

WORLD TRIBUNE MAILBOX

Reaching for the Moon

I recently read the “Perspective” by Bill Endsley (“We Can Reach for the Moon”) in the May 1 issue. The more I read about how our expectations can change our life, the more I realized how my life can use some expectations.

No outside forces will make anyone happy. But, to take action and expect to make our lives better, that’s what I want. Happiness in this world in Nichiren Daishonin’s Buddhism means chanting Nam-myoho-renge-kyo. Everyone can experience the joy derived from the Law. Who can expect anything greater?

As an individual practicing this Law, if I do not make changes in myself toward a high life-condition no matter how difficult my human revolution is, how can I expect my family, friends and co-workers to see me in a different light?

A part of my favorite Goshu says, “Never let life’s hardships disturb you. After all, no one can avoid problems, not even saints or sages.” Like Mr. Endsley says, negative limited expectations become our reality.

When I put my mind to it, I can achieve anything. This article only affirms this conviction with its positive knowledge. I know that I can rise above the negative tide of our times and reach for the moon.

— DENISE THOMAS, Orangeburg, S.C.

That Darn Cat

I was deeply touched by the May 1 article on the cat (“Honoring Sorrow”). I cried. I hardly ever cry. I tore out the article and gave it to a friend who usually doesn’t care to discuss Buddhism. I’ll be darned, that cat may open up the heart of my friend, too. I bet it comes back doing cat food commercials in its next life.

As to the more judgmental writers on the vegetarianism issue: nice shoes.

— JEFF LONG, Laguna Hills, Calif.

No Apology Needed

Thank you for the “Perspective” by Karen Morono (“Falling Short — Not An Untold Story”) in the May 15 issue. It is refreshing to see the *World Tribune* give space to an experience that does not end with the member getting the job, or the relationship, and then — apparently — riding off into the sunset.

I am one of the thousands of SGI-USA members, who, like Ms. Morono, do not necessarily have the material or visible proof to “show” the world for all our determination and practice. Approaching the end of my 16th year of embracing this Buddhism and the Gohonzon, I find myself unemployed, behind on my bills and without a relationship. But I know — and those members and leaders who have practiced with me all those years will testify — that my life-condition is brighter, my depression is lessened, and I am on the verge of realizing my dreams.

Ms. Morono has no reason to apologize, as she does at the end of her article, that she cannot show us the “trappings” of material and social success. As Nichiren Daishonin says, the treasures of the heart are the greatest of all.

— LAWRENCE J. CONGDON, Buffalo, N.Y.

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