

Trouble can nourish growth

The only place where a lotus can bloom and grow thick, healthy roots is in the mud and slime of a lotus pond. If the lotus started to hate its dirty pond and snuck away to some school swimming pool, how could it ever bloom? What would happen to its roots? People may complain of all kinds of trouble in life, but it's because of such difficulties that you can attain your human revolution. This is the principle of changing poison into medicine. If you clean the mud out of the pond and pave it with concrete, what will happen to the lotus? It will never bloom. The pond represents our problems-filled world, the lotus is you and the mud is your problems – the indispensable nourishment for your human revolution. No matter how muddy or dirty the pond is, the lotus can still bloom beautifully.

Therefore, in order to attain your human revolution, you have to stay in the pond and struggle to grow right in that mud. In other words, without all kinds of difficulties and problems in life, you can't really grow as a human being. Your effort to overcome those difficulties makes you grow. But whatever you do to overcome them should be based on sincere "diamoku to the Gohonzon" (chanting). Otherwise you will neither change your karma nor achieve any lasting success. In order to change your karma you need to bring forth strong vitality and establish an unshakable self amid this troubled, mundane world. With consistent effort you can bring the beautiful flower of your human revolution to bloom.

You might still feel that your particular pond is so deep and dirty that you'll never be able to reach the surface. Maybe the seed of your human revolution is buried deeper than those of other people. However, the deeper and dirtier the pond, the larger and the more beautiful the lotus flower when it blooms. Don't ever run away again. Instead chant a lot of Diamoku and pledge to become an individual who can really contribute to world peace (kosen rufu). Always remember the principle of the lotus flower!