

**IN MY LIFE: According to Plan**  
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**It is impossible to fathom one's karma. ("Letter from Sado," *The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 1, p. 37)**

A couple of weeks ago, I found a 10-year schedule in which I had mapped out several goals I wanted to accomplish from 1993 to 2002.

I also discovered that, out of the 28 items I am supposed to have accomplished up to now, I've accomplished only four so far.

According to this schedule, by the end of 1998, I am married, out of debt, making over \$100,000 a year, an established playwright living in a three-bedroom brownstone in Manhattan, awaiting the birth of my family's first child. It is now five years into this schedule: None of this has come to pass.

When I read this, I was disappointed. It was another golden opportunity to beat myself up about not achieving everything overnight. There were things that I had planned to do, and I simply didn't get them done. Things did not go according to plan.

The above passage comes from a letter written to Toki Jonin in 1272. Nichiren Daishonin had been exiled to Sado Island. He comments on how his current exile was a result of previous slanders from his current lifetime and lifetimes before. But he also makes it clear that the power to change one's karma, one's destiny, is completely within one's control. And that control comes from faith in the Lotus Sutra (the Gohonzon), and our willingness to teach others the same.

What we want to accomplish in our lives, and the way things are laid out in front of us, are usually very different. But regardless of what we have done in the past, or what we see in the present, we have the ability to create the lives we want.

Though it is impossible to fathom one's karma, it is not impossible to envision our future. Nor is it impossible to help others do the same.

**WT**