

**EDITORIAL: TENACITY, TENACITY, TENACITY**  
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It is not easy to win in every endeavor. It takes a great amount of energy and will- power to reach the point where we can score a final victory. This is how things work in secular affairs and naturally so in the realm of Buddhism, since Buddhism is essentially common sense. Tenacity is vital for victory.

It is not always true that the strong win over the weak. It happens from time to time that the underdog beats the favorite. As we see occasionally in the world of baseball, football, soccer and so forth, when teams play extra innings or overtime, anything can happen; the weak can defeat the strong. In such cases, it is most often the one who has really decided to win who wins. In these cases, life-force that was hidden within can be tapped through that tenacious determination to win.

The power of determination and tenacity accords with the Buddhist teaching that miraculous power is innate in one's *ichinen* or life-condition of Buddhahood. Nichiren Daishonin, having overcome one persecution after another for the propagation of the Law and the happiness of the people, shares how he felt toward his ordeals: "Still I am not discouraged" (*The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 1, p. 166). In this passage, we can see how tenacious the Daishonin was in pursuing his noble cause.

The temple issue, in the final analysis, is a struggle to win over the devilish function that has arisen in the propagation of the Daishonin's Buddhism to affect the movement negatively. It takes a ceaseless renewal of our determination to put aside our shallow, incorrect views and those of others to win in this case.

Tenacious prayer and courageous action provide us with the power to spread the Mystic Law and diminish the power of devilish functions in our lives and environment.

In this respect, the Daishonin states, "After staging a great battle with the 10 armies of the King Devil of the Sixth Heaven for the past 20 some years,... I have never had the mind to retreat" (*Gosho Zenshu*, p. 1224). We see a great example in his resolve.

Also, the essential nature of the battle between one's Buddhahood and devilish functions is summed up in the passage from his writings that reads, "Should you slacken even a bit, demons will take advantage" (MW-1, pp. 241-42). If we don't slacken, devilish functions can find no opening to enter into our lives.

As SGI President Ikeda states: "No matter what the circumstances, you should never concede defeat. Never conclude that you've reached a dead end, that everything is finished. You possess a glorious future. And precisely because of that, you must persevere and study. Life is eternal. We need to focus on the two existences of the present and the future and not get caught up in the past. We must always have the spirit to begin anew 'from this moment' to initiate a new struggle each day."

A solid determination, resolute prayer and tenacious effort in this very moment — directed toward the long, happy future that awaits us — is the source of our every victory. The key to the future is tenacity, tenacity and more tenacity.

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