# ניצ'ירן

#### בודהיזם

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מהן היא כת <mark>ניצ'ירן</mark> (**Nichiren**) מהמאה ה- 13, הקרויה כך על שם מייסדה, שהטיפה לאמונה חסרת פשרות בלוטוס-סוטרה, וניסתה **ניצ'ירן** להפוך את האמונה הבלעדית בלוטוס-סוטרה לדת ...

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www.tmja.org.il ➤ ונואר 2005 < 2005 < 2005 < תערוכות שהיו < ... < Translate this page הוקוסאי היה חסיד נאמן של כת <mark>ניצ'ירן</mark> (**Nichiren**) הבודהיסטית. הוא סגד במיוחד לבודהיסאטווה מיוקן ... שהוא התגלמות כוכב הצפון ובשנת 1796 החל להשתמש בשם הוקוסאי ...

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ڹؚڿؚؠڔڹ

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<mark>نىچورىن</mark> - ويكىيديا، دانتىنامە آزاد<mark>ئىچورىن</mark> (بە رًاينى: 日蓮 Nichiren ) بنيان گذار بوداگرايى **ئىچىرن** يكى از بزرگترين فرقەھاى آيين بودايى رًاينى است.

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日蓮系諸宗派 (به زاينی: 日蓮宗, Nichirenkyo) يا فرقه <mark>نيچرين</mark> (به زاينی: 旧蓮宗، Nichirenkyo) مكتب بودای زاينی و يكی از بزرگترين ...

# Νιχίρεν

#### Ιαπωνική αισθητική

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# Nichiren

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Nichiren (日蓮) (April 6,  $1222^{[1]}$  – November 21, 1282) was a Buddhist monk who lived during the Kamakura period (1185–1333) in Japan. Nichiren taught devotion to the Lotus Sutra (entitled Myōhō-Renge-Kyō in Japanese)— which contained Gautama Buddha's teachings towards the end of his life — as the exclusive means to attain enlightenment.  $^{[2][3][4]}$  Nichiren believed that this sutra contained the essence of all of Gautama Buddha's teachings related to the laws of cause and effect, karma, and leading all people without distinction to enlightenment. $^{[5][6][7][8][9][10]}$  This devotion to the sutra entails the chanting of *Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō* (referred to as *daimoku*) as the essential practice of the teaching. $^{[11]}$ 

Nichiren Buddhism includes various schools such as Nichiren Shōshū, Nichiren Shu and lay movements such as Risshō Kōsei Kai or Soka Gakkai , each claiming to be the only true follower of their founder, with their own interpretations of Nichiren's teachings. However, despite the differences between schools, all Nichiren sects share the fundamental practice of chanting daimoku.<sup>[11]</sup> While all Nichiren Buddhist schools regard him as a reincarnation of the Lotus Sutra's Bodhisattva Superior Practices,  $J\bar{o}gy\bar{o}$ *Bosatsu* (上行菩薩), some schools of Nichiren Buddhism's Nikkō lineages regard him as the actual Buddha of this age, or the Buddha of the Latter day of the Law and for all eternity.<sup>[12][13]</sup>

# Nichiren (日蓮)

A painting of Nichiren, kept at Kuon-ji Temple, Mt. Minobu. Mahayana, Tendai, Nichiren School Buddhism Personal Nationality Japanese April 6, 1222<sup>[1]</sup> Born November 21, 1282 (age 60) Died Senior posting **Based** in Japan Nichiren Shōnin, Nichiren Daishōnin, Title Nichiren Daibosatsu, Risshō

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# Life

#### Birth

Nichiren was born on February 16, 1222<sup>[14]</sup> in the village of Kominato (today part of the city of Kamogawa), Nagase District, Awa Province (within present-day Chiba Prefecture). Nichiren's father, a fisherman,<sup>[15]</sup> was Mikuni-no-Tayu Shigetada, also known as Nukina Shigetada Jiro (d. 1258) and his mother was Umegiku-nyo (d. 1267). On his birth, his parents named him *Zennichimaro* (善日麿) which has variously been translated into English as "Splendid Sun" and "Virtuous Sun Boy" among others.<sup>[16]</sup> The exact site of Nichiren's birth is believed to be submerged off the shore from present-day Kominato-zan Tanjō-ji (小湊山 誕生寺), a temple in Kominato that commemorates Nichiren's birth. In his own words, Nichiren stated that he was "the son of a chandala family who lived near the sea in Tojo in Awa Province, in the remote countryside of the eastern part of Japan."<sup>[17]</sup>

