

SIGN POSTS: Back to the Gohonzon
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When one embraces this mandala [the Gohonzon], all Buddhas and gods will gather around him, accompanying him like a shadow, and protect him day and night...you should trust in it with all your heart. (*The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 5, p. 177)

This quote from “Upholding Faith in the Gohonzon” says it all — if I embrace this mandala, I will be protected. Then why is it difficult to trust the Gohonzon with all my heart on an everyday basis?

I talk with many young women from different lifestyles, careers, etc. They share with me their struggles as well as their victories. I have discovered that many struggle because they have lost their focus or purpose. I find that they know a lot about Buddhism theoretically, but sometimes encouraging themselves to challenge everyday situations is difficult.

I also go through this. I know in my mind that if I challenge my situation I can grow — but the bottom line is: Do I want to challenge it? Do I have the courage to face the situation head-on, or am I satisfied to coast through it?

Certain things that I have to challenge stem from the core of my life. For example, in past relationships if we would go to the movies I was compelled to pay my way. I wouldn't let my date pay for me. This would make him feel unwanted. Facing the Gohonzon with this, I realized I didn't feel I was worth being “cared for,” or even worse, I wasn't worth spending time with. I realized if I could change this, I could change the root problem, my insecurities and lack of self-worth. I could do my human revolution — which is overwhelming and yet so freeing.

Second Soka Gakkai president Josei Toda said: “While people today are extremely greedy, they do not desire the vast benefit of attaining Buddhahood. On this point they could be called unselfish, people of modest wants, or just plain foolish.” Sometimes I fit the category of “just plain foolish.” However, I am striving each day to become “extremely greedy” about attaining Buddhahood by taking my everyday situations to the Gohonzon.

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