

**The New Human Revolution Volume 5, Chapter 3**  
**Victory**  
**By HO GOKU – Illustrated by KENICHIRO UCHIDA**

Translation of parts 42–44 of the ‘Victory’ chapter, as printed in the *Seikyo Shimbun*, the Soka Gakkai’s daily newspaper. Ho Goku is the pen name of Daisaku Ikeda, who appears in the novel as Shin’ichi Yamamoto. The events take place in 1961.

Thus the Tohoku members unveiled their new song as scheduled at the completion and Gohonzon-enshrining ceremony for the new Headquarters Building in Sendai.

After the celebrations, Shin’ichi Yamamoto attended a discussion with the Tohoku leaders. Perusing the lyrics of their new song one more time, he asked: “As it will be sung by members throughout Japan, why don’t we rename it ‘Song of the New Century’? And how about changing the words ‘suffering comrades’ in the first verse to ‘suffering friends’? I think that would make it easier for people to relate to. What do you think?”

There was a burst of approving applause from the group of youth who had been involved in the song’s composition. This is how the “Song of the New Century” was born. Its lyrics go as follows:

*In the vast unfolding sky  
young eagles soar  
following their mentor, the pillar of Japan  
filled with pride as Bodhisattvas of the Earth  
working to aid suffering friends.*

*Whales leap with majesty  
in stormy seas  
advancing in energetic response to the powerful call  
to accomplish the great dream of uniting the world  
as they boldly travel the seven seas.*

*The lion’s courageous roar  
shakes the earth,  
as the magnificent vanguard of kosen-rufu  
defeats falsehood with the sword of truth  
and ushers in a brand-new century.*

After staying overnight in Sendai, Shin’ichi went for a walk the next morning at the ruins of Aoba Castle. Josei Toda’s widow, Ikue, had attended the completion and Gohonzon-enshrining ceremony of the Tohoku Headquarters and Shin’ichi wanted to show her around Aoba Castle where he had walked with Mr. Toda seven years earlier.

Shin’ichi climbed the stone steps as he talked with Ikue and gazed around at the moss-covered stone walls. His thoughts filled with memories of visiting this site with his mentor. A number of Tohoku youth division leaders and student division members had also made their way to Aoba Castle that morning. Now Shin’ichi invited all of them to join him in touring the grounds. Pointing to the castle’s stone walls, Shin’ichi said:

“Look at this. Large stones, small stones — all kinds of stones have been piled neatly and carefully on top of each other. That is why these walls are strong and solid. They are a symbol of unity. While it is natural that we all make efforts to forge and strengthen

ourselves, this alone is not enough to accomplish such a great undertaking as kosen-rufu.

“Like the stones in these walls, we have to unite solidly and support one another. A castle of capable people actually means a castle of *united* capable people. Unity is power and that is why the Soka Gakkai is strong.

“Let’s build a stronghold of capable people in Tohoku. Just as the lyrics of ‘Song of the New Century’ say, please strive wholeheartedly to build a brand-new century of the people with your own hands.”

The youth’s eyes sparkled with fresh resolve.

Shin’ichi stood at the ruins of Aoba Castle and recited an impromptu poem:

*Further strengthening my resolve  
to build a castle  
of capable people,  
I stand at Aoba,  
my mentor now departed.*

Echoing forever in Shin’ichi’s heart were the words of his mentor, Josei Toda, calling on him to build a castle of capable people for the future.

Shin’ichi’s creative ideas for kosen-rufu arose from his sole desire to realize his mentor’s vision. He continued to freely, unerringly envisage a brilliant future for the spread of the Daishonin’s Buddhism precisely because this essential point remained steadfast and unchanging.

He was deeply gratified and overjoyed to escort Toda’s wife, Ikue, to this spot, a place that held such fond memories of his mentor for him.

Shin’ichi returned to Tokyo that day and stayed at the Gakkai Headquarters until late that night attending to paperwork. Some of the directors and a handful of Headquarters staff also remained.