#### Education

Nichiren began his Buddhist study at a nearby temple of the Tendai school, Seichō-ji (清澄寺, also called Kiyosumi-dera), at age 11.<sup>[18]</sup> He was formally ordained at 16 and took the Buddhist name Zeshō-bō Renchō (Rencho meaning Lotus Growth). He left Seichō-ji shortly thereafter to study in Kamakura and several years later traveled to western Japan for more in-depth study in the Kyoto–Nara area, where Japan's major centers of Buddhist learning were located.<sup>[19][20]</sup> In 1233 he went to Kamakura, where he studied Amidism—a pietistic school that stressed salvation through the invocation of Amida (Amitābha), the Buddha of infinite compassion —under the guidance of a renowned master. After having persuaded himself that Amidism was not the true Buddhist doctrine, he passed to the study of Zen Buddhism, which had become popular in Kamakura and Kyōto. He then went to Mount Hiei, the cradle of Japanese Tendai Buddhism, where he found the original purity of the Tendai doctrine corrupted by the introduction and acceptance of other doctrines, especially Amidism and esoteric Buddhism.<sup>[21]</sup> To eliminate any possible doubts, Nichiren decided to spend some time at Mount Kōya, the centre of esoteric Buddhism, and also in Nara, Japan's ancient capital, where he studied the Ritsu sect, which emphasized strict monastic discipline and ordination. During this time, he became convinced of the pre-eminence of the Lotus Sutra and in 1253, returned to Seichoji.<sup>[22]</sup>

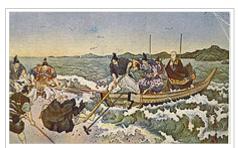
#### **Initial teaching**

On April 28, 1253, he expounded *Nam-Myōhō-Renge-Kyō* for the first time, marking his *Sho Tempōrin* (初転法 輪: "first turning the wheel of the Law"). With this, he proclaimed that devotion and practice based on the Lotus Sutra was the correct form of Buddhism for the current time. At the same time he changed his name to Nichiren, *nichi* (日) meaning "sun" and *ren* (蓮) meaning "lotus".<sup>[23]</sup> This choice, as Nichiren himself explained, was rooted in passages from the Lotus Sutra.<sup>[24]</sup>

After making his declaration, which all schools of Nichiren Buddhism regard as marking their foundation ( $\dot{\Xi}$  $\Rightarrow$ : *risshū*), Nichiren began propagating his teachings in Kamakura, then Japan's de facto capital since it was where the *shikken* (regent for the shogun) and shogun lived and the government was established. He gained a fairly large following there, consisting of both priests and laity. Many of his lay believers came from among the samurai class.

Among other things, in 1253 Nichiren predicted the Mongol invasions of Japan: a prediction which was validated in 1274. Nichiren viewed his teachings as a method of efficaciously preventing this and other disasters: that the best countermeasure against the degeneracy of the times and its associated disasters was through the activation of Buddha-nature by chanting and the other practices which he advocated.<sup>[25]</sup>

#### **Treatise (first remonstrance)**



When Nichiren is exiled in 1261, Nichirō wants to follow Nichiren; but Nichirō is forbidden to do so --Postcard artwork, circa 1920s.

starving.

