202
Letter to Jufuku-ji

According to reports, an official letter from the Mongol nation was without doubt received here on the eighteenth day of the first month of this year. If this report is correct, it means that the predictions that I, Nichiren, made some years ago in my work On Establishing the Correct Teaching for the Peace of the Land have been fulfilled to the letter. It would appear, would it not, that I am one of those capable of predicting events before they take place.

Viewing the situation in light of what I wrote earlier, it is evident that, because the evil doctrines of the Nembutsu, True Word, Zen, and Precepts teachings have spread throughout the land and are revered by high and low alike, this calamity has arisen and we must face the threat of attack and invasion by a foreign nation. Because they err by failing to take faith in the Lotus Sutra, all such persons will in their next existence fall into the hell of incessant suffering. I urge you therefore to make haste to renounce your erroneous views, abandon the teachings of Bodhidharma, and put your faith in the correct teaching of the one vehicle.

I have sent letters explaining all this to various other personages. I would hope that all of you may come together in one place at the earliest opportunity to discuss the matter. I will explain things in detail when we meet face to face [in public debate].

With my deep respect,
Nichiren

The eleventh day of the tenth month in the fifth year of Bun’ei [1268]
Respectfully presented to the attendant of Jufuku-ji

Background

One of eleven letters of remonstrance, this was sent to Jufuku-ji, a temple of the Rinzai school of Zen in Kamakura. Jufuku-ji was built in 1200 at the request of Hōjō Masako, the wife of Minamoto no Yoritomo, the founding shogun of the Kamakura government. Jufuku-ji was officially opened by Eisai, the founder of the Rinzai branch of Zen in Japan. It is not known who the chief priest of Jufuku-ji was at the time this letter was sent.