As the hands of the clock approached midnight, Shin’ichi asked, “Any word on their arrival yet?”

One of the staff nearby replied, “No, they’re not scheduled to arrive at Haneda until around 2:00 a.m.”

“That’s right.... I hope everyone’s fine.”

A group of members from the United States was scheduled to arrive in Japan early the morning of Nov. 22. Kiyoshi Jujo, the Gakkai’s vice general director and America General Chapter chief, had gone to Haneda Airport to meet them. Shortly after 2:30 a.m., Jujo phoned Shin’ichi to let him know the members had arrived safely.

“A group of 59 arrived at 1:58 and they were joined by seven from Hawaii and two from Los Angeles who arrived on a separate flight, making for a total of 68,” he informed Shin’ichi. “We have two buses ready to take them to the Tokyo No. 2 Headquarters Building in Kamata, where they’ll rest until morning.”

“Great,” said Shin’ichi. “Thank you for looking after them. By the way, is everyone feeling all right?”

“Yes, they’re all fine and in the brightest of spirits,” Jujo assured him.

“How old is the eldest among them?” Shin’ichi asked.

“Eighty-two. A woman named Tomino Okada.”

“Ah, isn’t that the mother of Fumie Shearing, who let us use her home for the discussion meeting in Washington, D.C.?”

“Yes, that’s right.”

“OK then,” said Shin’ichi, “please see that everyone gets to bed without delay. And please convey my warmest regards to all. Tell them that I’m looking forward to seeing them at the Headquarters.” That said, Shin’ichi put down the receiver.

The American members arrived at the Gakkai Headquarters later that morning. When they saw Shin’ichi, they cheered and applauded loudly, clapping their hands above their heads in a heartfelt expression of joy.

For Shin’ichi, there were many familiar faces: Kiyoko Kuwano, Los Angeles Chapter women’s division chief, and Kazuko Ellick, who had initially been put out over not being appointed to that position, were both present. Fumie Shearing, Washington, D.C., Chapter chief, and Mitsuru Kawakami from Hawaii were there as well.

“Welcome to Japan!” Shin’ichi said. “Thank you so much for coming. I’m so happy to see all of you.”

They had been beaming brightly, but when Shin’ichi spoke, tears welled in their eyes. Soon, nearly everyone was crying out loud.

Many of the members were Japanese women who had moved to the United States with their American husbands. Most had been wracked by hardship and financial difficulty in their adopted country. And while feeling terribly homesick, they had despaired of ever returning to Japan.

But they had begun to think differently after hearing Shin’ichi’s guidance on his visit to the United States a year earlier. He told them that America was now just a stone’s throw from Japan, both lying virtually in each other’s backyard. “Let’s meet in Japan next year,” he had told them, and this had become their new goal and source of hope.

Thereafter, these members from America had devoted themselves earnestly in faith and practice, aiming for the day they would visit Japan. But going to Japan was no easy matter. They would have to take time off from work and raise the money for their plane fare.

They had flown to Japan by jet and the round-trip airfare from a place like New York was around •310,000. Although there was a substantial difference in the price of goods in Japan and the United States, a dish of Chinese noodles in Japan at the time cost around •50. The airfare then was well beyond the immediate reach of most of them.

In the year since Shin’ichi’s visit, they had struggled to save money by working part-time jobs in restaurants or doing ironing. Some of them took out loans, which they repaid in 10 or 20 installments. Despite these many hardships, the members had eagerly wished to travel to Japan to meet with Soka Gakkai President Shin’ichi Yamamoto and their fellow Japanese members and to come in direct contact with the dynamic energy of faith of the Gakkai in Japan. With a passionate seeking spirit, the members worked and toiled, cutting down where they could on their daily expenses to save money.

“Let’s go to Japan! Let’s fulfill our pledge to President Yamamoto!” — with this determination they crossed the Pacific.

***(To be continued)***