Nichiren then engaged in writing, publishing various works including his *Risshō Ankoku Ron*<sup>[26][27][28]</sup> (立正安国論): "Treatise On Establishing the Correct Teaching for the Peace of the Land",<sup>[29]</sup> his first major treatise and the first of three remonstrations with government authorities. He felt that it was imperative for *the sovereign to recognize and accept the singly true and correct form of Buddhism* (i.e., 立正: *risshō*) as the only way to *achieve peace and prosperity for the land and its people and end their suffering* (i.e., 安国: *ankoku*). This "true and correct form of Buddhism", as Nichiren saw it, entailed regarding the Lotus Sutra as the fullest expression of the Buddha's teachings and putting those teachings into practice. Nichiren thought this could be achieved in Japan by withdrawing lay support so that the deviant monks would be forced to change their ways or revert to laymen to prevent

Based on prophecies made in several sutras,<sup>[30]</sup> Nichiren attributed the occurrence of the famines, disease, and natural disasters (especially drought, typhoons, and earthquakes) of his day to teachings of Buddhism no longer appropriate for the time.

Nichiren submitted his treatise in July 1260. Though it drew no official response, it prompted a severe backlash, especially from among priests of other Buddhist schools. Nichiren was harassed frequently, several times with force, and often had to change dwellings.

Nichiren was exiled to the Izu peninsula in 1261, and pardoned in 1263. He was ambushed and nearly killed at Komatsubara in Awa Province in November 1264.

#### Failed execution attempt

The following several years were marked by successful propagation activities in eastern Japan that generated more resentment among rival priests and government authorities. After one exchange with the influential priest, Ryōkan (良観), Nichiren was summoned for questioning by the authorities in September 1271. He used this as an opportunity to make his second government remonstration, this time to Hei no Saemon (平の左衛門, also called 平頼綱: Taira no Yoritsuna), a powerful police and military figure who issued the summons.

Two days later, on September 12, Hei no Saemon and a group of soldiers abducted Nichiren from his hut at Matsubagayatsu, Kamakura. Their intent was to arrest and behead him. According to Nichiren's account, an astronomical phenomenon — "a brilliant orb as bright as the moon" — over the seaside Tatsunokuchi execution grounds terrified Nichiren's executioners into inaction.<sup>[31]</sup> The incident is known as the Tatsunokuchi Persecution and regarded as a turning point in Nichiren's lifetime called *Hosshaku kenpon* (発迹顕本), translated as "casting off the transient and revealing the true," <sup>[32]</sup> or "Outgrowing the provisional and revealing the essential".<sup>[33]</sup>

#### Second exile

Unsure of what to do with Nichiren, Hei no Saemon decided to banish him to Sado, an island in the Japan Sea known for its particularly severe winters and a place of harsh exile.

This exile, Nichiren's second, lasted about three years and, though harsh and in the long term detrimental to his health, represents one of the most important and productive segments of his life. While on Sado, he won many devoted converts and wrote two of his most important doctrinal treatises, the *Kaimoku Shō* (開目抄: "On the Opening of the Eyes")<sup>[34]</sup> and the *Kanjin no Honzon Shō* (観心本尊抄: "The Object of Devotion for Observing the Mind")<sup>[26][35]</sup> as well as numerous letters and minor treatises whose content containing critical components of his teaching.



Konpon Ji Temple was built on Sado Island at the place where Nichiren lived during his exile.

#### Gohonzon

It was also during his exile on Sado, in 1272, that he inscribed the first *Gohonzon* (御本尊).<sup>[36]</sup> This mandala is a visual representation, in Chinese characters, of the Ceremony in the Air. This ceremony is described in the 11th (Treasure Tower) to 22nd (Entrustment) chapters of the Lotus Sutra. Within these chapters it is revealed that all persons can attain Buddhahood in this lifetime and Shakyamuni transfers the essence of the sutra to the Bodhisattvas of the Earth led by Bodhisattva Superior Practices (Jogyo), entrusting them with the propagation of the essence of the sutra in the Latter Day of the Law. For Nichiren, the Gohonzon embodies the eternal and intrinsic Law of Nam-Myoho-Renge-Kyo, which he identified as the ultimate Law permeating life and the universe.

#### **Return to Kamakura**

Nichiren was pardoned in February 1274 and returned to Kamakura in late March. He was again interviewed by Hei no Saemon, who now was interested in Nichiren's prediction of an invasion by the Mongols. Mongol messengers demanding Japan's fealty had frightened the authorities into believing that Nichiren's prophecy of foreign invasion would materialize (which it later did in October of that year; see Mongol Invasions of Japan). Nichiren, however, used the audience as yet another opportunity to remonstrate with the government.

