

Inviting the
Seven Happy Gods
Shichi-Fuku-Jin

&

Daily Readings
of
Nichiren's Words

&

Prayer for the
Thirty Protective
Deities
Sanjūbanshin

Monday | Na

Bishamon — Dignity

Patron of physicians, policemen, soldiers and ambassadors

The Buddhist guardian of the north (Vaisravana), Bishamon is the God of Warriors (not war). He is also a God of Defense Against Evil. Almost always dressed in armor with a fierce look and standing over one or two demons symbolizing the defeat of evil. In one hand he has a weapon to fight against evil and suppress enemies. On the other hand he holds a treasure pagoda or stupa.

Tuesday | Mu

Ebisu — Honesty

Patron of seamen, attorneys, executives and merchants

Also known as Yebisu or Kotoshiro-nushi-no-kami. The God of Fishing, Shipping and Commerce, he is the only one to have his origins in Japan. Ebisu is very popular among farmers and sailors. He is commonly presented wearing formal court clothes or hunting robes. He is often presented with a fishing rod in his right hand and a large red sea bream under his left arm.

Wednesday | Myo

Benzaiten — Joy

Patron of writers, musicians, painters and sculptors

Benzaiten (Benten) is the Goddess of Arts and Knowledge. Her common form is a beautiful woman dressed in a flowing Chinese-style dress and playing the biwa. She is frequently depicted riding on, or accompanied by, a sea dragon.

Thursday | Ho

Jurōjin — Wisdom

Patron of philosophers, politicians, teachers, journalists and engineers

The God of Wisdom, he is commonly presented as an old man wearing a hat with a long white beard holding a

Kishimosonjin Jurasetunyo

For Hariti and the Ten Raksasa Daughters

(8th, 18th, 28th days of the month)

We respectfully dedicate all our merits now gathered to Kishimosonjin Jurasetunyo (Hariti and the Ten Raksasa Daughters). We extol the benevolent gods. By this we offer them the enjoyment of the Dharma. May your vow to protect the Dharma spread throughout this world and the next. May the power of your sacred spells have the superior function to defeat all evils, rebuke malevolent spirits, break through accumulated grudges, and eliminate all sickness and woes so that the practitioners of the One Vehicle will be tranquil and at peace. May the vow you took before the Buddha be accomplished. “Anyone who does not keep our spells but troubles the expounder of the Dharma shall have his head split into seven pieces just as the branches of the arjaka-tree [are split].” “We will do as you command. Certainly, World Honored One!” Namu Myoho Renge Kyo

Day 31

Realization of Buddhahood

Kanjin Honzon Sho

The Saha-world is the world of the Original Buddha; it is the eternal Pure Land which is free from the three calamities and the four kalpas. In this eternal world, the Buddha never disappeared in the past, nor is He to appear in the future. In consequence, all living beings under the Buddha Saha-world are one with Him and eternal. It is because those who believe in the Lotus Sutra, live in the land where they have united themselves with the Buddha and attained the truth of the three thousand existences in one thought.

All 30 Deities

I respectfully dedicate all my merits now gathered to the thirty deities who protect the perfect school and oversee us each day. I extol the benevolent gods. By this I offer them the enjoyment of the Dharma. May your hidden virtue be revered within and your present function spread without. May you protect the True Dharma and purify the Buddhaland widely. May you enjoy the taste of the Dharma and each of you visit in turn. May you guard the clergy and followers and allow me to practice in accordance with the Dharma. May your august power double so that this country will receive benefit and the law of king and the Buddha together forever prosper. "If he is hated and threatened with swords, sticks, tile-pieces or stones, I will manifest men and dispatch them to him in order to protect him." (LS p184) "We will do as you command. Certainly, World Honored One!" (LS p304)
Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō

knobbed walking staff with a scroll tied to it. He is often confused with Fukurokuju. A black deer always accompanies Jurōjin as a messenger and symbol of longevity.

Friday | Ren

Fukurokuju — Longevity

Patron of chess players, magicians and athletes

From Japanese fuku, "happiness"; roku, "wealth"; and ju, "longevity." Brought from China's Taoist-Buddhist traditions, Fukurokuju is the God of Wealth, Happiness, and Longevity. He is usually represented with customary clothes of a Chinese scholar, holding a walking stick with a scroll tied to it. He is the only one from the seven who has the ability to revive the dead.

Saturday | Ge

Hotei — Happiness

Patron of children, fortune tellers and bartenders

Said to be an incarnation of Miroku (Maitreya) Bodhisattva, Hotei (a.k.a Budai) is the God of Happiness and Abundance. He is supposedly based on an actual person, a Chinese hermit Budaishi (d.917). He is represented as a Buddhist monk with a smiling face and a prominent belly, holding a sack and a wooden staff, usually seated or sleeping in his bag. Outside Japan, he is known as "Laughing Buddha."

Sunday | Kyo

Daikoku — Fortune

Patron of farmers, bankers, carpenters and craftsmen

The God of Wealth and Prosperity, Daikoku evolved from the Buddhist form of the Indian deity Shiva intertwined with the Shinto god Ōkuninushi. He is well known for his happy-looking smile and is often presented with a bag on this shoulder filled with money and a magic mallet standing on two bales of rice.

Day 1

Strengthen Your Faith
A Response to the Nun, Widow of Lord Ueno
Ueno-dono Goke ama Go-henji

Endeavor to strengthen your faith after listening to this important teaching. He who endeavors to strengthen his faith after listening to the teaching of the Lotus Sutra is a true seeker of Buddhahood. Grand Master T'ien-t'ai says: "Indigo becomes deep blue even though it is created from indigo leaves." This means that if dyed blue over and over, indigo blue will become deeper than its original color. Practicing the Lotus Sutra is the same. By practicing the teaching of the Lotus Sutra over and over, you will be a true follower. Practice is the best master.

