395. On the Long Rains

HERE in the mountains the long rains, I need hardly say, make things very tiresome. I was happy to receive the gift of peas. I hope Kakushō-bō's letter will convey my delight and appreciation.

With my deep respect,
Nichiren

The twenty-second day of the fifth month
Written in reply

Background

It is most probable that Nichiren Daishonin wrote this letter in 1278, a year of prolonged rainfall at Minobu. In One Horseload of Salt, a letter sent to Nanjō Tokimitsu in the ninth month of the same year, the Daishonin says, "It has rained every day since the first month this year" (p. 783). The Daishonin expresses his gratitude for an offering of peas. The recipient is unknown, and only this fragment of the letter is extant.

Note

1. Kakushō-bō was a disciple of Nichiren Daishonin, but little is known about him. Only a fragment of one letter the Daishonin wrote to him, Reply to Kakushō-bō (see below), remains today.

396. Reply to Kakushō-bō

I UNDERSTAND and sympathize with the troubles of the lay priest Yagenta. I hope that you, Kakushō-bō, will convey word of this situation to his lord.

With my deep respect,
Nichiren

The eighteenth day of the seventh month
To Kakushō-bō

Background

All that remains of this letter is this brief fragment. No details have come to light about Kakushō-bō, the recipient, or the situation the Daishonin refers to.

Notes

1. Yagenta may refer to Hōjō Yagenta, a follower of Nichiren Daishonin who lived in Kamakura. He was a member of the ruling Hōjō clan. In 1268 the Daishonin sent him one of eleven letters of remonstrance (see p. 320) when a delegate from the Mongol Empire arrived with the ruler's missive demanding tribute from Japan.
2. Kakushō-bō was a disciple of the Daishonin, but little is known about him.