

WORLD TRIBUNE MAILBOX

Grand Main Voices

After receiving the May 1 issue and reading about the Grand Main Temple (Sho-Hondo), tears welled up. I cried not for the destruction of this beautiful temple but for those 8 million PIONEERS who sincerely struggled and contributed financial and daimoku support.

This is the last straw for me personally. I have determined as of today to fight the priesthood by totally educating myself about this issue, introducing others to this practice, encouraging my members' practice and reading every single letter of Nichiren Daishonin from beginning to end. This is how I am going to respond.

— JUAN-TITO A. ALVAREZ, Long Island, N.Y.

The priesthood issue can be compared to the transformation of scientists' original speculations about space travel to the moment when Neil Armstrong delivered his famous line from the weightless, grey and rocky lunar surface. More than 750 years ago, a medieval Buddhist priest carefully penned the theories of true Buddhism. And today, SGI members are living their truth — in essence, walking on the moon....

Nikken is everywhere there is injustice or evil. He represents the forces that try to destroy life, to destroy true Buddhism. That's why the razing of the Main Temple is only one more piece of evidence in a mile-long laundry list of it. The same kind of evil that tries to destroy life itself is also found in the decimation of tribal peoples, in war massacres and in the greed-based consumption of essential natural resources.

Think about Nikken's true intentions. Imagine how things would be if he were to have his way with no opposition.

With the Seattle Incident, we have had the vital opportunity to bring him to trial and make him stand accountable. It doesn't need saying that he has sworn to step down if his words were proven false. And the evidence continues to mount against him. We can view his destruction of the Main Temple as that of a wounded, adrenaline-charged bull....

We are the ones with the rare fortune to be born at this time in the history of Buddhism. Realize the significance and take the action that you are here, on Earth, practicing right now, to take. As SGI President Ikeda says, "Break the hard-shell of the lesser self."

— JENIFER MILLER, Washington, D.C.

Being a member who never went there nor participated in its construction, it is very hard for me to relate to all of you who were there and prayed and fought for that building to be erected.

I cannot see myself spending time chanting for that building to come back "to the people," as I don't see the point of it.

Not to belittle its significance, but rather to put it in perspective: Couldn't it be that it already served its purpose, that what really had meaning was the determination to build it, all the efforts to construct it, and most especially, the seemingly simple fact that thousands of pure-hearted members were able (for a few precious years) to gather and pray for world peace in such a beautiful setting? In front of the one Gohonzon made expressly for that purpose?

(Yes, Nikken is showing how hideously envious he is, and this will all go down in the

Title: Mailbox: 05/29/98

Subject: World Tribune 05/29/98 n.3193 p.3 WT980529p03

Author:

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history of Buddhism as a very important chapter, a very expensive lesson.)

But do we really need that place now?

Given that it is somehow regained: Would it be worth the effort to start making pilgrimages again to that piece of land, now that it has been defiled by Nikken and his cohorts? Would it ever feel the same way as back then?

Nikko Shonin left Minobu when it became soiled with the heresy of those who never understood the Daishonin's intent....

Given that I have never felt attached to that place, I have been steadily praying for those who seem to have an attachment, so that they may look ahead and see that the future of kosen-rufu is not in the foothills of Mount Fuji but rather in the house next door....

— FRANCISCO PALACIO, Miami

We are an America-based company which also does business with several Japanese firms, as well as the Tokyo Hilton. We stand against the destruction of the Main Temple.

We feel this action is an insult to the intelligence of the world business community. This man should return to school and take a course on economics. He is obviously not qualified to make these types of decisions.

— TAMI K. RADLEY, President, Good Karma Industries

At a recent conference at the Florida Nature and Culture Center, there was a discussion of the imminent destruction of the Main Temple. One point was that the Three Great Secret Laws, of which the High Sanctuary is one, have a general and a specific aspect. And while the Main Temple...had been dedicated as the High Sanctuary in the specific sense, in general the High Sanctuary of True Buddhism is the home altar where each of us has a true object of worship — a Gohonzon — enshrined....

I would like to suggest that one of the more insidious distortions of doctrine introduced during our association with the Fuji School priesthood was an emphasis on the specific vs. the general. We were always told, for example, "The Daishonin is specifically the true Buddha, and, oh yes, generally speaking we are all true Buddhas, so to speak, but don't get too excited about it," more or less. Or "The High Sanctuary will be/is the building at Taiseki-ji. In a general sense it's also your home altar, sort of, but it's really this temple."....

But isn't the Daishonin's Buddhism about people in general? And isn't the thrust of this practice to revolutionize your personal view of the world by seeking and finding the ultimate truth within your life? What's important is not the uniqueness of the Daishonin but the humanity he has in common with all of us. Way general....

— STEVE BELL, Santa Rosa, Calif.

In light of the (appropriate) outcry against Nikken's announcement of his intent to destroy the Main Temple, I want to express my conviction that, while Nikken may succeed in destroying a magnificent building of great significance on the Taiseki-ji temple grounds, he has no power to destroy the High Sanctuary of True Buddhism [in the general sense].... I am absolutely convinced that as long as the SGI continues to advance, the High Sanctuary of True Buddhism will remain secure.... Nikken (and his followers) left the High Sanctuary years ago; it is no surprise to me that he would seek to destroy a magnificent structure born of the sincerity of Soka Gakkai/SGI members.... The High Sanctuary is strong and ever victorious — and I have never been more happy to be an SGI member.

— JOE KOSTECKE, San Diego

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I am grateful for the *World Tribune* including a recent special edition about the current demolition of the Main Temple. After much daimoku and soul searching, I feel that the time has come for SGI-USA members to stand up with courage and dignity and respond with the spirit of Martin Luther King Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi to Nikken's latest actions to destroy the Main Temple....

I believe that, at this crucial moment in history, we must stand up and show the world that we will not tolerate the injustice Nikken is perpetrating by destroying a perfectly good building built through the sincere efforts of members from throughout the world.... Martin Luther King Jr. inspired millions of people to stand up for civil rights and march peacefully. It is our heritage in this country to take action. To not take action goes against the heart of the American spirit.

I therefore propose that in this 50th anniversary year of the creation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights...the SGI-USA demonstrate its intolerance for Nikken's trampling on the human rights of Nichiren Daishonin's disciples throughout the world by holding peaceful, nonviolent, dignified demonstrations....

It is my hope that the peaceful demonstrations will enable this injustice perpetrated by Nikken to be covered by U.S. and international press. I want to tell future generations that we did our best to try and stop the lunacy set in motion by Nikken. It is beyond my comprehension that priests at the head temple and temple members are not outraged at this action....

— GAIL JACOBSON, Arlington, Mass.

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