Atsuta Daimyōjin

I respectfully dedicate all my merits now gathered to the thirty deities who protect the perfect school, especially Atsuta Daimyōjin, who oversees us this day. I extol the benevolent gods. By this I offer them the enjoyment of the Dharma. May your hidden virtue be revered within and your present function spread without. May you protect the True Dharma and purify the Buddhaland widely. May you enjoy the taste of the Dharma and each of you visit in turn. May you guard the clergy and followers and allow me to practice in accordance with the Dharma. May your august power double so that this country will receive benefit and the law of king and the Buddha together forever prosper. "If he is hated and threatened with swords, sticks, tile-pieces or stones, I will manifest men and dispatch them to him in order to protect him." (LS p184) "We will do as you command. Certainly, World Honored One!" (LS p304) *Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō*

Day 30

Attainment of Buddhahood
Myoichi Ama Gozen Goshosoku

Those who believe in the Lotus Sutra are like the winter season for many hardships come incessantly. Winter is surely followed by spring. We have never heard nor seen that winter returned to fall. We have never heard that the believers in the Lotus Sutra go back to being ordinary men. The Lotus Sutra says, "All people who listen to this sutra will attain Buddhahood."

Kibi Daimyōjin

I respectfully dedicate all my merits now gathered to the thirty deities who protect the perfect school, especially Kibi Daimyōjin, who oversees us this day. I extol the benevolent gods. By this I offer them the enjoyment of the Dharma. May your hidden virtue be revered within and your present function spread without. May you protect the True Dharma and purify the Buddhaland widely. May you enjoy the taste of the Dharma and each of you visit in turn. May you guard the clergy and followers and allow me to practice in accordance with the Dharma. May your august power double so that this country will receive benefit and the law of king and the Buddha together forever prosper. "If he is hated and threatened with swords, sticks, tile-pieces or stones, I will manifest men and dispatch them to him in order to protect him." (LS p184) "We will do as you command. Certainly, World Honored One!" (LS p304) *Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō*

Day 29

Filial Piety
Bo Jikyo Ji

You, Jonin Toki, brought your mother's ashes to Minobu and placed them at the altar where the Buddha Sakya-muni, our original teacher, is enshrined. Prostrating yourself in front of the altar, holding your hands together in gassho, you paid homage to the Buddha. You have overcome your sorrow at your mother's death and firmly believed your mother was saved by the teachings of the Lotus Sutra. Thus, you were released from your sorrow. All of your body – your head, hands, legs, and mouth – are all inherited from your parents. This kinship between your parents and you is like the relationship between seed and fruit. Therefore, as your mother is saved, you are also saved by the teachings of the Lotus Sutra.

Nōka Daimyōjin

I respectfully dedicate all my merits now gathered to the thirty deities who protect the perfect school, especially Nōka Daimyōjin, who oversees us this day. I extol the benevolent gods. By this I offer them the enjoyment of the Dharma. May your hidden virtue be revered within and your present function spread without. May you protect the True Dharma and purify the Buddhaland widely. May you enjoy the taste of the Dharma and each of you visit in turn. May you guard the clergy and followers and allow me to practice in accordance with the Dharma. May your august power double so that this country will receive benefit and the law of king and the Buddha together forever prosper. "If he is hated and threatened with swords, sticks, tile-pieces or stones, I will manifest men and dispatch them to him in order to protect him." (LS p184) "We will do as you command. Certainly, World Honored One!" (LS p304) Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō

Day 2

The Buddha in Our Mind
Upholding the Lotus Sutra and Attaining Buddhahood
Kanjin Honzon Sho

"Those who uphold the teaching of this sutra are deemed to serve Me, Shakyamuni, and Taho Buddha. They also serve the Buddhas in manifestation here who adorn and glorify their respective worlds." This means that Shakyamuni Buddha, Taho Buddha, and all the Buddhas in manifestation are in our minds, and that we, upholders of the Lotus Sutra, will follow their steps and inherit all the merits of those Buddhas.

Suwa Daimyōjin

I respectfully dedicate all my merits now gathered to the thirty deities who protect the perfect school, especially Suwa Daimyōjin, who oversees us this day. I extol the benevolent gods. By this I offer them the enjoyment of the Dharma. May your hidden virtue be revered within and your present function spread without. May you protect the True Dharma and purify the Buddhaland widely. May you enjoy the taste of the Dharma and each of you visit in turn. May you guard the clergy and followers and allow me to practice in accordance with the Dharma. May your august power double so that this country will receive benefit and the law of king and the Buddha together forever prosper. "If he is hated and threatened with swords, sticks, tile-pieces or stones, I will manifest men and dispatch them to him in order to protect him." (LS p184) "We will do as you command. Certainly, World Honored One!" (LS p304) Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō

Day 3

The Same in Meaning
Kembutsu Mirai-ki

Although the twenty-four characters of Never-Despising Bodhisattva differ in wording from the five characters which I, Nichiren, spread, they are the same in meaning. We both appeared in the world under the same conditions: he toward the Age of the Imitative Dharma after the death of Iṅno Buddha, and I at the beginning of the Latter Age after the death of Sakyamuni Buddha. Also Bodhisattva Never-Despising and I, Nichiren, are at the same stage of progress in the practice of the Lotus Sutra: he is in the initial "rejoicing upon hearing the Lotus Sutra (sho-zuiki-hon)" rank in the five-stage practice (gohon), while I am in the second "understanding the Lotus Sutra by listening to its name and words (myoji-soku)" rank in the six-stage practice (rokusoku)

