

The Human Revolution Vol. XII By Ho Goku

The Human Revolution is a novel based on fact, written by SGI President Daisaku Ikeda under the pen name Ho Goku. It recounts the early days of the Soka Gakkai in Japan under the second president, Josei Toda, President Ikeda's mentor. The character of Shin'ichi Yamamoto represents Daisaku Ikeda. The theme of the novel is summed up in the foreword, as the author writes,

"A great human revolution in just a single individual will help achieve a change in the destiny of a nation and further, will enable a change in the destiny of all humankind." The following concludes volume twelve.

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JOSEI Toda had enabled countless ordinary people to awaken to their mission as Bodhisattvas of the Earth. By accomplishing a Soka Gakkai membership of 750,000 households, he had shown how to actualize the emergence from the earth depicted in the Lotus Sutra of bodhisattvas equal in number to the sands of 60,000 Ganges rivers. His achievement amounted to a fulfillment of the Lotus Sutra's prophecy, proof that Toda had directly inherited Nichiren Daishonin's spirit.

The challenge now awaiting Shin'ichi as Soka Gakkai president and heir to Mr. Toda's legacy would be actualizing this vision of countless bodhisattvas "emerging from the earth" throughout the world.

When individuals awaken to their innate mission as Bodhisattvas of the Earth, it imparts to their lives a deep and essential meaning. This awareness is the pivot on which human revolution turns—transforming people's lives, directing them toward the creation of value and enabling them to change the most painful karma into the most wonderful mission. When individuals strive to fulfill their unique mission, they accomplish a sublime human revolution within, which can ultimately transform the destiny of an entire nation.

One after another, Shin'ichi recalled the faces of dear and familiar members. Each possessed a wondrous mission. All were children of the Buddha who had emerged from the earth, gathering from the various reaches of the universe, heroes ready to perform a grand drama of human revolution.

With these comrades in faith, Shin'ichi vowed, he would open a new page in the annals of kosen-rufu. He awaited the day of their new departure together, praying that all, without a single exception, would fulfill their mission for kosen-rufu and achieve lives of great and abundant happiness.

When that momentous day came, the May air was fresh and the sky cloudless, the rain from the night before having completely lifted. The trees lining the streets bore fresh green leaves that shimmered beautifully in the brilliant sunlight.

On May 3, 1960, the 22nd Soka Gakkai Spring General Meeting, at which Shin'ichi Yamamoto was to be inaugurated as the third president of the Soka Gakkai, was held at the Nihon University Auditorium in Ryogoku, Tokyo.

The meeting was declared open at noon and the opening procession got under way, accompanied by the stirring strains of a Gakkai song. The 203 flags of the young men's and young women's division corps were followed into the

auditorium by the flag of the Gakkai Headquarters, after which the new president, Shin'ichi Yamamoto, made his entrance. The eyes of the more than 20,000 members present were all riveted on him. He looked up at the photograph of President Toda that hung above center stage. To the left and right of the photograph hung short *waka* poems by Toda inscribed in striking black calligraphy. The one on the right caught Shin'ichi's eye. It read:

Now, let us set out on a journey
Our hearts emboldened
To spread the Mystic Law
To the farthest reaches
Of India.¹

He fondly remembered the poem, which Josei Toda had composed in the New Year of 1952, the year after his inauguration as president, to express his commitment and determination to widely spread the Mystic Law throughout the world.

Gazing at the picture of his late mentor, Shin'ichi inwardly pledged: "Sensei, following in your footsteps, I now begin my great lifelong struggle for the Law. Transcending life and death, I will march forth boldly on a journey for world kosen-rufu in which I will spread the Daishonin's Buddhism to the farthest reaches of India. Please wait and see."

He felt as if his mentor was warmly smiling down upon him. As he gazed at the picture, tears welled in his eyes.

Shin'ichi Yamamoto proceeded to the stage, fighting to hold back the rising flood of emotion.

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AFTER Shin'ichi was seated, Soka Gakkai Director Hisao Seki gave the opening words. When Seki mentioned the inauguration of the new president, cheers and loud applause erupted.

After a progress report from Kazumasa Morikawa, words from outgoing general director Takeo Konishi and an introduction of the new president by Koichi Harayama, Shin'ichi Yamamoto finally rose to deliver his inaugural speech.

An explosion of joy and a storm of applause rocked the auditorium. It was the day—the moment—they had all been waiting for. Now, in reply to their long and cherished hope, before them stood their new president, Shin'ichi Yamamoto. The air was filled with anticipation of a great, fresh surge of progress toward kosen-rufu. Hearts pounding with excitement, the members silently awaited Shin'ichi's words.

"Though I am young, from this day I will take leadership as a representative of President Toda's disciples and advance with you another step toward the substantive realization of kosen-rufu...."