#### **Retirement to Mt. Minobu**

His third remonstration also went unheeded, and Nichiren—following a Chinese adage that if a wise man remonstrates three times but is ignored, he should leave the country—decided to go into voluntary exile at Mt. Minobu (身延山) in 1274.

With the exception of a few short journeys, Nichiren spent the rest of his life at Minobu, where he and his disciples erected a temple, Kuon-ji (久遠寺), and he continued writing and training his disciples. Two of his works from this period are the *Senji Shō* (撰時抄: "The Selection of the Time")<sup>[37]</sup> and the *Hōon Shō* (報恩抄: "On Repaying Debts of Gratitude"),<sup>[38]</sup> which, along with his *Risshō Ankoku Ron* (立正安国論: "On Establishing the Correct Teaching for the Peace of the Land"), *Kaimoku Shō* ("The Opening of the Eyes"), and *Kanjin no Honzon Shō* ("The Object of Devotion for Observing the Mind"), constitute his Five Major Writings. He also inscribed numerous Gohonzon for bestowal upon specific disciples and lay believers. Many of these survive today in the repositories of Nichiren temples such as Taiseki-ji (大石寺) in Fujinomiya, Shizuoka Prefecture, which has a particularly large collection that is publicly aired once a year in April.



A Gohonzon used in Nichiren Buddhism

#### Death

Nichiren spent his final years writing, inscribing Gohonzon for his disciples and believers, and delivering sermons. In failing health, he was encouraged to travel to hot springs for their medicinal benefits. He left Minobu in the company of several disciples on September 8, 1282.

He arrived ten days later at the residence of Ikegami Munenaka, a lay believer who lived in what is now Ikegami, the site is marked by Ikegami Honmon-ji. On September 25 he delivered his last sermon on the *Risshō Ankoku Ron*, and on October 8 he appointed six senior disciples—Nisshō (日昭), Nichirō (日朗), Nikkō (日興), Nikō (日向), Nichiji (日持), and Nitchō (日頂)—to continue leading propagation of his teachings after his death. Nichiren Shoshu believe that Nichiren designated five senior priests, and one successor, Nikko.

On October 13, 1282, Nichiren died in the presence of many disciples and lay believers. His funeral and cremation took place the following day. His disciple Nikkō left Ikegami with Nichiren's ashes on October 21, reaching Minobu on October 25. Nichiren's original tomb is sited, as per his request, at Kuonji on Mt. Minobu.<sup>[39]</sup>

# **Development of Nichiren's teachings**

The Kamakura period of 13th century Japan, in which Nichiren was born - was characterised by natural disasters, internal strife and confusion within Mahayana schools about whether: "...*the world had further entered a period of decline*" referring to the Latter Day of the Law.<sup>[40]</sup> Nichiren attributed the turmoil in society to the invalid teachings of the Buddhist schools of his time, including the Tendai sect in which he was ordained: "It is better to be a leper who chants Nam-myōhō-renge-kyō than be a chief abbot of the Tendai school".<sup>[41]</sup> Examinations of such breaks and continuities have been useful in illuminating the sources of Nichiren's ideas

and to what extent Nichiren's thought is original or derivative of his parent tradition.<sup>[42]</sup> Setting out to declare his own teachings of Buddhism, Nichiren started at the age of 32 by denouncing all Mahayana schools of his time and by declaring the correct teaching as the Universal Dharma (Nam-Myöhō-Renge-Kyō) and chanting as the only path for personal and social salvation.<sup>[43][44]</sup> At the age of 51, Nichiren inscribed the Object of Veneration in Buddhism,<sup>[45]</sup> the Gohonzon, *"never before known"* as he described it.<sup>[46]</sup> Other contributions to Buddhism were the teaching of The Five Guides of Propagation,<sup>[47]</sup> The doctrine of the Three Great Secret Dharmas<sup>[48]</sup> and the teaching of The Three Proofs<sup>[49]</sup> for verification of the validity of Buddhist doctrines. There is a difference between Nichiren teachings and almost all schools of Mahayana Buddhism regarding the understanding of the Latter day of the Law, Mappō. Nichiren, on the other hand, believed that the teachings of the Lotus Sutra will flourish for all eternity, and that the Bodhisattvas of the Earth will propagate Buddhism in the future.<sup>[50][51][52][53]</sup>

