401. An Offering of Rice

I HAVE received the hamper containing one to and six shō of polished rice. My supply was just about running out and so I was truly delighted. I will have more to say to you when we meet next.

Written on receipt of the above

Nichiren

To Toki

Background

Nichiren Daishonin wrote this letter in 1270 at Kamakura to Toki Jōnin. He thanks Toki for the polished rice he had sent as an offering, just when the Daishonin’s supply had nearly run out.

402. Reply to Hyōe no Sakan

I HAVE received the five thousand coins that you so kindly sent. I chanted Nam-myoho-RENge-kyō once to report this.

With my deep respect,

Nichiren

The eighteenth day of the sixth month

Reply to Hyōe no Sakan

Background

Nichiren Daishonin wrote this letter at Minobu on the eighteenth day of the sixth month of 1281 (another view suggests 1277) to express his thanks to Hyōe no Sakan, or Ikekami Munenaga, the younger of the two Ikekami brothers, who had sent him an offering of five thousand coins.

403. On the One Great Matter

ASSERT it clearly and decisively!

The one great matter regarding this person, Nichiren.

Respectfully,

Nichiren

The thirteenth day of the fifth month

Background

This fragment is too brief to surmise much about its background. Because Nichiren Daishonin refers to his essential teaching as “the one great matter” in other writings, this letter may also have mentioned this teaching.