389. Letter to Toki

THE memorial lecture on the doctrines of the Great Teacher T’ien-t’ai was scheduled to be held this month at Myōshō-bō’s dwelling, but this month is inconvenient for him. He says that if there is someone else who can take over the responsibility, he would like to request him to do so. Please let me know if you could do so yourself. If that is inconvenient, I will ask someone else.

With my deep respect,
Nichiren

The seventh day of the sixth month

To Toki

Background

Nichiren Daishonin wrote this letter on the seventh day of the sixth month in 1269 to Toki Jōnin. A disciple named Myōshō-bō was originally responsible for hosting the memorial lecture commemorating the death of the Great Teacher T’ien-t’ai, but it became inconvenient for him to do so. The Daishonin asks Toki if he is able to host the lecture himself.

Notes

1. The “memorial lecture on the doctrines of the Great Teacher T’ien-t’ai” refers to the memorial service marking the anniversary of the death of the Great Teacher T’ien-t’ai.

2. Myōshō-bō was a disciple of Nichiren Daishonin about whom little is known.

390. Praying for the Prolonging of the Lay Nun’s Life

I AM praying to Heaven that the life of your wife, the lay nun, will be prolonged well into the future. Please be sure to tell her about this.

Your support for the Lotus Sutra has been ever constant. I have received the three thousand coins and two to of rice you kindly sent me as an offering ear-

marked for the third month of next year.

Nichiren

The twenty-fifth day of the eleventh month

Reply to Toki

Background

Nichiren Daishonin wrote this letter of thanks to Toki Jōnin from Minobu on the twenty-fifth day of the eleventh month in what is thought to have been 1279. The Daishonin expresses his grati-
tude to Toki for his offerings of three thousand coins and two to of rice. He also asks Toki to tell his wife, who had been struggling with illness, that he is praying for her longevity.