankly, I wouldn’t want to.

Society nationally and internationally is highly male-dominated at the expense of women. That means women are invisible and young girls don’t get to see women to identify with, learn about and have as role models. It saddens me and makes me angry to see this same pattern in the SGI, particularly in the youth division, which will lead the future and hopefully embrace my young children. Please consider what I am saying.

— NANCY LATIMER, San Bruno, Calif.

*Editors note: Point well taken (except that we did include one experience from a young women’s division in that issue). The imbalance was unintentional, but thank you for raising our awareness: We’ll do our best to seek a better balance (please see this week’s issue).*

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