

## “Questions and Answers on the Temple Issue”

Q78: How do Nichiren Shoshu and the SGI differ with regard to their views of equality, the heritage of the Law and the Gohonzon? (pp.13-16)

The difference between the Soka Gakkai International and Nichiren Shoshu clearly can be seen in at least four key areas:

- 1) View of Equality** The Lotus Sutra is a teaching of absolute equality - it affirms that all people, regardless of station, gender or background, are potentially Buddhas. Nichiren Daishonin reaffirms this in many places throughout his writings. In a letter to a lay believer he wrote: *There should be no discrimination among those who propagate the five characters of Myoho-enge-kyo in the Latter Day of the Law, be they men or women. (MW-I, 93)*
- 2) View of the Gohonzon** Nichiren Daishonin clearly indicates in the Gosho that the Gohonzon is a manifestation of his life as an enlightened human being, and that it is no different from the enlightened potential within all ordinary people.
- 3) View of the "Heritage" of the Law** In his letter "[Heritage of the Ultimate Law of Life](#)," Nichiren Daishonin clearly describes and defines what it means to receive the "heritage" or "lifeblood" of faith in his Buddhism: *Shakyamuni, who attained enlightenment countless aeons ago, the Lotus Sutra which leads all people to Buddhahood, and we ordinary human beings are in no way different or separate from each other. Therefore, to chant Myoho-enge-kyo with this realization is to inherit the ultimate law of life and death. (MW-1, 22)*
- 4) Attitude and Behavior** The most essential difference lies in the realm of commitment and action taken toward the accomplishment of kosen-rufu and the people's happiness, toward securing a peaceful world based on the spread of the Daishonin's Buddhism.

Q79: Discuss the true significance of “eye-opening” in Nichiren Daishonin’s Buddhism. (pp. 20-22)

The significance of "eye-opening" lies in opening the eye of the Buddha within us - in other words, in recognizing and revealing the Buddha nature within us. To this end, Nichiren Daishonin stresses faith in the Lotus Sutra, that is, the Gohonzon. The priesthood insists that the high priest must perform an eye-opening ceremony over the Gohonzon to empower it. However, the ritual known as the eye-opening ceremony is nothing more than a formality passed down from provisional, esoteric Buddhism. It has no relation to the essential spirit or Practice of the Daishonin's Buddhism.