Hirota Daimyōjin

I respectfully dedicate all my merits now gathered to the thirty deities who protect the perfect school, especially Hirota Daimyōjin, who oversees us this day. I extol the benevolent gods. By this I offer them the enjoyment of the Dharma. May your hidden virtue be revered within and your present function spread without. May you protect the True Dharma and purify the Buddhaland widely. May you enjoy the taste of the Dharma and each of you visit in turn. May you guard the clergy and followers and allow me to practice in accordance with the Dharma. May your august power double so that this country will receive benefit and the law of king and the Buddha together forever prosper. "If he is hated and threatened with swords, sticks, tile-pieces or stones, I will manifest men and dispatch them to him in order to protect him." (LS p184) "We will do as you command. Certainly, World Honored One!" (LS p304) Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō

Day 28

One Spirit in Different Bodies
Itai Dojin Ji

All things are possible if people are united in one spirit. Nothing can be accomplished if they are not united. Such teachings also exist in non-Buddhist scriptures. For instance, a king of Yin in old China, King Chieh, who had an army of seven hundred thousand men disunited in spirit, was defeated by King Wu of Chou and his army of eight hundred men, who were united in one spirit. So if a person has two thoughts, nothing can be accomplished. Even if there are hundreds or thousands of people, if they are united in one, they are surely able to accomplish their aim.

Kishimosonjin Jurasetsumyo Day

Hyōsu Daimyōjin

I respectfully dedicate all my merits now gathered to the thirty deities who protect the perfect school, especially Hyōsu Daimyōjin, who oversees us this day. I extol the benevolent gods. By this I offer them the enjoyment of the Dharma. May your hidden virtue be revered within and your present function spread without. May you protect the True Dharma and purify the Buddhaland widely. May you enjoy the taste of the Dharma and each of you visit in turn. May you guard the clergy and followers and allow me to practice in accordance with the Dharma. May your august power double so that this country will receive benefit and the law of king and the Buddha together forever prosper. "If he is hated and threatened with swords, sticks, tile-pieces or stones, I will manifest men and dispatch them to him in order to protect him." (LS p184) "We will do as you command. Certainly, World Honored One!" (LS p304) Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō

Day 27

Merits of Chanting Odaimoku
Myomitsu Shonin Go Shosoku

I, Nichiren, sincerely practice the most profound Lotus Sutra among all the sutras that have been preached, are being preached, and will be preached. I also chant Odaimoku, the essence of the sutra, by myself and teach others to chant it. Mugwort grass grows straight amidst the hemp field. Trees do not grow straight, but by cutting them straight, they become useful. If you chant the sutra as it states, your mind will be straightened. Be aware that it is hard for us to chant Odaimoku unless the spirit of the Eternal Buddha enters into our bodies.

Mikami Daimyōjin

I respectfully dedicate all my merits now gathered to the thirty deities who protect the perfect school, especially Mikami Daimyōjin, who oversees us this day. I extol the benevolent gods. By this I offer them the enjoyment of the Dharma. May your hidden virtue be revered within and your present function spread without. May you protect the True Dharma and purify the Buddhaland widely. May you enjoy the taste of the Dharma and each of you visit in turn. May you guard the clergy and followers and allow me to practice in accordance with the Dharma. May your august power double so that this country will receive benefit and the law of king and the Buddha together forever prosper. "If he is hated and threatened with swords, sticks, tile-pieces or stones, I will manifest men and dispatch them to him in order to protect him." (LS p184) "We will do as you command. Certainly, World Honored One!" (LS p304) Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō

Day 4

The Function of Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō
Hoon-jo

Chanting "Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō" swallows up the functions of "Namu Amida Butsu," "Namu Dainichi shingon," and "Namu Kanzeon bosatsu" as well as all the Buddhas, sutras, and bodhisattvas. All these will be of no use without the functions of the Lotus Sutra. This can be seen by everyone, for it has been realized in front of everyone. When I, Nichiren recite "Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō" the function of "Namu Amida Butsu" disappears just as the moon wanes, the tide ebbs, grasses in autumn and winter wither and ice melts under the sun.

Kehi Daimyōjin

I respectfully dedicate all my merits now gathered to the thirty deities who protect the perfect school, especially Kehi Daimyōjin, who oversees us this day. I extol the benevolent gods. By this I offer them the enjoyment of the Dharma. May your hidden virtue be revered within and your present function spread without. May you protect the True Dharma and purify the Buddhaland widely. May you enjoy the taste of the Dharma and each of you visit in turn. May you guard the clergy and followers and allow me to practice in accordance with the Dharma. May your august power double so that this country will receive benefit and the law of king and the Buddha together forever prosper. "If he is hated and threatened with swords, sticks, tile-pieces or stones, I will manifest men and dispatch them to him in order to protect him." (LS p184) "We will do as you command. Certainly, World Honored One!" (LS p304) Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō

Day 5

Learn About Last Moments in Life
Myoho Ama Gozen Gohenji

I, Nichiren, have studied Buddhism since I was a child. One's life is uncertain. Even if you exhale, you are not sure that you can inhale again. One dies quicker than the dew vanishes in the wind. The sage and the fool, the young and the old, are under the law of the transient life. Therefore, one should always know that death comes to everyone, one should accept it solemnly, and spend their valuable life meaningfully.

