

**In My Life : Opening Doors**  
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**“All scriptures or teachings, from whatever source, are ultimately the revelation of Buddhist truth. They are not non-Buddhist teachings.” (“The Gift of Rice,” *The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 1, p. 269)**

If, as the Nirvana Sutra passage here quoted by Nichiren Daishonin says, all scriptures or teachings whatever their source reveal Buddhist truth, then I feel it is up to us as Buddhists to uncover this Buddhism in other people’s teachings; to create a door, if you will, into other people’s belief systems that will lead to Buddhism.

I recently visited with my brother who, after a rather coercive introduction to the SGI in 1986, wanted nothing to do with it. When I visited, he had just read a Christian book that said people choose their circumstances and problems so that they can grow. Therefore, shrinking from difficulties is pointless and impossible.

My heart leapt for joy. I couldn’t imagine a more Buddhist perspective on Christianity. He was showing me the door in his belief system that led to Buddhism.

A similar thing happened with my dad. When I visit my family, Buddhist concepts inevitably weave their way into the conversation, usually without Buddhist labels that would lead to their immediate rejection. I didn’t realize the effect these conversations were having until one night, at a recent Passover dinner, my dad asked, “So Mark, what does our Buddhist scholar have to say?”

After I had finished saying something Buddhist and scholarly, he said with a mischievous smile: “Well, that’s Judaism.”

“In my opinion, we have to abandon the tendency to judge people based on their religion,” writes SGI President Ikeda in *The New Human Revolution*, volume 5. I’m convinced that our respect for an individual’s sincere desire to grow and be happy will naturally lead us to see Buddhism in their religion or beliefs.

**WT**