

**SJI-UK Study Department
Introductory Study Programme**

Cause and Effect and the Nine Consciousnesses

NOTES

Aims of the meeting

This topic is not an easy one! However, if our new members get even a small grasp of it at the start of their practice it will assist them in establishing unshakeable faith in the power of their Buddhahood. Thorough preparation for the meeting is therefore crucial. We have focused on trying to communicate the 9 consciousnesses and we suggest that you might want to re-read what you have found previously about karma. The topic naturally lends itself to tackling karma, but we have not covered it in order to keep the material brief and focused.

We suggest aiming to communicate:

- The privilege it is to be able to create fresh new causes for Buddhahood which simultaneously carry with them the effects of that higher life condition
- That while there is the ongoing general causality, with Nam myoho rengo kyo we have a greater causality available to us
- Chanting opens the possibility of changing our karma for the better, becoming happier in all areas of our lives i.e. Nam-myoho-rengo-kyo, the 9th consciousness, purifies the 8th; therefore we can purify and lighten our karma
- Having access to the 9th consciousness is a great human freedom. This is one reason for the existence of the SGI movement, so that more and more people can use this great `freedom from the universe`

Other Materials

In *The Heritage of the Ultimate Law of Life* [WND p. 216] Nichiren Daishonin quotes from T'ien-t'ai, "That one should understand that living beings and their environments, and the causes and effects at work within them, are all the Law of *rengo* (the lotus)... Thus it is clear that, where life and death exist, cause and effect, or the Law of the lotus, is at work."

In *Hell is the Land of Tranquil Light* [WND p. 458], writing to the wife of a strong follower who had died, the Daishonin exhorts her to, "Base your mind on the ninth consciousness and carry out your practice in the six consciousnesses".

The Real Aspect of the Gohonzon [WND p. 832], at the point where it says, "Never seek this Gohonzon outside yourself", goes on to say, "The body is the palace of the ninth consciousness, the unchanging reality that reigns over all of life's functions."

Richard Causton's *The Buddha in Daily Life* has excellent clear sections on the Ten Factors, as well as the Nine Consciousnesses, including a diagram. You may wish to consider in particular pages 154, 170/1, 200.