Keta Daimyōjin

I respectfully dedicate all my merits now gathered to the thirty deities who protect the perfect school, especially Keta Daimyōjin, who oversees us this day. I extol the benevolent gods. By this I offer them the enjoyment of the Dharma. May your hidden virtue be revered within and your present function spread without. May you protect the True Dharma and purify the Buddhaland widely. May you enjoy the taste of the Dharma and each of you visit in turn. May you guard the clergy and followers and allow me to practice in accordance with the Dharma. May your august power double so that this country will receive benefit and the law of king and the Buddha together forever prosper. "If he is hated and threatened with swords, sticks, tile-pieces or stones, I will manifest men and dispatch them to him in order to protect him." (LS p184) "We will do as you command. Certainly, World Honored One!" (LS p304) Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō

Day 26

Merits of the Lotus Sutra
Zui Ji I Goshō

The Lotus Sutra is the true teaching because the Buddha Sakyamuni preached it from the bottom of his heart exactly as he was enlightened. Other sutras were taught according to the listeners' level of understanding. The Buddha teaches righteousness. The chanting of the sutra will lead us to righteousness unconsciously. For example, the creeping mugwort grass among the hemp will grow straight, or the body of a snake will become straight if it goes into a straight pipe, or if one has good friends, his attitudes will become good. Likewise, one who believes in the Lotus Sutra will attain Buddhahood.

Takebe Daimyōjin

I respectfully dedicate all my merits now gathered to the thirty deities who protect the perfect school, especially Takebe Daimyōjin, who oversees us this day. I extol the benevolent gods. By this I offer them the enjoyment of the Dharma. May your hidden virtue be revered within and your present function spread without. May you protect the True Dharma and purify the Buddhaland widely. May you enjoy the taste of the Dharma and each of you visit in turn. May you guard the clergy and followers and allow me to practice in accordance with the Dharma. May your august power double so that this country will receive benefit and the law of king and the Buddha together forever prosper. "If he is hated and threatened with swords, sticks, tile-pieces or stones, I will manifest men and dispatch them to him in order to protect him." (LS p184) "We will do as you command. Certainly, World Honored One!" (LS p304) Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō

Day 25

Aspiration for Enlightenment

Matsuno Dono Gohenji

There are thousands of fish eggs but few become fish. Hundreds of mango blossoms bloom but few become fruit. It is the same with human beings because most people are turned aside by evil distractions. There is an army of warriors wearing armor but few are able to fight bravely. Many people search for truth but few attain Buddhahood.

Sekisan Daimyōjin

I respectfully dedicate all my merits now gathered to the thirty deities who protect the perfect school, especially Sekisan Daimyōjin, who oversees us this day. I extol the benevolent gods. By this I offer them the enjoyment of the Dharma. May your hidden virtue be revered within and your present function spread without. May you protect the True Dharma and purify the Buddhaland widely. May you enjoy the taste of the Dharma and each of you visit in turn. May you guard the clergy and followers and allow me to practice in accordance with the Dharma. May your august power double so that this country will receive benefit and the law of king and the Buddha together forever prosper. “If he is hated and threatened with swords, sticks, tile-pieces or stones, I will manifest men and dispatch them to him in order to protect him.” (LS p184) “We will do as you command. Certainly, World Honored One!” (LS p304) Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō

Day 6

Pursuit and Gratitude of Buddhism

Sado Gokanki Sho

I, Nichiren, vowed to study and master Buddhism and to attain Buddhahood so that I would be able to save the people from whom I had received favors. To attain Buddhahood, one must not think selfishly even at the cost of his life.

Kashima Daimyōjin

I respectfully dedicate all my merits now gathered to the thirty deities who protect the perfect school, especially Kashima Daimyōjin, who oversees us this day. I extol the benevolent gods. By this I offer them the enjoyment of the Dharma. May your hidden virtue be revered within and your present function spread without. May you protect the True Dharma and purify the Buddhaland widely. May you enjoy the taste of the Dharma and each of you visit in turn. May you guard the clergy and followers and allow me to practice in accordance with the Dharma. May your august power double so that this country will receive benefit and the law of king and the Buddha together forever prosper. “If he is hated and threatened with swords, sticks, tile-pieces or stones, I will manifest men and dispatch them to him in order to protect him.” (LS p184) “We will do as you command. Certainly, World Honored One!” (LS p304) Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō

Day 7

Learning and Practicing
Shoho Jisso Sho

Have faith in the Great Mandala Gohonzon, the most superlative in the world. Endeavor! Endeavor to strengthen your faith, so that you may be blessed with the protective powers of all Buddhas. Learn and practice to strengthen your faith. Without learning and practicing there is no Buddhism. Follow these yourself and influence others to do the same. To learn and to practice are a part of faith. Even if only a word or a phrase, spread it to others.

Kitano Tenjin

I respectfully dedicate all my merits now gathered to the thirty deities who protect the perfect school, especially Kitano Tenjin, who oversees us this day. I extol the benevolent gods. By this I offer them the enjoyment of the Dharma. May your hidden virtue be revered within and your present function spread without. May you protect the True Dharma and purify the Buddhaland widely. May you enjoy the taste of the Dharma and each of you visit in turn. May you guard the clergy and followers and allow me to practice in accordance with the Dharma. May your august power double so that this country will receive benefit and the law of king and the Buddha together forever prosper. "If he is hated and threatened with swords, sticks, tile-pieces or stones, I will manifest men and dispatch them to him in order to protect him." (LS p184) "We will do as you command. Certainly, World Honored One!" (LS p304) *Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō*

Day 24

Awakening as Buddha's Children
Hokke Shuyo Sho

Since time immemorial all of the people on earth have been the Buddha Sakyamuni's beloved children. We had not realized the relationship, because we had been undutiful children. It is a unique relationship. As the moon reflects on calm water, the Buddha appears in our calm mind.

