

### 393. Letter to Musashi

I HAVE received *The Summary of the Mahayana*<sup>1</sup> in three volumes. But because I do not have its commentaries, such as *The Commentary on "The Summary of the Mahayana,"* I cannot get on with my work. I hope you will send those as well so that I can consult them. Please let me know when we can meet.

#### Background

Nichiren Daishonin dated this letter the seventeenth day of the seventh month, and one view suggests the year as 1259. The Daishonin asks the priest

When is the next meeting of the eight-session Lotus Sutra lectures?<sup>2</sup>

Nichiren

The seventeenth day of the seventh month

To the priest Musashi

Musashi to send the commentaries on the Buddhist text he has just received. No details are known.

#### Notes

1. A work by Asanga, an Indian Buddhist teacher of the fourth or fifth century. It expounds the Consciousness-Only doctrine and sets forth ten points whereby Mahayana teachings are superior to Hinayana ones. There are two commentaries titled *The Commentary on "The Summary of*

*the Mahayana,"* one written by Vasubandhu, and the other by Asvabhāva.

2. "The eight-session Lotus Sutra lectures" refers to a series of lectures on each of the eight volumes comprising Kumārajīva's Chinese translation of the Lotus Sutra.



### 394. Reply to the Wife of Hyōe no Sakan

I HAVE received the silk-lined robe sent by you, the wife of Hyōe no Sakan. I have reported your act of great kindness before the Lotus Sutra.

Though I am inclined to doubt it, the priests here say that, because you have no children, you have lost all hope regarding worldly affairs. If so, this would be very regrettable. I trust,

however, that this is not the case.

With my deep respect,  
Nichiren

The twenty-fifth day of the eleventh month

Reply to the wife of Hyōe no Sakan

#### Background

This is Nichiren Daishonin's reply to the wife of Ikegami Hyōe no Sakan Munenaga, offering appreciation for a silk-lined robe she had sent him. He expresses concern over a report that,

with no children, she has become forlorn of hope, but says he trusts in her inner strength. The year of this writing is not known.