

Appendix K

Events in the Life of Nichiren Daishonin

Year	Age*	Events in the Daishonin's Life	Other Events
1222	1	2/16† Born at Kominato in the province of Awa and named Zennichi-marō.	7/23 Earthquake in Kamakura.
1224	3		6/28 Hojo Yasutoki (1183–1242) becomes regent.
1233	12	Spring, enters Seicho-ji temple to study as a disciple of Dozen-bo.	
1237	16	Enters the priesthood and takes the name Zesho-bo Rencho.	
1239	18	Spring, leaves for Kamakura to study Buddhism.	
1241	20		2/7 and 4/3 Earthquakes in Kamakura.
1242	21	Spring, returns to Seicho-ji temple, and then leaves for Enryaku-ji temple on Mount Hiei where he continues his studies.	6/15 Hojo Tsunetoki (1224–1246) becomes regent.
1246	25	Leaves Enryaku-ji temple for further study in nearby provinces.	3/8 Nikko is born in Kai Province. 3/23 Hojo Tokiyori (1227–1263) becomes regent.
1249	28	Returns to Enryaku-ji temple.	3/23 Fires in Kyoto.
1251	30		2/10 Fires in Kamakura.
1252	31	Studies at Onjo-ji temple.	2/8 Fires in Kamakura.
1253	32	Returns to Seicho-ji temple.	

* Nichiren Daishonin's age is given according to the traditional Japanese system of calculation, which put a person's age upon birth at one year old.

† Dates given here are from the lunar calendar. For example, 2/16 indicates the sixteenth day of the second month, and 2/ , the second month.

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1253	32	4/28 Declares the teaching of Nam-myoho-renge-kyo for the first time at Seicho-ji temple, and renames himself Nichiren. Converts his parents. 8/ Moves to Matsubagayatsu in Kamakura.	2/ Storm and earthquake in Kamakura. 11/ Nissho becomes a disciple of Nichiren Daishonin.
1254	33		1/10 Fires in Kamakura. Toki Jonin becomes a follower of the Daishonin. Nichiro becomes a disciple of the Daishonin.
1255	34	<i>Writes On Attaining Buddhahood in This Lifetime.</i>	
1256	35		Shijo Kingo, Kudo Yoshitaka, and Ikegami Munenaka become followers of the Daishonin. 8/ Gale, floods, and epidemics in Kamakura. 11/22 Hojo Nagatoki (1229–1264) becomes regent.
1257	36		5/ , 8/ , and 11/ Earthquakes in Kamakura.
1258	37	Goes to Jisso-ji temple at Iwamoto in Suruga Province to examine its sutra library.	Nikko becomes a disciple of the Daishonin and is given the name Hoki-bo. 2/14 The Daishonin's father passes away. 8/ Storm destroys crops nationwide; in Kamakura, floods kill many people. 10/16 Heavy rains and flooding in Kamakura.
1259	38		Frequent famines and epidemics throughout Japan.

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1260	39	<p>7/16 Submits <i>On Establishing the Correct Teaching for the Peace of the Land</i> to Hojo Tokiyori.</p> <p>8/27 Matsubagayatsu Persecution: his dwelling in Matsubagayatsu is attacked by Nembutsu believers.</p>	<p>4/28 Nichimoku is born in Izu.</p> <p>6/12 Government orders all temples and shrines to pray for an end to the epidemics.</p> <p>Ota Jomyo, Soya Kyoshin, and Akimoto Taro become the Daishonin's followers.</p> <p>Famines and epidemics throughout Japan.</p>
1261	40	<p>5/12 Exiled to Izu Peninsula.</p>	<p>Funamori Yasaburo and his wife aid the Daishonin in Izu.</p> <p>Nikko arrives in Izu to continue to serve the Daishonin.</p> <p>11/3 Hojo Shigetoki dies.</p>
1263	42	<p>2/22 Pardoned from exile, he returns to Kamakura.</p> <p><i>Writes Questions and Answers about Embracing the Lotus Sutra.</i></p>	<p>11/22 Hojo Tokiyori dies.</p>
1264	43	<p>Autumn, visits Awa where he prays for the recovery of his ill mother.</p> <p>11/11 Komatsubara Persecution: attacked by swordsmen led by the steward, Tojo Kagenobu, he sustains injuries.</p> <p>11/14 Meets Dozen-bo, his former teacher, at Renge-ji temple.</p>	<p>Niko becomes the Daishonin's disciple.</p> <p>Hojo Masamura (1205–1273) becomes regent.</p>
1265	44	<p><i>Writes Conversation between a Sage and an Unenlightened Man.</i></p>	
1266	45	<p>1/6 <i>Writes The Daimoku of the Lotus Sutra.</i></p>	
1267	46		<p>8/15 The Daishonin's mother passes away.</p> <p>Nitcho becomes the Daishonin's disciple.</p>

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1268	47	Returns to Kamakura. 10/11 Writes eleven letters of remonstrance to government officials and high-ranking priests.	1 (intercalary)/ Mongol delegation demands tribute from Japan for the Mongol empire. 3/5 Hojo Tokimune (1251-1284) becomes regent.
1269	48		3/7 and 9/17 Mongol delegations arrive in Japan.
1270	49		Nichiji becomes the Daishonin's disciple.
1271	50	9/10 On answering a government summons, remonstrates with Hei no Saemon, the deputy chief of military and police affairs. 9/12 Tatsunokuchi Persecution: arrested by Hei no Saemon and taken to Tatsunokuchi to be beheaded; this attempt fails. 9/13 Government confines him to the residence of Homma Rokuro Saemon at Echi in Sagami Province. 10/5 Writes <i>Lessening One's Karmic Retribution</i> . 10/10 Having been exiled to Sado Island, he leaves Echi for Sado. 11/1 Arrives at Sammai-do, a hut in Tsukahara, Sado Island.	Nationwide drought occurs. 6/18-7/4 Ryokan, a priest of the True Word Precepts school, prays for rain but without effect. 9/ Mongol delegation conveys demands to the Japanese government. 9/ While the Daishonin is at Echi, many disciples and followers, including Nichiro, are arrested and imprisoned on false charges. Nikko accompanies the Daishonin to Sado Island. Abutsu-bo and his wife, Sen-nichi, become the Daishonin's followers.
1272	51	1/16 and 17 Engages in a religious debate in Tsukahara with priests	

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1272	51	<p>of other schools and refutes their doctrines.</p> <p>2/11 Writes <i>The Heritage of the Ultimate Law of Life</i>.</p> <p>2/ Completes <i>The Opening of the Eyes</i>, declaring that he is the Buddha of the Latter Day of the Law.</p> <p>3/20 Writes <i>Letter from Sado</i>.</p> <p>4/ Moves to Ichinosawa on Sado Island.</p>	<p>2/ Sairen-bo becomes the Daishonin's disciple.</p> <p>2/ Hojo Tokisuke, an elder half brother of the regent Hojo Tokimune, plots to seize power but fails.</p> <p>4/ Shijo Kingo travels to Sado to see the Daishonin.</p> <p>5/ Nichimyo comes from Kamakura to see the Daishonin.</p> <p>5/ Mongol delegation presents demands to Japan.</p>
1273	52	<p>4/25 Completes <i>The Object of Devotion for Observing the Mind</i>, identifying the object of devotion for the people of the Latter Day of the Law.</p> <p>5/17 Writes <i>The True Aspect of All Phenomena</i>.</p> <p>5/ Writes <i>On Practicing the Buddha's Teachings</i>.</p> <p>5 (intercalary)/11 Writes <i>On the Buddha's Prophecy</i>.</p> <p>Writes <i>The Entity of the Mystic Law</i>.</p>	
1274	53	<p>1/14 Writes <i>The Votary of the Lotus Sutra Will Meet Persecution</i>.</p> <p>2/14 Pardoned by the government.</p> <p>3/13 Leaves Ichinosawa for Kamakura.</p> <p>3/26 Arrives in Kamakura.</p> <p>4/8 Remonstrates with Hei no Saemon.</p> <p>5/12 Leaves Kamakura to live at the foot of Mount Minobu.</p>	<p>4/10 The Dharma Seal Kaga prays for rain.</p> <p>4/12 High winds in Kamakura.</p>

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1274	53		<p>7/ Nanjo Tokimitsu visits Minobu to see the Daishonin.</p> <p>10/ Mongol forces sweep across the islands of Tsushima and Iki, and attack Kyushu, the southernmost of the four main islands of Japan.</p> <p>10/20 Storm attacks Mongol forces.</p>
1275	54	<p>4/16 Writes <i>Letter to the Brothers</i>. Writes <i>The Selection of the Time</i>.</p>	<p>9/7 Mongol emissaries are beheaded at Tatsunokuchi.</p> <p>Because of Nikko's propagation activities, many people, including several priests of Ryusen-ji temple in Atsuhara, become the Daishonin's followers.</p>
1276	55	<p>7/21 Completes <i>On Repaying Debts of Gratitude</i>. Writes <i>The Actions of the Votary of the Lotus Sutra</i>.</p>	<p>Nichimoku becomes the Daishonin's disciple.</p> <p>3/16 Dozen-bo dies.</p> <p>11/24 Nichimoku goes to Minobu to serve the Daishonin.</p>
1277	56	<p>6/25 Writes <i>The Letter of Petition from Yorimoto</i> on behalf of Shijo Kingo.</p> <p>7/ Writes <i>A Warning against Begudging One's Fief</i>.</p> <p>8/23 Writes <i>The Real Aspect of the Gohonzon</i>.</p> <p>9/11 Writes <i>The Three Kinds of Treasure</i>. Writes <i>How Those Initially Aspiring to the Way Can Attain Buddhahood through the Lotus Sutra</i>.</p>	
1278	57	<p>Atsuhara Persecution begins.</p>	<p>7/ Three brothers from Atsuhara—Jinshiro, Yagoro, and Yarokuro—become the Daishonin's followers.</p>

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1279	58	<p>4/20 Writes <i>Persecution by Sword and Staff</i>.</p> <p>10/1 Writes <i>On Persecutions Befalling the Sage</i>.</p> <p>10/12 Inscribes the object of devotion for all humanity.</p>	<p>7/29 Members of a Mongol delegation carrying a letter for the Japanese government are killed at Hakata.</p> <p>9/21 Twenty farmers from Atsuhara, including Jinshiro and his brothers, are arrested and sent to Kamakura.</p> <p>10/15 Jinshiro, Yagoro, and Yaro-kuro are beheaded; the rest of those arrested are banished from Atsuhara.</p>
1280	59	<p>2/ Writes <i>Letter to Niike</i>.</p> <p>7/14 Writes <i>The Doctrine of Attaining Buddhahood in One's Present Form</i>.</p>	<p>2/21 Imperial court orders temples to pray for victory over the Mongols.</p>
1281	60		<p>5/ -7/ Mongol forces attack Kyushu for the second time. After most of their fleet is sunk by a typhoon, the forces withdraw.</p>
1282	61	<p>2/28 Writes <i>The Proof of the Lotus Sutra</i>.</p> <p>9/ Writes a transfer document at Minobu, entrusting Nikko with the entirety of his teachings.</p> <p>9/8 Leaves Mount Minobu.</p> <p>9/18 Arrives at Ikegami Munenaka's residence in Musashi Province (present-day Tokyo).</p> <p>10/8 Chooses six senior priests as leaders of their respective areas.</p> <p>10/13 Writes a transfer document at Ikegami, designating Nikko as chief priest of Kuon-ji temple at Minobu, and shortly afterward passes away.</p>	