Gion Daimyōjin

I respectfully dedicate all my merits now gathered to the thirty deities who protect the perfect school, especially Gion Daimyōjin, who oversees us this day. I extol the benevolent gods. By this I offer them the enjoyment of the Dharma. May your hidden virtue be revered within and your present function spread without. May you protect the True Dharma and purify the Buddhaland widely. May you enjoy the taste of the Dharma and each of you visit in turn. May you guard the clergy and followers and allow me to practice in accordance with the Dharma. May your august power double so that this country will receive benefit and the law of king and the Buddha together forever prosper. "If he is hated and threatened with swords, sticks, tile-pieces or stones, I will manifest men and dispatch them to him in order to protect him." (LS p184) "We will do as you command. Certainly, World Honored One!" (LS p304) *Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō*

Day 23

An Extraordinary Practitioner
Ueno-no-Ama Gozen Go-henji

If you contemplate this sutra day and night and read it morning and evening, you will become an extraordinary practitioner of the Lotus Sutra. The character "sha" in the phrase "ze-kyoden-sha" (one who upholds this sutra) means any person; therefore, the phrase can mean anyone who has faith in the Lotus Sutra among monks, nuns, laymen, and laywomen... . It is only the Lotus Sutra that declares: "A women who upholds this sutra is superior to not only other women but also men. "

Sumiyoshi Daimyōjin

I respectfully dedicate all my merits now gathered to the thirty deities who protect the perfect school, especially Sumiyoshi Daimyōjin, who oversees us this day. I extol the benevolent gods. By this I offer them the enjoyment of the Dharma. May your hidden virtue be revered within and your present function spread without. May you protect the True Dharma and purify the Buddhaland widely. May you enjoy the taste of the Dharma and each of you visit in turn. May you guard the clergy and followers and allow me to practice in accordance with the Dharma. May your august power double so that this country will receive benefit and the law of king and the Buddha together forever prosper. "If he is hated and threatened with swords, sticks, tile-pieces or stones, I will manifest men and dispatch them to him in order to protect him." (LS p184) "We will do as you command. Certainly, World Honored One!" (LS p304) Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō

Day 8

Faith and Odaimoku
Myoho Ama Gozen Gohenji

Faith is nothing special. A wife loves her husband, the husband devotes his life to her, parents do not give away their children, and children do not desert their mother. Likewise, believe in the Lotus Sutra, the Buddha Sakya-muni, the Buddha Taho, all Buddhas, Bodhisattvas, and deities. Then chant Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō. This is faith.

Kishimosonjin Jurasetsumyo Day

Ebumi Daimyōjin

I respectfully dedicate all my merits now gathered to the thirty deities who protect the perfect school, especially Ebumi Daimyōjin, who oversees us this day. I extol the benevolent gods. By this I offer them the enjoyment of the Dharma. May your hidden virtue be revered within and your present function spread without. May you protect the True Dharma and purify the Buddhaland widely. May you enjoy the taste of the Dharma and each of you visit in turn. May you guard the clergy and followers and allow me to practice in accordance with the Dharma. May your august power double so that this country will receive benefit and the law of king and the Buddha together forever prosper. "If he is hated and threatened with swords, sticks, tile-pieces or stones, I will manifest men and dispatch them to him in order to protect him." (LS p184) "We will do as you command. Certainly, World Honored One!" (LS p304) Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō

Day 9

Great Compassion of the Buddha
Kanjin Honzon Sho

When the sun shines bright in the sky, everything is made clearly visible on the earth. In the same manner, when one knows the teachings of the Lotus Sutra, one will understand the meaning of the occurrences in the world. For the sake of those who live in the Latter Age of the Declining Law, who are too infantile to understand the Lotus of the Perfect Truth, and who are ignorant of the treasure of the truth of the Three Thousand Existences in One Thought, the Eternal Buddha will hang the treasure of the five characters Myo-Ho-Ren-Ge-Kyo around people's necks. The four great Bodhisattvas, who are apostles, will protect the keepers of the five characters, as T'ai Kung-wang and the Duke of Chou supported the young ruler Chen-wang, or as the four elders attended Emperor Hui-ti in China.

Kifune Daimyōjin

I respectfully dedicate all my merits now gathered to the thirty deities who protect the perfect school, especially Kifune Daimyōjin, who oversees us this day. I extol the benevolent gods. By this I offer them the enjoyment of the Dharma. May your hidden virtue be revered within and your present function spread without. May you protect the True Dharma and purify the Buddhaland widely. May you enjoy the taste of the Dharma and each of you visit in turn. May you guard the clergy and followers and allow me to practice in accordance with the Dharma. May your august power double so that this country will receive benefit and the law of king and the Buddha together forever prosper. "If he is hated and threatened with swords, sticks, tile-pieces or stones, I will manifest men and dispatch them to him in order to protect him." (LS p184) "We will do as you command. Certainly, World Honored One!" (LS p304) Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō

Day 22

More Valuable Than Appears
Ueno-no-Ama Gozen Go-henji

Although the Lotus Sutra consists of only 8 fascicles, it is as valuable as reading 16 fascicles, because it is the teachings expounded by both Sakyamuni and Taho Buddhas. These 16 fascicles are also as precious as innumerable fascicles because they were verified by innumerable Buddhas all over the universe. In other words, a character of the Lotus Sutra is as valuable as two characters because it was attested by the two Buddhas, Sakyamuni and Taho; it is as precious as numerous characters because it was verified by numerous Buddhas all over the universe. Just as treasures produced by the wish-fulfilling gem are as precious as those produced by numerous gems, the merit of one character of the Lotus Sutra is as valuable as those of numerous characters.

