

Appendix K

Events in the Life of Nichiren Daishonin

Year	Age*	Events in the Daishonin's Life	Other Events
1222	1	2/16 [†] Born at Kataumi in the province of Awa.	7/23 Earthquake in Kamakura.
1224	3		6/28 Hojo Yasutoki (1183–1242) becomes regent.
1233	12	Enters Seicho-ji temple to study as a disciple of Dozen-bo.	
1237	16	Enters the priesthood and takes the name Zesho-bo.	
1239	18	Leaves for Kamakura to study Buddhism.	
1241	20		2/7 and 4/3 Earthquakes in Kamakura.
1242	21	Leaves for Enryaku-ji temple on Mount Hiei where he continues his studies. Also visits temples in the area for studies.	6/15 Hojo Tsunetoki (1224–1246) becomes regent.
1246	25		Nikko is born in Kai Province. 3/23 Hojo Tokiyori (1227–1263) becomes regent.
1249	28		3/23 Fires in Kyoto.
1251	30		2/10 Fires in Kamakura.
1252	31		2/8 Fires in Kamakura.
1253	32	Returns to Seicho-ji temple.	

* Nichiren Daishonin's age is given according to the traditional Japanese system of calculation, which put a person's age upon birth at one year old.

[†] Dates given here are from the lunar calendar. For example, 2/16 indicates the sixteenth day of the second month, and 2/ , the second month.

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1253	32	4/28 Declares the teaching of Nam-myoho-rence-kyo at Seicho-ji temple. Begins to call himself Nichiren. Moves to Nagoe in Kamakura.	2/ Storm and earthquake in Kamakura. Toki Jonin becomes a follower of the Daishonin.
1254	33		1/10 Fires in Kamakura.
1255	34	Writes <i>On Attaining Buddhahood in This Lifetime</i> .	
1256	35		Around this time Shijo Kingo and Ikegami Munenaka become followers of the Daishonin. 8/ Gale, floods, and epidemics in Kamakura. 11/22 Hojo Nagatoki (1229–1264) becomes regent.
1257	36		5/ , 8/ , and 11/ Earthquakes in Kamakura.
1258	37	Consults the Buddhist canon to assemble proof of the real cause of the disasters.	Nikko becomes a disciple of the Daishonin. 8/ Storm destroys crops nationwide; in Kamakura, floods kill many people. 10/16 Heavy rains and flooding in Kamakura.
1259	38		Frequent famines and epidemics throughout Japan.
1260	39	7/16 Submits <i>On Establishing the Correct Teaching for the Peace of the Land</i> to Hojo Tokiyori. 8/27 Matsubagayatsu Persecution: his dwelling in Nagoe is attacked by Nembutsu believers.	4/28 Nichimoku is born in Izu. 6/12 Government orders all temples and shrines to pray for an end to the epidemics. Ota Jomyo, Soya Kyoshin, and Akimoto Taro become the Daishonin's followers. Famines and epidemics throughout Japan.

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1261	40	5/12 Exiled to Izu Peninsula.	Funamori no Yasaburo and his wife aid the Daishonin in Izu. Nikko arrives in Izu to continue to serve the Daishonin. 11/3 Hojo Shigetoki dies.
1263	42	2/22 Pardoned from exile, he returns to Kamakura. <i>Writes Questions and Answers about Embracing the Lotus Sutra.</i>	11/22 Hojo Tokiyori dies.
1264	43	Autumn, visits Awa where he prays for the recovery of his ill mother. 11/11 Komatsubara Persecution: attacked by enemies led by the steward, Tojo Kagenobu, he sustains injuries. 11/14 Meets Dozen-bo, his former teacher, at Hanabusa in Saijo.	Niko becomes the Daishonin's disciple. Hojo Masamura (1205-1273) becomes regent.
1265	44	<i>Writes Conversation between a Sage and an Unenlightened Man.</i>	
1266	45	1/6 <i>Writes The Daimoku of the Lotus Sutra.</i>	
1267	46		Nitcho becomes the Daishonin's disciple.
1268	47	Returns to Kamakura. 10/11 Writes eleven letters of remonstrance to government officials and high-ranking priests.	1 (intercalary)/ Mongol delegation demands tribute from Japan for the Mongol empire. 3/5 Hojo Tokimune (1251-1284) becomes regent.
1269	48		3/7 and 9/17 Mongol delegations arrive in Japan.
1270	49		Nichiji becomes the Daishonin's disciple.

