

WOW! The Secret of Seeing
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When you read excellent novels through the eyes of Buddhism, you can develop the kind of ability with which to reach deeper into the world of Buddhism, especially when you read the writings of Nichiren Daishonin. (Daisaku Ikeda, *Buddhism in Action*, vol. 4, p. 5)

I recently reread *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* by Annie Dillard, a book I had read in high school. I was deeply touched by insights the book illustrates through natural metaphors. The book reminded me of Sunday afternoons I used to spend wandering around my grandmother's farm as a child. Because my mind wasn't full of worries, the limestone and the cedar seemed to speak to me. As I took up the practice of faith and was able to get outside my anxieties, the candles and the incense seemed to speak the same language.

I have also been studying the writings of Nichiren Daishonin lately, one sentence at a time. Each sentence brings a new understanding. The sentences are stones along the path, and when you stop to look at them, they contain jewels.

Through careful reading of the Daishonin's writings and *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, I have come to see a connection between the larger natural world and my daily travails. Writing about her experience of seeing sunlight seeming to radiate from a cedar tree, Annie Dillard says: "The secret of seeing is to sail on solar wind. Hone and spread your spirit till you yourself are a sail, whetted, translucent, broadside to the merest puff."

Our practice of faith allows us to see the light that radiates from everyday things. It is this kind of deeper understanding that President Ikeda says is vital if we are to bring about change in the world.

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