Inari Daimyōjin

I respectfully dedicate all my merits now gathered to the thirty deities who protect the perfect school, especially Inari Daimyōjin, who oversees us this day. I extol the benevolent gods. By this I offer them the enjoyment of the Dharma. May your hidden virtue be revered within and your present function spread without. May you protect the True Dharma and purify the Buddhaland widely. May you enjoy the taste of the Dharma and each of you visit in turn. May you guard the clergy and followers and allow me to practice in accordance with the Dharma. May your august power double so that this country will receive benefit and the law of king and the Buddha together forever prosper. "If he is hated and threatened with swords, sticks, tile-pieces or stones, I will manifest men and dispatch them to him in order to protect him." (LS p184) "We will do as you command. Certainly, World Honored One!" (LS p304) Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō

Day 21

Protection by the Buddhas

Ueno-no-Ama Gozen Go-henji

Candlelight brightens the darkness. Even dirty water reflects the moonlight beautifully. In this world nothing is brighter than the sun and moon. Nothing is nobler than the lotus flowers. As the Lotus Sutra is like the sun and moon and the lotus flowers, it is called the Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wonderful Dharma. I, Nichiren, am also like the sun and moon and the lotus flowers. If you truly believe in the Lotus Sutra, you will be rewarded and protected by the Buddhas.

Hachiōji Gongen

I respectfully dedicate all my merits now gathered to the thirty deities who protect the perfect school, especially Hachiōji Gongen, who oversees us this day. I extol the benevolent gods. By this I offer them the enjoyment of the Dharma. May your hidden virtue be revered within and your present function spread without. May you protect the True Dharma and purify the Buddhaland widely. May you enjoy the taste of the Dharma and each of you visit in turn. May you guard the clergy and followers and allow me to practice in accordance with the Dharma. May your august power double so that this country will receive benefit and the law of king and the Buddha together forever prosper. “If he is hated and threatened with swords, sticks, tile-pieces or stones, I will manifest men and dispatch them to him in order to protect him.” (LS p184) “We will do as you command. Certainly, World Honored One!” (LS p304) Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō

Day 10

Endowed by the Merits of the Buddha

Kanjin Honzon Sho

All the good deeds and virtues of the Buddha Sakyamuni are manifested in the title of the Lotus Sutra, that is, in the five characters: Myō Hō Ren Ge Kyō. However sinful we may be, we shall be naturally endowed with all the deeds and virtues of the Buddha if we adhere to these five characters.

Amaterasu Ōmikami

I respectfully dedicate all my merits now gathered to the thirty deities who protect the perfect school, especially Amaterasu Ōmikami, who oversees us this day. I extol the benevolent gods. By this I offer them the enjoyment of the Dharma. May your hidden virtue be revered within and your present function spread without. May you protect the True Dharma and purify the Buddhaland widely. May you enjoy the taste of the Dharma and each of you visit in turn. May you guard the clergy and followers and allow me to practice in accordance with the Dharma. May your august power double so that this country will receive benefit and the law of king and the Buddha together forever prosper. “If he is hated and threatened with swords, sticks, tile-pieces or stones, I will manifest men and dispatch them to him in order to protect him.” (LS p184) “We will do as you command. Certainly, World Honored One!” (LS p304) Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō

Day 11

Awakening of the Buddha Nature
Hokke Shoshin Jobutsu Sho

A singing bird in a cage attracts uncaged birds, and the sight of these uncaged birds will make the caged bird want to be free. Likewise, the chanting of Odaimoku will bring out the Buddha-nature within ourselves. The Buddha-nature of Bonten and Taishaku will be summoned by the chanting and will protect the chanter. The Buddha-nature of Buddhas and Bodhisattvas will be pleased to be summoned. For attaining Buddhahood quickly, one must lay down the banner of arrogance, cast away the club of prejudice, and chant Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō.

Hachiman Daimyōjin

I respectfully dedicate all my merits now gathered to the thirty deities who protect the perfect school, especially Hachiman Daimyōjin, who oversees us this day. I extol the benevolent gods. By this I offer them the enjoyment of the Dharma. May your hidden virtue be revered within and your present function spread without. May you protect the True Dharma and purify the Buddhaland widely. May you enjoy the taste of the Dharma and each of you visit in turn. May you guard the clergy and followers and allow me to practice in accordance with the Dharma. May your august power double so that this country will receive benefit and the law of king and the Buddha together forever prosper. “If he is hated and threatened with swords, sticks, tile-pieces or stones, I will manifest men and dispatch them to him in order to protect him.” (LS p184) “We will do as you command. Certainly, World Honored One!” (LS p304) Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō

Day 20

Buddhahood is Certain
Ueno-no-Ama Gozen Go-henji

It is said that the merit of all the Buddhist scriptures (except the Lotus Sutra) is that men can become Buddhas after they have done good deeds, which means that attainment of Buddhahood remains uncertain. In the case of the Lotus Sutra, when one touches it, one’s hands immediately become Buddhas, and when one chants it, one’s mouth instantaneously becomes a Buddha.

