

The Pleasure of Chanting “O-Daimoku”

par
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Transcription by



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This transcription is derived from “The Wonderful Law: Universal Refuge. Tokyo: Japan – Bharat Sarvodaya Mitrata Sangha, 1984”. This project was carried out by researchers and volunteers of the CSG under the supervision of Mateo Carmona. More details are available at:

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How to cite:

Alexander Grothendieck. *The Pleasure of Chanting “O-Daimoku”*. The Wonderful Law: Universal Refuge. Tokyo: Japan – Bharat Sarvodaya Mitrata Sangha, 1984. Transcription by M. Carmona et al., CSG, Grothendieck Institute. Draft, October 2025.

THE PLEASURE OF CHANTING “O-DAIMOKU”

Alexandre Grothendieck

The first contact I had with a disciple of Fujii Guruji was ten years ago, and in the following three years there has been a strong relationship with a number of disciples and followers, and again since last year. I had the great privilege to meet Fujii Guruji in Paris in 1975, and to welcome him in my house the year after, with a group of monks and lay followers. It has been my joy many times since to play the drum and sing the prayer Na-mu Myo-ho-ren-ge-kyo together with my monk friends and other friends who have enjoyed in joining. In remembrance of these friends and of their respected Teacher, I am still singing the Prayer even when alone or in a friend's house, before every meal. This I feel is something of great price remaining from my contacts with Fujii Guruji and his followers.

I also feel that through a close relationship with several monks or friends of Nipponzan Myohoji, and from my meeting with Guruji and from what I have learned about him through people close to him, I came to learn a lot about life, about religion, strife and peace. This is another gratitude towards Fujii Guruji and several of his followers whom I came to love. It is my regret that I may have disappointed some among them, who may have expected me to share in their faith and join in their missionary work for spreading the prayer and Shanti Stupas. A number of times though I noticed that concern for the “success” of missionary work has been interfering with the joy of simply singing the prayer and sharing this joy with others, which is one way indeed for propagating peace in oneself and in others. This is one reason why I have kept myself from joining in mission-

ary work, and have contented with just singing the prayer, without worrying whether others will join or not.

[Alexandre Grothendieck]

During World War II, lived with his mother in a concentration camp. His father was killed in Auschwitz. After the War became a mathematician. But his doubts about the scientific community he belonged to deepened and later he involved himself in a radical-minded peace group “Survivre et Vivre” (Survive and life). Teaching at Montpellier University as professor and leading an agricultural life as well.

