

No. 13 (January 1, 2010)

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

January 1, 2010

According to the Chinese calendar, this is the Year of the Tiger and the Eighth Star which denotes Mountain Soil, Early Spring. According to these symbols, we will still have trouble with the economy. This is the year that we need some change for prosperity in the next year, because the Eighth Star also symbolizes the northeast, early spring, and before the day breaks. Be careful if you move your house or business toward either the northeast or southwest.

New Year's Greeting Be Happy by Chanting O'Daimoku!

By Bishop Shokai Kanai

2010, HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Be happy throughout 2010 by chanting "Namu Myo-ho Ren-ge Kyo" wherever you are whatever you are doing! Regardless of your faith, you can chant it!

We, Nichiren Buddhists, hold the morning and/or evening service at their home every day. Besides the services, I chant the O'daimoku all day long. I chant it while changing clothing, going up and down the stairways, walking, tidying up the rooms, cooking, dish washing, etc. Furthermore I have also been trying to chant "Namu Myo-ho Ren-ge Kyo" for one hour sharp with one candle light and incense in the evening for one hundred days. But I excuse myself to do so while I am out of town. It will be finished pretty soon. It becomes more habitual, and I appreciate that I have time to do so.

During the first half hour I chant it for cleansing my ordinary sins and slandering the Lotus Sutra in the past. Nichiren Buddhists do not ask to erase his or her sins to gods or Buddha, rather we repent and do good deeds to erase the sins. When we chant "Namu Myo-ho Ren-ge Kyo", it is a vow to follow the wonderful laws, and also it is Buddha's and deities' vows to protect the practitioners of the Lotus Sutra.

During the last half, I pray various prayers for members and followers who requested me to pray and also pray for all mankind to be saved by the power of the Wonderful Dharma, "Myo-ho." And I conclude the chanting with gratitude for the day.

The "Ho" means the universal laws, Buddha's teachings, constitution of a country, rules in your family, and also traffic rules. Even small children know to stop at the red signal. By following the rules and laws, we are safe and protected. When you chant the

Sacred Title of the Lotus Sutra, you vow to follow the rules and Buddha Dharma even if you do not know the meaning of the O'daimoku. Therefore, when you continuously chant the O'daimoku, you will naturally follow righteousness without knowing, and you will be protected and be happy, and then the people around you will become happy, too.

If you want to improve yourself, it does not matter whether you are a Nichiren Buddhist or not, try to chant it all day long, whatever you are doing and wherever you are for a month. You will notice something change within you.

My Future Plans

By Rev. Shoda Douglas Kanai

With the completion of the largest construction complex in Las Vegas, I can now relax and concentrate on studying Japanese.

My goal is to be able to comprehend and learn the vast number of Kanji, especially Chinese characters so that I can be able to read the Lotus Sutra *shindoku*. This is a daunting task ahead of me. At the very least, if I learn enough characters I can read *Yohon*. I am doing this as training so that by next year 2011, I can be ready for *aryagyō*. Physically and mentally this process will be draining (tired, no sleep in *aryagyō*, cold, hungry). I must prepare my body and mind so that I can withstand the rigors of that will be demanded of me.

After completion, I plan to return to the US and continue the propagation my father has started. It is time now for me to step in and assist with ministerial duties and spread the teaching of St. Nichiren and the Lotus Sutra.

January/February, 2010