

## WORLD TRIBUNE MAILBOX

### **Yashiro Who?**

I am writing to you concerning an article written by Lisa Jones in the May 22 "Seize the Day." The name of the article is "Meet Yashiro Kunishige." The article in part says, "When the Daishonin inscribed the Dai-Gohonzon, he wrote Yashiro Kunishige's name on it...." I have been unable to find Yashiro Kunishige on any Gohonzon. I have contacted various leaders, and they do not know where Yashiro Kunishige's name is on the Gohonzon. Is it to be found only on the Dai-Gohonzon at the head temple? Leaders say they have never come across that name in any of Nichiren Daishonin's writings. Can you please explain to me the name Yashiro Kunishige?

— MAXIMUS S. LOYA, Belfair, Wash.

*Editor's note: Nichiren Daishonin inscribed the name Yashiro Kunishige at the bottom of the Dai-Gohonzon. The Daishonin often wrote the recipient's name on the Gohonzon he inscribed, but such names are not essential components of the object of devotion and hence are not reproduced on copies. Historically, there are several theories about who Yashiro Kunishige was, but Josei Toda, the second Soka Gakkai president, upheld the view that he was a fictitious person, an ideal believer, who existed only in Nichiren Daishonin's heart. He thus represents all believers of Nichiren Daishonin's teachings.*

### **Double Standard?**

Paul Robeson was a great singer and indefatigable fighter for the civil rights of African Americans (May 22 "Worldview"). The *World Tribune* correctly gave him the highest accolades in that regard.

But we must not forget that he was a stalwart believer in the Soviet Union and the communist cause, a country and ideology that oppressed, enslaved and murdered countless millions of people. This was public knowledge long before he, as the *World Tribune* claims, was "persecuted" by our government. If he had embraced a similar cause as a Soviet citizen, he would have spent the rest of his life, if he was not killed first, in the slave labor camps of the gulag.

Mr. Robeson was not dumb. He knew what he was doing. He was not just a hapless, helpless fellow traveler along for the ride. He knowingly looked the other way as others unsparingly gave up their lives, liberties and fortunes in the quest for freedom. If he truly wanted to "make freedom ring" he could have spoken out against this horrible bane of humanity and really "take[n] the path far more difficult" in the fight for human rights.

Recently the *World Tribune* apologized for and retracted a page which mentioned a scientist with controversial views on race. Would the *World Tribune* highlight someone who, in the past, was a Nazi sympathizer? Probably not. Please, let's not create too great a double standard.

— STAN KLEMANOWICZ, Torrance, Calif.

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