

September 2020 *Living Buddhism*, pp. 50–59
“THE BUDDHISM OF THE SUN: ILLUMINATING THE WORLD” [56]
TOWARD A CENTURY OF HEALTH:
THE WISDOM FOR LEADING A LONG LIFE OF GOOD FORTUNE AND BENEFIT, PART 4
JOY IN LIFE AND DEATH—THE BOUNDLESS LIFE STATE ATTAINED BY
DEDICATING OURSELVES TO OUR ETERNAL MISSION

POINTS TO KEEP IN MIND REGARDING BUDDHIST STUDY IN THE SGI

- 1) Our understanding of Nichiren Buddhism has deepened significantly since the 1991 priesthood issue—culminating in doctrinal clarifications in 2014. What Nichiren Shoshu teaches is completely different from the teachings of Nichiren Daishonin, the foundation of SGI study.
- 2) SGI is a “living” religion with a “living” philosophy, meaning that the application of the core, unchanging principles of Buddhism is always adapting to changing times and circumstances.
- 3) Even for longtime members, it is important to continue studying current materials. Our mentor’s explanations of Nichiren’s writings in his monthly lectures represent this “living” Buddhism.

GOALS FOR PRESENTERS

- 1) Let’s learn together: This is the recommended approach for presenting President Ikeda’s lectures. Rather than lecturing on his lectures, the goal of the monthly presentations is to study the material together with fellow members. With this in mind, presenters should aim to read the material several times and share 2 or 3 key points that inspire them, rather than attempting to cover every point.
- 2) Let’s unite with the heart of our mentor: Sensei strives to encourage members through his lectures, just as Nichiren did through his writings. Let’s strive to convey this spirit as we study with fellow members and apply these teachings in our daily lives, efforts in society and advancement of kosen-rufu.

BASIC POINTS FOR PRESENTING “THE BUDDHISM OF THE SUN” LECTURES

- ⇒ Read the full lecture several times.
- ⇒ Read the footnotes, as they often provide additional background information. (LB, p. 59)
- ⇒ Chant abundant daimoku before your presentation to grasp and convey Sensei’s heart.
- ⇒ During the presentation, have someone read aloud key Gosho excerpts and your selected passages from the lecture. Ensure the reader has the opportunity to prepare well ahead of time.
- ⇒ Encourage participants to also read the lecture and find their own points of inspiration.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

 **Arnold Toynbee (Sept 2020 LB, pp. 51–52)**

- *Choose Life* (I. B. Tauris edition), pp. 248–56
- *The New Human Revolution*, vol. 16, pp. 99–177

 **Originally inherent nature of birth and death (theme throughout the lecture)**

- *The Wisdom of the Lotus Sutra*, vol. 4, pp. 291–95

 **A Buddha in life and in death (LB, 53–54); four virtues (LB, 55–56, 58); annihilation or permanence (LB, 57)**

- NHR-26, 60–66
- The Buddhism of the Sun [27] (April 2018 LB, 40–42)
- The Teachings for Victory [66] (July 2015 LB, 34–35)

 **Offering prayers for the deceased (LB, 54)**

- NHR-25, 175–79; 213–15
- *The Wisdom for Creating Happiness and Peace*, Part 1, pp. 141–43

 **Joy in both life and death (LB, 54)**

- NHR-24, 43–45
- *The Wisdom for Creating Happiness and Peace*, Part 1, pp. 129–35

 **Constantly reborn with our teachers (LB, 58)**

- The Buddhism of the Sun [40] (May 2019 LB, 50–53)
- NHR-17, 13–16
- NHR-19, 183–84