Kyakujin Gongen

I respectfully dedicate all my merits now gathered to the thirty deities who protect the perfect school, especially Kyakujin Gongen, who oversees us this day. I extol the benevolent gods. By this I offer them the enjoyment of the Dharma. May your hidden virtue be revered within and your present function spread without. May you protect the True Dharma and purify the Buddhaland widely. May you enjoy the taste of the Dharma and each of you visit in turn. May you guard the clergy and followers and allow me to practice in accordance with the Dharma. May your august power double so that this country will receive benefit and the law of king and the Buddha together forever prosper. “If he is hated and threatened with swords, sticks, tile-pieces or stones, I will manifest men and dispatch them to him in order to protect him.” (LS p184) “We will do as you command. Certainly, World Honored One!” (LS p304) Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō

Day 19

*Spirit of the Buddha Enters Our Mind
Selecting the Right Time*

Senji-Sho

It was not I, Nichiren, who made these three important predictions. I believe it was solely the spirit of Sakyamuni Buddha, entering my body, who made them. I am overwhelmed with joy. This is the important 3000 Existences Contained in One Thought doctrine of the Lotus Sutra. According to it, the mind of every person is equipped with the seed of Buddhahood, which could grow to blossom by upholding the right faith. As a result, their mind could function like that of the Buddha. This is what happened to me, Nichiren, when I made these three predictions.

Shōshinji Gongen

I respectfully dedicate all my merits now gathered to the thirty deities who protect the perfect school, especially Shōshinji Gongen, who oversees us this day. I extol the benevolent gods. By this I offer them the enjoyment of the Dharma. May your hidden virtue be revered within and your present function spread without. May you protect the True Dharma and purify the Buddhaland widely. May you enjoy the taste of the Dharma and each of you visit in turn. May you guard the clergy and followers and allow me to practice in accordance with the Dharma. May your august power double so that this country will receive benefit and the law of king and the Buddha together forever prosper. “If he is hated and threatened with swords, sticks, tile-pieces or stones, I will manifest men and dispatch them to him in order to protect him.” (LS p184) “We will do as you command. Certainly, World Honored One!” (LS p304) Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō

Day 12

*Tears for the Sutra
Shoho Jisso Sho*

Tears roll down when I think of the great hardship which I have to endure today, but I cannot stop the tears of joy when I think of obtaining Buddhahood in the future. Birds and insects cry without shedding tears. Nichiren does not cry but tears keep falling. These tears are shed not for worldly matters. They are solely for the sake of the Lotus Sutra. Therefore, they could be said to be tears of nectar.

Kamo Daimyōjin

I respectfully dedicate all my merits now gathered to the thirty deities who protect the perfect school, especially Kamo Daimyōjin, who oversees us this day. I extol the benevolent gods. By this I offer them the enjoyment of the Dharma. May your hidden virtue be revered within and your present function spread without. May you protect the True Dharma and purify the Buddhaland widely. May you enjoy the taste of the Dharma and each of you visit in turn. May you guard the clergy and followers and allow me to practice in accordance with the Dharma. May your august power double so that this country will receive benefit and the law of king and the Buddha together forever prosper. “If he is hated and threatened with swords, sticks, tile-pieces or stones, I will manifest men and dispatch them to him in order to protect him.” (LS p184) “We will do as you command. Certainly, World Honored One!” (LS p304) Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō

Day 13

*The Spread of the Dharma
Selecting the Right Time*

Senji-Sho

Rivers come together to form an Ocean. Particles of dust accumulate to become Mt. Sumeru. When I, Nichiren, began having faith in the Lotus Sutra, it was like a drop of water or a particle of dust in Japan. However, when the sutra is chanted and transmitted to two, three, ten, a million and billions of people, it will grow to be a Mt. Sumeru of perfect enlightenment or the great ocean of Nirvana. There is no way other than this to reach Buddhahood.

Matsunō Daimyōjin

I respectfully dedicate all my merits now gathered to the thirty deities who protect the perfect school, especially Matsunō Daimyōjin, who oversees us this day. I extol the benevolent gods. By this I offer them the enjoyment of the Dharma. May your hidden virtue be revered within and your present function spread without. May you protect the True Dharma and purify the Buddhaland widely. May you enjoy the taste of the Dharma and each of you visit in turn. May you guard the clergy and followers and allow me to practice in accordance with the Dharma. May your august power double so that this country will receive benefit and the law of king and the Buddha together forever prosper. “If he is hated and threatened with swords, sticks, tile-pieces or stones, I will manifest men and dispatch them to him in order to protect him.” (LS p184) “We will do as you command. Certainly, World Honored One!” (LS p304) Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō

Day 18

Three Great Vows
Kaimoku Sho

To desert the teaching of the Lotus Sutra denotes falling into hell. I have made a vow: Even if someone says that he would make me the ruler of Japan if I give up the Lotus Sutra and rely upon the Kanmuryojukyo – Sutra of Meditation on the Buddha of Infinite Life, for my salvation in the next life, or even if someone threatens me saying that he will execute my parents if I do not say “Namu Amida Butsu,” and even if many great difficulties fall upon me, I will not submit to them until a man of wisdom defeats me by reason. Other difficulties are like dust in the wind. I will never break my vow that I shall become a pillar of Japan. I shall become the eyes of Japan, and I shall become the great vessel of Japan.

