

**SIGN POSTS: The Deepest and Darkest**  
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**“The ocean rids itself of corpses” means that through the Lotus Sutra one can free himself for all eternity from the offense of slandering the Law or having incorrigible disbelief. (“The Universal Salty Taste,” *The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 4, p. 4)**

In this passage, Nichiren Daishonin is relaying the depth and profundity of the Lotus Sutra, which he compares to the ocean. Essentially he is saying that we can overcome any kind of negative karma — even the deepest and darkest!

On July 3, 1997, a doctor ordered me to have an MRI done of my brain, and I was subsequently diagnosed as having a small tumor in my pituitary gland. Learning this was at first scary for both myself and my family, but, on the other hand, I felt so relieved to finally learn what had caused a myriad of symptoms I had been struggling with for more than a year.

Although this tumor is not life-threatening, it has caused me to take stock of every aspect of my life. Through my experiences of dealing with this condition, whether it’s pushing myself to keep going back to the doctors, asserting and reasserting myself, or maintaining the stamina to navigate my way through the often aggravating and discouraging world of medical bureaucracy, I have come to realize that this is not an obstacle of physical disability but an opportunity to change my fundamental negative tendency to not value myself.

My “incorrigible disbelief” has been that somehow...maybe...I am not a Buddha.

It was only after this was so shockingly brought to my attention by a leader whom I deeply respect and admire that I have been able to chant renewed and honest daimoku and feel an inner joy at my self-development in the midst of something that was at first very scary and oppressive.

I’m armed with the knowledge that whatever new obstacles I may face, my ever-expanding “ocean” of faith is ridding my life of the “corpses” of negativity.

**WT**