Nichiren criticized other Buddhist schools for their manipulations of the populace for political and religious control. Citing Buddhist sutras and commentaries, Nichiren argued that the Buddhist teachings were being distorted for their own gain. Nichiren stated his criticism clearly, in his *Risshō Ankoku Ron*<sup>[27]</sup> (立正安国論): "Treatise On Establishing the Correct Teaching for the Peace of the Land",<sup>[54][55][56]</sup> his first major treatise and the first of three remonstrations with government authorities.

After Nichiren's death, his teachings were interpreted in different ways. As a result, Nichiren Buddhism encompasses several major branches and schools, each with its own doctrine and set of interpretations of Nichiren's teachings. See Nichiren Buddhism.

# Writings

Some Nichiren schools refer to the entirety of Nichiren's Buddhism as his "lifetime of teaching". Many of his writings still exist in his original hand, some as complete writings and some as fragments. Others survive as copies made by his immediate disciples. His existing works number over 700, including transcriptions of orally delivered lectures, letters of remonstration and illustrations.<sup>[57][58][59][60][61]</sup> Today's Nichiren schools can not agree however, which of his writings can be deemed authentic and which are apocryphal.<sup>[62]</sup> Nichiren declared that women



A section of the Risshō Ankoku Ron

could attain enlightenment,<sup>[63][64][65]</sup> therefore a great number of letters were addressed to female believers. Some schools within Nichiren Buddhism consider this to be a unique feature of Nichiren's teachings and have published separate volumes of those writings.<sup>[66]</sup>

In addition to treatises written in *kanbun* (漢文), a formal writing style modeled on classical Chinese that was the language of government and learning in contemporary Japan, Nichiren also wrote expositories and letters to disciples and lay followers in mixed-kanji–kana vernacular as well as letters in simple kana for believers who could not read the more-formal styles, particularly children. He is also known for his "kanbun", many of his writings preserved in the libraries of the empire had been lost at the end of the Boshin War.

Some of Nichiren's *kanbun* works, especially the *Risshō Ankoku Ron*, are considered exemplary of the *kanbun* style, while many of his letters show unusual empathy and understanding for the down-trodden of his day. Many of his most famous letters were to women believers, whom he often complimented for their in-depth questions about Buddhism while encouraging them in their efforts to attain enlightenment in this lifetime.

During the pre-World War II period the Japanese government ordered Nichiren sects to delete various passages

from his writing and prophecies which were considered by the military government as a challenge to the supremacy of the emperor.<sup>[67]</sup>

#### **Important writings**

The Five Major Writings that are common to all Nichiren Schools <sup>[68][69][70]</sup> are:

- On Establishing the Correct teaching for the Peace of the Land (Rissho Ankoku Ron) written between 1258-1260 CE.<sup>[71]</sup>
- The Opening of the Eyes (Kaimoku-sho) written in 1272 CE.
- The Object of Devotion for Observing the Mind (Kanjin-no Honzon-sho) written in 1273 CE.
- The Selection of the Time (Senji-sho) written in 1275 CE.
- On Repaying Debts of Gratitude (Ho'on-sho) written in 1276 CE.

Nichiren Shoshu and Soka Gakkai International (SGI) revere Ten Major Writings of Nichiren. These are the five listed above and:<sup>[70]</sup>

- On Chanting the Daimoku of the Lotus Sutra (Sho-hokke Daimoku-sho) Written in 1260 CE.
- On Taking the Essence of the Lotus Sutra (Hokke Shuyo-sho) written in 1274 CE.
- On the Four Stages of Faith and the Five Stages of Practice (Shishin Gohon-sho) written in 1277 CE.
- Letter to Shimoyama (Shimoyama Gosho-soku) written in 1277 CE.
- Questions and Answers on the Object of Devotion (Honzon Mondo-sho) written in 1278 CE.

