

Discussion Topic May - 'Obaitori': everyone is unique

In Buddhism, we have the concept of obaitori. Nichiren Daishonin says in reference to this: "When one comes to realise and see that each thing - the cherry, the plum, the peach, the damson - in its own entity, without undergoing any change, possesses the eternally endowed three bodies". (OTT, 200-01)

He explains that a cherry is a cherry (o), a plum is a plum (bai), a peach is a peach (to), and a damson is a damson (ri). Everyone is a Buddha and needs to change nothing about their personality. A cherry doesn't need to and can't change into a peach. Whoever you are, be yourself. Even if you wanted to be someone else, it is never going to happen.

It is important to be someone who cherishes, values, and is content with his or her own self. It is also important not to envy others, or to compare ourselves with others. Try to continually polish and develop yourself, lead a life in which you are diligent and steadily move forward in your own unique way. We need perseverance and dedication to bring out the best of ourselves. This way you bring out all your qualities and abilities.

The way to achieve this is through daimoku. By reciting the Mystic Law, 'the eternally endowed three bodies' (the three virtues of the Buddha¹) will shine in our present form. What matters is how we can accomplish our own human revolution. It is essential that we grow and develop ourselves.

President Ikeda said: "People are like a cherry, plum, peach or damson (everyone is different). Faces and personalities also differ. The world we live in is so interesting because we are all different. How boring it would be if everyone was the same in every way. Each person has a unique mission, a stage where this mission is fulfilled. Live just as you are and lead a dynamic live. Always full of energy and with a smile.

- o Do you sometimes compare yourself with others and do you suffer because of that? How do you transform this?
- o Is it difficult to live just as you are?

¹ The three virtues of the Buddha (Jpn *hosshin, hoshin en ojin*): The three virtues of the Dharma body, wisdom, and emancipation; three attributes of a Buddha. The Dharma body means the truth that the Buddha has realized; wisdom is the capacity to realize this truth; and emancipation means the state of being free from the sufferings of birth and death.