His voice resounded with strength and dignity. It was a lion's roar, signaling a new dawn for the spread of the Law. The members' applause, expressing their desire to share in this struggle, echoed through the auditorium like surging waves of joy. The moment marked a powerful new departure into the vast and open seas of world peace and human happiness.

Attending the general meeting was also High Priest Nittatsu, who announced: "In his treatise 'The Opening of the Eyes,' our founder, Nichiren Daishonin, wrote, 'This I

will state. Let the gods forsake me. Let all persecutions assail me. Still I will give my life for the sake of the Law' (*The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 2, p. 174). These are the words I wish to dedicate to Mr. Shin'ichi Yamamoto, the third president of the Soka Gakkai, on this occasion of his inauguration."

Shin'ichi etched this golden statement deeply into his life. A passionate determination to selflessly devote his life to spreading the Law surged through his entire being.

The meeting drew to a close amid an atmosphere of jubilation. Later, as the celebration that followed was about to end and Shin'ichi was preparing to exit, a great cheer suddenly erupted as a surging crowd of youth swept toward him. Grabbing hold of him, they lifted Shin'ichi above their heads and began tossing him into the air. The joy of these youth, who had long been awaiting their new president, was explosive.

"Long live President Yamamoto!" someone in the ring of youth surrounding the group that was tossing Shin'ichi cried out at the top of his lungs, throwing his arms vigorously up in the air and practically jumping off his feet as he did so.

The rest joined in, yelling, "Banzai! Banzai! (Long life! Long life!)"

Their cheers echoed outward like a tidal wave, and a roaring torrent of applause reverberated in the vast domed space above them. Faces glowed with happiness, and cheeks glistened with tears of joy.

Light streaming in from one of the auditorium's high windows bathed Shin'ichi's form as he was tossed into the air amid a sea of outstretched hands. It conjured images of a graceful young whale leaping into the air, diving powerfully through the churning waters.

It was an unrestrained celebration of the departure of a gallant youth on a glorious, tumultuous voyage to the new century. Shin'ichi's heart was as fresh and clear as a perfectly cloudless sky. He brimmed with fighting spirit, and a sun-like sense of mission burned with intense brilliance inside him, illuminating the clear skies of his heart with a golden light.

(End)

Dedicated to my late mentor, Josei Toda

By his disciple, Daisaku Ikeda

EPILOGUE

CHERRY blossoms danced in the wind, as if bidding a final farewell. The day of my mentor's funeral, and how I stood, with a thousand emotions in my heart, gazing up at the blue sky spreading out beyond the delicately falling cherry blossoms, remains indelibly etched in my memory.

On April 2, 1958, my mentor, Josei Toda, passed away peacefully at the age of 58. His life had been as pure, noble and fresh as those cherry blossoms.

My mentor had struggled against the cruel oppression of the military government and stood alone in a war-ravaged, defeated Japan to build a citadel of

peace for all humanity. He took up the cause of kosen-rufu in exact accord with the will of Nichiren Daishonin, bringing the Daishonin's Buddhism to life in an age when it was on the verge of perishing. He dove into the anguished, suffering masses of the people. Talking with them, sharing their laughter and their tears, he lit the torch of happiness for 750,000 households.

But this peerless leader of Buddhism was not understood by his contemporaries in Japanese society. Instead, we might say that his life ended in the midst of misunderstanding and defamation toward him.

In my youth, I vowed to create a written record that would convey the truth about my mentor. This was because I had resolved in my heart that my mission as his disciple was to declare my teacher's magnificent accomplishments to the world. I felt that unless his selfless struggle to propagate the Law was properly communicated, transmitting this Buddhism to future generations would be impossible.

Ultimately, President Toda's life itself was an example of a single individual's sublime human revolution; I was convinced that chronicling it would make it possible for multitudes of people to pursue that same path.

Soon after Mr. Toda passed away, I began to formulate the concept for this work. What troubled me most was where to begin.

Under the pen name "Myo Goku," President Toda had written and published a single-volume novel titled *The Human Revolution* in which he depicted himself as the main character, named Mr. Gan. That novel ended with Gan's realization in prison that he was a Bodhisattva of the Earth who had been present at the Ceremony in the Air described in the Lotus Sutra, and with his determination to embrace the noble mission of widely propagating the Law as his own personal calling and lifework. In this way, my mentor committed to writing the state of life he had attained through his awakening in prison.

TO be aware of one's mission as a Bodhisattva of the Earth gives essential meaning to one's existence, inspires an awakening to one's genuine humanity and becomes a supreme source of value-creation for one's life. It also serves as a motivating force to transform the lesser self, which is bound by self-concern, in the direction of altruism, allowing for the establishment of a greater self capable of embracing all humanity. Wanting to teach us that herein lies the ultimate principle known as "human revolution," my late mentor thus set out to record his own experience in the form of a novel.

