

WORLD TRIBUNE MAILBOX

Anger Is Necessary

Terry Ellis' "Perspective" (April 17) at first angered me with the description of joy, "knowing how pointless this act of moving the Dai Gohonzon is," and then mollified my sense of indignity with a faithfully accurate description of the spirit and emotions surrounding the original move and enshrining of the Dai Gohonzon in the then newly completed Grand Main Temple....

So I cannot feel joy knowing that this is a pointless act. It is not a pointless act! It is, rather, an act that has attempted to cut at the heart of President Ikeda's commitment to fulfill his pledge to Nichiren Daishonin and Josei Toda. It has brought out anger and indignation in me at the (albeit symbolic) "slap" it represents to President Ikeda. Never mind the fact that the eternal platform for victory was completed that day, due to the inconspicuous causes and prayers of millions of members led by President Ikeda and manifesting in the form of this grand edifice. Never mind that eternal causes for destruction are being made by Nikken daily from the original hatching of "Operation C."

I applaud General Director Zaitzu's courageous leadership when he declares "nothing can shake our faith in the Dai-Gohonzon, no matter where it is enshrined." Our world of Buddha mutually possesses the world of Anger, as well as the other eight worlds. I note how President Toda's righteous anger at promoters of nuclear weapons, government bureaucrats and all manner of promulgators of human suffering drove him to passionately inspire legions of followers to build the SGI into what it is today. Anger from the world and wisdom of Buddha will now be a powerful driving force for construction for me. I can't make "happy" out of such an outrageous act. I simply resolve even more deeply to do my small part to protect President Ikeda's good health and precious activities for kosen-rufu through my own strong prayer to the Gohonzon and activities of faith.

— ERIC BRUCK, Los Angeles

Joy Isn't Everything

The editorial in the March 27, 1998, *World Tribune*, "Desperately Seeking a Change of Karma," seemed to me to imply that emotions other than enjoyment are somehow less worthy. Frequently I see and hear this in my practice and would like to offer a different view.

First, the expression of enjoyment may be a cultural expectation which we have no right to impose on others.

Second, this may imply to some that we are either incapable of expressing a whole range of human emotions or possibly unable to accept them in others.

Third, there are circumstances where enjoyment or fun may be simply inappropriate responses. On a personal level this could include the killing of a young child or serious mental disorders. On a global level I would not wish to remember the atomic bombing of Hiroshima or the fire bombing of Dresden with joy.

This does not mean to say that we cannot chant with appreciation that we have serious problems in our life at a time when we can chant for the best possible outcome. Nor does it mean that we cannot overcome or find meaning in our problems; however, this growth often takes time. It does mean that during this time there are those of us who need to feel both pain and sorrow in order to come to a place where joy and sorrow can live, side by side, in peace within us.

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The expectation that all things be accepted with joy may cause those persons who have major problems to feel less than accepted within our organization. Nichiren Daishonin said to, "Suffer what there is to suffer and enjoy what there is to enjoy." He also referred to this practice as "A ship to cross the sea of suffering." I believe there to be great comfort and hope in these words.

— CAROL SCHOLZ, San Rafael, Calif.

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