A Royal Command by GoToba Tennö, promulgated as a Directive of the Council of State to Tödaiji, 1196 02/07

The Left Controller directs [to] Tödaiji:

Let monk-ritualists from the two schools, Tendai and Mikkyö, be appointed for the first time; and let the rent from Tödaiji's various estates be used to provide for their needs.

[As for this], on the fourth day of this month there was a memorial submitted by Daiwajö Chögen that stated:

"Humbly we have studied the matter, noting that after the monarch [Shömu Tennö] built this temple, according to his original vow monks from the eight schools were permanently placed [there] for peace at the sacred court and in All Under Heaven. To quote Shömu Tennö's original edict: 'Let generations of universal monarchs (*teiö*) be patrons of my temple. Those who restore it ...'

帝王、 被宛寺用供析 尊□複本二階楼殿如旧、 複之勅撰、 随即寄 為我寺檀 以密宗十二口净侣、 迩期龍花三会之暁永、 既以 皆是、 万町之水田、 如寔爱、 若我寺興複云云、 為令寺家豊饒也、 且為叶本願叡念、 寺中閑散、 毎日令勤修両部大法、 定五千炬之封戸、 企顕密二宗仏事所謂 僧徒難住、 聖慮之底、 而今、 且為恩国 以之、 我寺興 雖舎那 以 可知 舎 題 那

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Surely this must remain deep in the royal mind. That is why 10,000 *chö* of rice paddies and 5000 prebendal hearths (*fuko*) were designated for the temple's needs, such that the temple shall prosper. Now, however, although Rushana's two-story pavilion has been restored as of old, the temple precincts are deserted and living is hard for the monks. So in the spirit of the royal command that Shömu's temple must be restored, that the original vow (of Shömu) is fulfilled and that there is peace across the royal land, in the realm, let the wisdom of the Ryügesan'e soon be planned by monks from the two schools of Tendai and Mikkyö in the Buddha Hall. Twelve pure monks of Shingon will perform the two great rites daily,

宗卅 崎 村 阿 波 聖朝安穏. 南 [僧徒、 北 広 於大仏御前、 周防国椹野庄、 瀬 以此四箇□、[国] 長日欲令請請 宝祚長遠 山 田之有 読取勝王経、 為昼夜不断供花之衆是也、 丸 官物所当宛置也、 天下泰平・百姓安楽也、 備 前 国三箇村 伊賀国三 件三箇 於 即 神

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and thirty monks of the Tendai school shall perpetually chant the Saishöökyö. Meanwhile 200 pure ritualists have been selected and appointed to ceaselessly offer flowers before the Great Buddha. All this is for the peace of the sacred court, the long life of the monarch, peace under Heaven, and the prosperity of subjects (*hyakushö*). As for provisions for these rites, annual taxes from four provinces--Suö, Harima, Iga and Bizen—from Suö's Fushino estate, Harima's Öbe estate, three locales in Iga (Awa, Hirose, and Arima in Yamada); and Naganuma, Kanzaki plus Minami Höjö in Bizen—are designated [for that purpose].

宣承知、 聖朝御願 自今月九日可始行之、 同院庁御下文案 正道之貴、 建久七年二月七日 東南 也、 依宣行之、 尽未来際、 奉祈宝祚 院代代可相伝之、 先進御下文内、 聖朝御 在判 自去年夏始行之、 則 件日、 願弥被興隆、 敢不 十失(墜) 随要重、 早被差下 即此等沙汰幷庄務 勅、 在判 依請者、 可

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Of these three rites, the offering of flowers commenced last summer.

将

The Saishökö (readings of the Saishöökyö) shall begin on the 9th of this month. So on that day let a royal emissary be sent in order that [Shömu Tennö's] original vow will be fulfilled, and let (that practice) continue in future without remissness! From this time forward authority (over the estate) and its management shall be the hereditary prerogative of the Tönan'in from generation to generation. So do we peitition [Your Majesty]: immediately grant us your gracious mandate such that through long years and with no decay the royal vow shall endure forever. [Monks from] the two schools gaze upward on the Path of Verity, while offering prayers on behalf of Your Majesty."

[Pursuant to the above], the Minister of the Left [Fujiwara no Sanefusa] has received and now transmits His Majesty's command, "It shall be as requested." So let this order be proclaimed and promulgated.

Senior Secretary of the Left Takahashi no Ason Lesser Controller Fujiwara no Ason

Kenkyü 7 (1196), Second month, seventh day

senji: tennö's order transmitted to a controller by the minister of the left, then put into directive form by the left senior secretary of the Controllers' Council, and then signed by a lesser controller.

Per *Meigetsuki*, Chögen requested that the governors of the Kinai and west Japan should repair the Settsu ports at Uozumi and Owada on 1196 06/03.

## Issues to consider:

What does it mean that the directive is marked as an order of "GoToba In" while GoToba was still the reigning monarch in 1196? He reigned until 1198, when he retired. Kujö Kanezane was the royal aide (*kampaku*) until late in the year (11/25), when he was replaced by Konoe Motomichi (*Sanchöki*).