

VOICES: What's the most crucial aspect of human revolution you've accomplished in your practice?

Members from Boston Joint Territory respond:

I'm tempted to say that I've already achieved enlightenment. However, I have, at times, had to ask myself if Nichiren Daishonin would roll his window down and holler at someone for cutting him off in traffic or pretend to not be home when an SGI member was at the door for a home visit! This is not who I am but is most certainly who I was several struggle-filled years ago. I'm pleased about no longer being that person but am more proud of actually looking forward to and believing that I have a wonderful future.

— ISHARA S. SMITH, Boston

For me, it has been realizing that every day that I don't advance I slide back. Advancing every day is difficult. If I don't try better in the things I do, I become complacent and satisfied with my environment (akin to the kankucho bird who always freezes at night because he was lax and enjoyed the warm weather during the day). That is sliding back. My ongoing revolution has been to make each day another opportunity to advance. It is this constant struggle that I consider my human revolution.

— BRYSON KIDO, Boston

As Gandhi said, "We must be the change we wish to see in the world." I've learned that I must be the change I wish to see in my environment and that no one and nothing can defeat me in this mission, except me and my doubt. I didn't always know if I could or would fight for my own and others' happiness, no matter what. Now, with the inspiration and encouragement of SGI President Ikeda and my friends in faith, I know that I always can and always will.

— JULIA RILEY, Newton Centre, Mass.

It's more clear to me now that what you do and fight for every day is deeply connected to your larger mission as a human being in the world. Your dreams can never be too lofty. And the level at which you take responsibility and action toward achieving them is where daily life comes in. To make art that can inspire people, you've got to be an inspiring person with rock solid conviction. Of course, this is very difficult. But if you're struggling, you're winning!

— CLAUDIA HEIMAN, Cambridge, Mass.

I heard a study presentation in Tokyo on the two kinds of Bodhisattvas. The lecturer said pre-Lotus Sutra Bodhisattvas practiced for others in order to attain their own happiness. I thought, "Yeah, me too." Bodhisattvas of the Lotus Sutra, however, practice for others without regard for their own happiness. At that moment, I realized that I needed to change my attitude toward practicing for others. I think the ability to change such things is what human revolution is all about.

— GEOFF WESTROPP, Boston

Title: Voices: What's the most crucial aspect of human revolution you've accomplished?
Subject: World Tribune 03/28/97 n.3132 p.2 WT970328p02
Author:
Keywords: accomplished aspect crucial Experiences human January June most Opinion Practice
revolution Tribune Voices World