

SGI-UK Study Department
Introductory Study Programme
Buddhism equals daily life

NOTES

Aims of the meeting

This topic represents a great opportunity to share how realistic, down to earth and practical Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism is, while at the very same time enabling such a high life state. In daily life human beings encounter many contradictions, and pressures which may otherwise lead us to lower life states. In this session perhaps it may be possible to achieve these aims:

- 1 It should be possible in this session to enable everyone to get a sense that whatever may occur in daily life IS fuel for revealing Buddhahood
- 2 Indeed that it is ONLY in the midst of our daily reality that we can reveal Buddhahood; attaining our desires enables us to break free from our delusion and ignorance
- 3 That doing this is both a source of personal victory and our contribution to sustaining a peaceful world; our desires turn out never to be completely selfish but become a desire for the happiness of others

Like some of the other topics, this one particularly lends itself to bringing in other basic life principles like the mutual possession of the 10 worlds, cause and effect, karma, self and environment, and human revolution.

Other Materials

The topic draws particularly from *On Attaining Buddhahood* (the very first writing in WND). In *The Three Kinds of Treasure* [WND p.852] Nichiren Daishonin emphasises the importance of our behaviour or conduct in daily life as human beings. In *Reply to a Believer*, the Daishonin, talking about the equivalent of the work relationship with an employer, quotes from a commentary on the Lotus Sutra which says, "No worldly affairs of life or work are ever contrary to the true reality" [WND p. 905]. And the material for topic 9 also refers directly to *The Gift of Rice*. The relevant passage is on page 1126 of WND, however the point is so important it is also provided here: "...they relate secular matters in terms of Buddhism, whereas the Lotus Sutra explains that in the end secular matters are the entirety of Buddhism". In the material this appears in the metaphor about looking through a pair of glasses. In *The Strategy of the Lotus Sutra*, Nichiren Daishonin talks about texts of the secular world, government, or occupations that sustain life, in all cases "conforming to the correct Law" [WND p. 1000].

There is also material in *Faith into Action* (a compilation of Sensei's guidances under topics). See page 30, 31, 133, and 134 especially.