Kishimosonjin Jurasetsumyo Day

Ko-Hiei Daimyōjin

I respectfully dedicate all my merits now gathered to the thirty deities who protect the perfect school, especially Ko-Hiei Daimyōjin, who oversees us this day. I extol the benevolent gods. By this I offer them the enjoyment of the Dharma. May your hidden virtue be revered within and your present function spread without. May you protect the True Dharma and purify the Buddhaland widely. May you enjoy the taste of the Dharma and each of you visit in turn. May you guard the clergy and followers and allow me to practice in accordance with the Dharma. May your august power double so that this country will receive benefit and the law of king and the Buddha together forever prosper. “If he is hated and threatened with swords, sticks, tile-pieces or stones, I will manifest men and dispatch them to him in order to protect him.” (LS p184) “We will do as you command. Certainly, World Honored One!” (LS p304) Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō

Day 17

Practice in Action, Voice, and Spirit

Tsuchi-Ro Goshō

Tomorrow, I Nichiren will be exiled to Sado Island. This cold evening, I am thinking of you in the cold dungeon. My thought is that you have read and practiced the Lotus Sutra with your heart and action, which would save your parents, brothers, sisters, relatives, ancestors, and everyone around you. Other people read the sutra vocally without feeling in their hearts. Even though they might read it with their heart, they do not experience it as the sutra teaches. Compared with them, you are very precious since you are practicing the sutra in your actions, voice, and spirit.

Ō-Hiei Daimyōjin

I respectfully dedicate all my merits now gathered to the thirty deities who protect the perfect school, especially Ō-Hiei Daimyōjin, who oversees us this day. I extol the benevolent gods. By this I offer them the enjoyment of the Dharma. May your hidden virtue be revered within and your present function spread without. May you protect the True Dharma and purify the Buddhaland widely. May you enjoy the taste of the Dharma and each of you visit in turn. May you guard the clergy and followers and allow me to practice in accordance with the Dharma. May your august power double so that this country will receive benefit and the law of king and the Buddha together forever prosper. “If he is hated and threatened with swords, sticks, tile-pieces or stones, I will manifest men and dispatch them to him in order to protect him.” (LS p184) “We will do as you command. Certainly, World Honored One!” (LS p304) *Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō*

Day 14

Buddha and Hell

Omonsu Dono Nyobo Gohenji

Suppose we ask where the Buddha is, and where hell is. Some sutras state that hell is below the earth, while others state that the Pure Land of the Buddhas is in the west. But the explicit truth is that both hell and Buddha exist within five feet of our bodies. It probably can be said that hell exists in the mind when one despises their father or neglects their mother. As the seed of the lotus brings forth its root and flower, we have the Buddha in our minds.

Ōhara Daimyōjin

I respectfully dedicate all my merits now gathered to the thirty deities who protect the perfect school, especially Ōhara Daimyōjin, who oversees us this day. I extol the benevolent gods. By this I offer them the enjoyment of the Dharma. May your hidden virtue be revered within and your present function spread without. May you protect the True Dharma and purify the Buddhaland widely. May you enjoy the taste of the Dharma and each of you visit in turn. May you guard the clergy and followers and allow me to practice in accordance with the Dharma. May your august power double so that this country will receive benefit and the law of king and the Buddha together forever prosper. “If he is hated and threatened with swords, sticks, tile-pieces or stones, I will manifest men and dispatch them to him in order to protect him.” (LS p184) “We will do as you command. Certainly, World Honored One!” (LS p304) *Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō*

Day 15

Showing Gratitude
Kaimoku Sho

To be filial (ko) means to be high (ko); heaven is high but not at all higher than being filial. To be filial (ko) also means to be deep (ko); the earth is deep but not any deeper than being filial. Both sages and wise men come from filial families. How much more should students of Buddhism realize the favors they receive and show gratitude for them? Disciples of the Buddha should not fail to feel grateful for the favors received from parents, people, the sovereign of the nation, and Buddha. Show gratitude to them.

Kasuga Daimyōjin

I respectfully dedicate all my merits now gathered to the thirty deities who protect the perfect school, especially Kasuga Daimyōjin, who oversees us this day. I extol the benevolent gods. By this I offer them the enjoyment of the Dharma. May your hidden virtue be revered within and your present function spread without. May you protect the True Dharma and purify the Buddhaland widely. May you enjoy the taste of the Dharma and each of you visit in turn. May you guard the clergy and followers and allow me to practice in accordance with the Dharma. May your august power double so that this country will receive benefit and the law of king and the Buddha together forever prosper. “If he is hated and threatened with swords, sticks, tile-pieces or stones, I will manifest men and dispatch them to him in order to protect him.” (LS p184) “We will do as you command. Certainly, World Honored One!” (LS p304) Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō

Day 16

Repentance
Konichi Bo Goshō

A tiny needle sinks into the water. Rain falls – it cannot float in the air. These are natural laws. A person who kills a tiny ant falls into hell; thus, a person who kills a human being falls into hell. However, a huge rock can float on water if it is placed on a ship. A raging fire can be extinguished by the power of water. Without repentance, even a small sin can make a man fall into hell. On the other hand, with sincere repentance, even great sins can be erased.

Hirano Daimyōjin

I respectfully dedicate all my merits now gathered to the thirty deities who protect the perfect school, especially Hirano Daimyōjin, who oversees us this day. I extol the benevolent gods. By this I offer them the enjoyment of the Dharma. May your hidden virtue be revered within and your present function spread without. May you protect the True Dharma and purify the Buddhaland widely. May you enjoy the taste of the Dharma and each of you visit in turn. May you guard the clergy and followers and allow me to practice in accordance with the Dharma. May your august power double so that this country will receive benefit and the law of king and the Buddha together forever prosper. “If he is hated and threatened with swords, sticks, tile-pieces or stones, I will manifest men and dispatch them to him in order to protect him.” (LS p184) “We will do as you command. Certainly, World Honored One!” (LS p304) Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō