Subject for the August Study Meeting

"Substituting Faith for Wisdom"

Substituting faith for wisdom means to substitute pure faith for all Buddhist practice. This principle teaches that the practice and merits expounded in the Buddha's teachings are all contained in faith. This is a doctrine of major importance in Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism.

It is impossible for people in the Latter Day of the Law, who have not carried out Buddhist practice in their past lives, to completely understand Buddhism with their own wisdom.

Therefore, Nichiren Daishonin states in **"On the Four Stages of Faith and the Five Stages of Practice"** *("Shishin gohon-shō")*:

"Because common mortals in the Latter Day of the Law are lacking in wisdom [when compared to those living in Shakyamuni's lifetime], they must substitute faith and practice for wisdom." (*Gosho,* p. 1112)

Moreover, in the same Gosho, Nichiren Daishonin explains that practice in the Latter Day of the Law is primarily based on faith. Therefore, those who have faith in true Buddhism are at the stage of first hearing the name of the Law, the second of the six stages of practice.

Thus, the people in the Latter Day of the Law, even without wisdom, will be able to attain Buddhahood purely through faith in the Dai-Gohonzon.