

July 2022 *Living Buddhism*, pp. 53–62

“THE BUDDHISM OF THE SUN: ILLUMINATING THE WORLD” [78]

ADVANCING ON THE GREAT PATH OF KOSEN-RUFU WITH UNWAVERING LIFELONG COURAGE

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. (July 2022 LB, 61–62)
- ⇒ Chant abundant daimoku before your presentation to grasp and convey Sensei’s heart.
- ⇒ During the presentation, have someone read aloud key Goshō 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



Starting from **“Words That Epitomize Nichiren...” (July LB, 56)**

- Sensei’s Lecture on “The Essentials for Attaining Buddhahood,” *The Hope-filled Teachings*, pp. 183–99
- “Still I am not discouraged...”
 - *The Hope-filled Teachings*, pp. 196–98
 - *SGI President Ikeda’s Lecture Series: The Opening of the Eyes*, pp. 170–72
- “Exerting themselves bravely and vigorously”
 - *The Heart of the Lotus Sutra*, pp. 43–45



Starting from **“The Passion and Commitment...” (July LB, 57)**

- “Both teacher and followers will...”
 - *Hope-filled Teachings*, 193–94



Starting from **“If You Give Your All to Faith...” (July LB, 58)**

- *The New Human Revolution*, vol. 4, pp. 225–27



Starting from **“Proudly Upholding the Lotus Sutra...” (July LB, 59)**

- Detailed background on “Establishing the Correct Teaching...,” NHR-4, 234–50
- “A blue fly, if it clings...”
 - NHR-25, 248–50



Starting from **“Noble Lives Dedicated to...” (July LB, 61)**

- Dialogue in Buddhism: *A New Way Forward*, pp. 40–44