

**IN MY LIFE: Against Slander**  
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**Never forget this admonition against ignoring another's slander of Buddhism.**  
**("Admonitions Against Slander," *The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 1, p. 165)**

In America, we value our individuality and our freedom to make our own choices. We also respect the rights of others to those same freedoms. With this in mind, more than a few fellow members feel that we shouldn't be actively protesting the activities of Nichiren Shoshu — nor should we be trying to discourage temple members from continuing to practice with the temple. Much of the "Why can't we just get along?" thinking is based on the presumption that Buddhists should be passive and non-confrontational.

However, it has become very clear that Nichiren Shoshu is not simply another religious sect that we ought to ignore and allow to go merrily about its activities. It is actively seeking to destroy the SGI, and in collusion with secular authorities and through its own publications, it is spreading lies about the SGI. These are hardly the actions of a humanistic religious group.

The pages of history are filled with true stories of innocent people who became victims of religious authority and persecution. In virtually every case, people who spoke out for justice were persecuted. The SGI members are taking a stand and are speaking out to ensure that there are no more innocent victims of religion.

At a lecture I attended recently in Japan, SGI Deputy President Akiya told us that ignoring evil is not tolerance, that true humanism lies in fighting against fundamental darkness — against anything that obstructs people's happiness and tramples on the dignity of life. This will be a never-ending battle.

True, merciful, compassionate Buddhist behavior includes both the sharing of happiness and the elimination of evil — both warmth and strictness. Let's continue to have dialogue about this issue, so that no one remains ignorant to the true intentions of Nichiren Shoshu, and no one becomes another victim of false religion.

**WT**