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1271	50	<p>9/10 On answering a government summons, remonstrates with Hei no Saemon-no-jo, the deputy chief of military and police affairs.</p> <p>9/12 Tatsunokuchi Persecution: arrested by Hei no Saemon-no-jo. At midnight taken to Tatsunokuchi to be beheaded; this attempt fails.</p> <p>9/13 Government confines him to the residence of Homma Shigetsura at Echi in Sagami Province.</p> <p>10/5 Writes <i>Lessening One's Karmic Retribution</i>.</p> <p>10/10 Having been exiled to Sado Island, he leaves Echi for Sado.</p> <p>11/1 Arrives at Sammai-do, a hut in Tsukahara, Sado Island.</p>	<p>Drought occurs.</p> <p>6/18–7/4 Ryokan, a priest of the True Word Precepts school, prays for rain but without effect.</p> <p>9/ Mongol delegation conveys demands to the Japanese government.</p> <p>9/ While the Daishonin is at Echi, many disciples and followers suffer severe persecution.</p> <p>Nikko accompanies the Daishonin to Sado Island.</p> <p>Abutsu-bo and his wife, Sen-nichi, become the Daishonin's followers.</p>
1272	51	<p>1/16 and 17 Engages in a religious debate in Tsukahara with priests of other schools and refutes their doctrines.</p> <p>2/11 Writes <i>The Heritage of the Ultimate Law of Life</i>.</p> <p>2/ Completes <i>The Opening of the Eyes</i>, declaring that he is the Buddha of the Latter Day of the Law.</p> <p>3/20 Writes <i>Letter from Sado</i>.</p> <p>4/ Moves to Ichinosawa on Sado Island.</p>	<p>2/ Hojo Tokisuke, an elder half brother of the regent Hojo Tokimune, is killed on the charge of treason.</p> <p>4/ Shijo Kingo travels to Sado to see the Daishonin.</p>

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1272	51		5/ Nichimyo comes from Kamakura to see the Daishonin. 5/ Mongol delegation presents demands to Japan.
1273	52	4/25 Completes <i>The Object of Devotion for Observing the Mind</i> , identifying the object of devotion for the people of the Latter Day of the Law. 5/17 Writes <i>The True Aspect of All Phenomena</i> . 5/ Writes <i>On Practicing the Buddha's Teachings</i> . 5 (intercalary)/11 Writes <i>On the Buddha's Prophecy</i> . Writes <i>The Entity of the Mystic Law</i> .	
1274	53	1/14 Writes <i>The Votary of the Lotus Sutra Will Meet Persecution</i> . 2/14 Pardoned by the government. 3/13 Leaves Ichinosawa for Kamakura. 3/26 Arrives in Kamakura. 4/8 Remonstrates with Hei no Saemon-no-jo. 5/12 Leaves Kamakura to live at the foot of Mount Minobu.	4/10 The Dharma Seal Kaga prays for rain. 4/12 High winds in Kamakura. 7/ Nanjo Tokimitsu visits Minobu to see the Daishonin. 10/ Mongol forces sweep across the islands of Tsushima and Iki, and attack Kyushu, the southernmost of the four main islands of Japan.
1275	54	4/16 Writes <i>Letter to the Brothers</i> . Writes <i>The Selection of the Time</i> .	9/7 Mongol emissaries are beheaded at Tatsunokuchi. Because of Nikko's propagation activities, many people, including

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1275	54		several priests of Ryusen-ji temple in Atsuhara, become the Daishonin's followers.
1276	55	7/21 Completes <i>On Repaying Debts of Gratitude</i> . Writes <i>The Actions of the Votary of the Lotus Sutra</i> .	Nichimoku becomes the Daishonin's disciple. Dozen-bo dies. 11/24 Nichimoku goes to Minobu to serve the Daishonin.
1277	56	6/25 Writes <i>The Letter of Petition from Yorimoto</i> on behalf of Shijo Kingo. 7/ Writes <i>A Warning against Begrudging One's Fief</i> . 8/23 Writes <i>The Real Aspect of the Gohonzon</i> . 9/11 Writes <i>The Three Kinds of Treasure</i> . Writes <i>How Those Initially Aspiring to the Way Can Attain Buddhahood through the Lotus Sutra</i> .	
1278	57	Atsuhara Persecution begins.	Three brothers from Atsuhara—Jinshiro, Yagoro, and Yarokuro—become the Daishonin's followers.
1279	58	4/20 Writes <i>Persecution by Sword and Staff</i> . 10/1 Writes <i>On Persecutions Be-falling the Sage</i> .	7/29 Members of a Mongol delegation carrying a letter for the Japanese government are killed at Hakata. 9/21 Twenty farmers from Atsuhara, including Jinshiro and his brothers, are arrested and sent to Kamakura. Later Jinshiro, Yagoro, and Yarokuro are beheaded; the rest of those arrested are banished from Atsuhara.

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1280	59	2/ Writes <i>Letter to Niike</i> . 7/14 Writes <i>The Doctrine of Attaining Buddhahood in One's Present Form</i> .	2/21 Imperial court orders temples to pray for victory over the Mongols.
1281	60		5/ -7/ Mongol forces attack Kyushu for the second time. After most of their fleet is sunk by a typhoon, the forces withdraw.
1282	61	2/28 Writes <i>The Proof of the Lotus Sutra</i> . 9/ Writes a transfer document at Minobu, entrusting Nikko with the entirety of his teachings. 9/8 Leaves Mount Minobu. 9/18 Arrives at Ikegami Munenaka's residence in Musashi Province (present-day Tokyo). 10/8 Chooses six senior priests as leaders of their respective areas. 10/13 Writes a transfer document at Ikegami, designating Nikko as chief priest of Kuon-ji temple at Minobu, and shortly afterward passes away.	