The Postscript to “On Establishing the Correct Teaching for the Peace of the Land”

I compiled the above work in the first year of the Bunno era (1260), with the cyclical sign kanoe-saru. That is, I began the work during the Shoka era (1257–1259) and completed it in the first year of Bunno.

In the first year of the Shoka era, cyclical sign hinoto-mi, on the twenty-third day of the eighth month, at the time when the hour of the dog gives way to the hour of the boar (around 9:00 P.M.), there was a severe earthquake. Observing this event, I conceived the work. Later, in the first year of Bunno, cyclical sign kanoe-saru, on the sixteenth day of the seventh month, I presented it to His Lordship, the lay priest of Saimyo-ji, who is now deceased, by way of the lay priest Yadoya. Still later, in the first year of the Bun’ei era (1264), cyclical sign kine-jo, on the fifth day of the seventh month, when a great comet appeared, I became even more certain of the origins of these disasters. Then, on the eighteenth day of the intercalary first month of the fifth year of Bun’ei, cyclical sign tsuchinoe-tatsu, nine years after the first year of Bunno [when I submitted On Establishing the Correct Teaching for the Peace of the Land], an official letter came from the great kingdom of the Mongols that lies to the west, threatening to attack our country. Again, in the sixth year of the same era (1269), a second letter arrived. Thus the prediction that I made in my memorial [On Establishing the Correct Teaching] has already proved to be true. In view of this, we may suppose that the predictions I made will continue to come true in the future as well.

This work of mine has now been substantiated by fact. But this is not solely due to Nichiren’s power. Rather it has come about as a response to the true words of the Lotus Sutra.

I copied this work on the eighth day of the twelfth month in the sixth year of Bun’ei (1269), cyclical sign tsuchinoto-mi.

Background

In 1269, Mongol emissaries again arrived at Dazaifu, the government outpost on the southern island of Kyushu, pressing for an answer to their earlier demands. Nichiren Daishonin is believed to have sent off another round of letters to high officials, which again failed to elicit a response. On the eighth day of the twelfth month of 1269, the Daishonin copied On Establishing the Correct Teaching for the Peace of the Land and appended this postscript. In the postscript, he warns that the prophecies set forth in that document nine years earlier are now coming true.
Notes

1. The lay priest of Saimyo-ji indicates Hojo Tokiyori (1227–1263), the fifth regent of the Kamakura shogunate. He became regent in 1246, but relinquished the regency to Hojo Nagatoki and took holy orders under Doryu, a naturalized Zen priest from China, in 1256. As a lay priest he lived at Saimyo-ji temple, which he had built, but he continued as the de facto ruler. He was called the lay priest of Saimyo-ji.

2. Yadoya Mitsunori, also known as the lay priest Yadoya, was a ranking official close to Hojo Tokiyori.