# Posthumous titles and status in major lineages

In his writings, Nichiren refers to his identity in a variety of ways, nevertheless always related to the Lotus Sutra, for example: "I, Nichiren, am the foremost votary of the Lotus Sutra".<sup>[72]</sup> Of the many figures appearing in the Lotus Sutra, Nichiren chose his spiritual identity as that of Bodhisattva Superior Practices, and identified his goal as attaining Buddhahood: "From the beginning... I wanted to master Buddhism and attain Buddhahood".<sup>[73][74]</sup> In his post Tatsunokuchi's persecution writings, Nichiren referred to his person as parent, teacher and sovereign. While some schools regard this as features attributed to Shakyamuni Buddha others underline that he identifies himself as a votary of the Lotus Sutra:"Shakyamuni Buddha is the father and mother, teacher and sovereign to all living being..."<sup>[75]</sup> and similarly mentioning in his letter 'The Opening of the Eyes':"I, Nichiren, am sovereign, teacher, and father and mother to all the people...".<sup>[76]</sup>

After his death, Nichiren has been known by several posthumous names intended to express respect toward him or to represent his position in the history of Buddhism. Most common among these are *Shōnin* 日蓮型人 Saint or Sage, and *Daishōnin* 日蓮大聖人 "Great Sage".



Nichiren Statue

"Shōnin" is commonly used within Nichiren Shū, who regard Nichiren as a Buddhist reformer and embodiment of Bodhisattva Superior Practices.<sup>[77]</sup>

"Daishōnin" is the title used by followers of most, but not all, of the schools and temples derived from the Nikkō lineage, most notably Nichiren Shōshū<sup>[78][79]</sup> and Sōka Gakkai,<sup>[80][81][81]</sup> who regard Nichiren as 'The Buddha of the Latter Day of the Law'. Shakyamuni is seen as 'The Buddha of True Effect' as he only revealed the 'effect' of Buddhahood.<sup>[82]</sup>

The Japanese imperial court also awarded Nichiren the honorific designations *Nichiren Daibosatsu* 日蓮大菩薩 "Great Bodhisattva Nichiren", and *Risshō Daishi* 立正大師 "Great Teacher *Risshō*; the former title was granted in 1358, and the latter in 1922.

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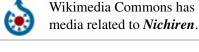
## **External links**

- Life of Nichiren Shonin by Ryuei Michael McCormick (http://nichirenscoffeehouse.net/Ryuei/NichirensBio.html)
- Renso Den, An Illustrated Life Story of Nichiren Daishonin (http://www2s.biglobe.ne.jp/~shibuken/Nichiren/index.html) with pictures by K. Touko1920
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নিচিরেন

জাপানের জাতীয় পতাকা - উইকিপিডিয়া

bn.wikipedia.org/.../জাপালের\_জ... < Translate this page Bengali Wikipedia < বৌদ্ধ ভিস্কু নিচিরেন (Nichiren) ভৎকালীন জাপানের সম্রাট, যাকে সূর্য দেবী আমাভেরাসুর (Amaterasu) বংশধর মনে করা হভো, ভাকে সূর্য থচিত পভাকা প্রস্তাব করার কথা ছিল। জেনগল্প: আনুগত্য - shohojmanush21c's bangla blog www.somewhereinblog.net/mobile/blog/.../29943821 < Translate this page এদিকে নিচিরেন\* ভরিকার কিছু জেনবাদী বাংকেই এর উপর বিরক্ত ছিলো, কেননা ভারা ... Nichiren Buddhism (Japanese: 法華系仏教 Hokke-kei Bukkyo) is a branch of ... Timeline Photos - Atish Dipankar অতীশ দীপঙ্কর | Facebook https://en-gb.facebook.com/.../158572174330698/ < Translate this page

জাপান কেন্দ্রিক বৌদ্ধধর্মীয় প্রতিষ্ঠান সোকা গাকাই এর মাধ্যমে তিন<mark>ি নিচিরেন</mark> বৌদ্ধধর্মে দীক্ষিত হয়েছেন। .. "Kristen has been studying **Nichiren** Buddhism.