After his release from prison on July 3, 1945, he put into practice the profound determination he had arrived at, and in the process revealed the concrete means for achieving human revolution.

For this reason, with the intention that my novel *The Human Revolution* be a continuation of President Toda's, I decided to begin writing from the point of his release from prison.

I announced my aim to begin writing this novel on the occasion of my mentor's seventh memorial service (marking the sixth anniversary of his death) in 1964, and began work on the first installment while in Okinawa on December 2 of that year.

Twenty-eight years have passed since then, and now at last this twelfth and final volume is in the process of being published in book form. I completed the manuscript on November 24 last year (1992), with the inscription, "Dedicated to my late mentor, Josei Toda. By his disciple, Daisaku Ikeda." As I wrote this, I envisioned my mentor's smiling face. I am uncertain about how adequately I have been able to record the whole truth of my great teacher's life, but I nevertheless now savor the profound joy

of having fulfilled one of my duties as a disciple.

In one sense, through writing *The Human Revolution* I have kept up a day-to-day dialogue with my mentor. Particularly in writing this twelfth volume, which chronicles President Toda's life from August 1957 up through his death, there were many times when I, recalling those final days, found myself swept by powerful emotions. During that period, though he was growing weaker with each passing day, he summoned forth death-defying energy and mounted his final struggle for kosen-rufu. Aware of his own approaching death, he waged a sublime battle against the limitations of his own mortality.

In the midst of this struggle, on September 8, 1957, he delivered his historic "Declaration for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons" at the Mitsuzawa Athletics Stadium in Yokohama. This constituted the first of his final prescripts to his successors for the sake of the future.

Then, that November, President Toda collapsed from illness while preparing to make a trip to Hiroshima to encourage the members there. The day before, he had strictly admonished me for trying to dissuade him from going. "As an emissary of the Buddha, I can't turn my back on something once I've decided to do it! I will go, even if it kills me!" This cry, which arose from his fervent fighting spirit, still echoes in my mind.

Mr. Toda's deep, indomitable resolution even forced aside the devilish functions of illness. As if by a miracle, he regained his health and, in March the following year, took leadership of a monthlong general pilgrimage to celebrate the completion at the head temple of the Grand Lecture Hall. By way of the ceremony of March 16 held during that pilgrimage, he entrusted to the youth of the Soka Gakkai, of which I was then one, full responsibility for the future of kosen-rufu. Only a short time later, he passed away.

During that time at the head temple, President Toda kept me constantly by his side, pouring his life into training and tutoring me until the very end. Each of those days remains for me a rich and glowing golden memory. Each word my mentor uttered at that time contains his will and testament to us, and serves as an eternal guide to illuminate the future.

Indeed, the record of President Toda's life and achievements portrayed in this twelfth volume is significant in that it constitutes the period of his life that is most essential to be conveyed to posterity. It is imbued with numerous and splendid guidelines and instructions that will be applicable for countless generations to come.

ORIGINALLY, I had intended to finish Volume 12 of *The Human Revolution* with the events surrounding President Toda's death. But I felt that would have been far too sad. Considering that my mentor's spirit had grown into a great river of kosen-rufu, and that that flow must be perpetuated, I felt I should somehow end this volume with a ray of hope for the future. It was with this in mind that I added the chapter "New Dawn," ending with Shin'ichi Yamamoto's inauguration as the third president of the Soka Gakkai. For this reason, the length of the manuscript for Volume 12 surpasses that of previous volumes, and I hope the reader will excuse this additional abundance of text.

President Toda passed away at the age of 58; were he alive today, he would be 93 as of this writing. Now I, his disciple, having myself suffered from illness and a weak constitution, have surpassed him in years. I can only feel that he has bequeathed the

remaining portion of his life to me. What I feel I must do now is fight on in my mentor's stead for the sake of world peace and the happiness of humankind, survive, and fulfill my mission in this life. This is the path I must follow as a disciple, to repay my debt of gratitude to my mentor. It is the path of human revolution that he forged for us. As I proceed along this lofty and noble path of the Soka Gakkai, President Toda continues to live on in my heart. I can only pray that he will live on forever in the hearts and minds of all our fellow members.

Finally, I wish to thank from the bottom of my heart all of those who have offered their dedicated effort and support to this project, including master artists like Mr. Teikichi Miyoshi, who has contributed illustrations since the very first installment of *The Human Revolution* series, the late Mr. Ryushi Kawabata and Mr. Kai Higashiyama, both of whom worked on cover design.

The Author

February 11, 1993

The day of my mentor's birth

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

(This concludes Volume XII, the final volume of The Human Revolution.)

1. India: Japanese *Gasshi*, literally "Land of the Moon." In his writings, Nichiren Daishonin refers to the eventual spread of Buddhism from Japan, the "Land of the Sun," back to India, the place of its origins. This indicates the worldwide propagation of the Daishonin's Buddhism.