

To Tell The Truth
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Buddhism is reason. Reason will win over your lord. (*The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 3, p. 238)

On March 23 I visited Atlanta, where some student division members took me to the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site and the Atlanta University Center. At both places, I felt that Martin Luther King Jr. is still alive — his words are a living presence.

Quotes from Dr. King were posted on signs, printed on T-shirts and engraved in the bases of statues. In the National Park Service Visitor Center, from an array of TV sets, there were multiple Dr. Kings speaking forcefully, yet calmly, against prejudice.

I wondered why Dr. King's words continue to encourage so many people, when the words of many American leaders have been forgotten. Discussing it with the students, we agreed that Dr. King's words live on because he had the courage to tell the truth — his words of justice continue to do their work. As Dr. King said, "Unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality."

A recent installment of *The New Human Revolution* made the same point (March 28 *World Tribune*). SGI President Ikeda quoted the above passage from "The Supreme Leader of the World" to explain that the truth always prevails over authority.

"Reason will win over your lord," Nichiren Daishonin told Shijo Kingo — and he was right. Kingo's words finally had an impact on his boss, Lord Ema, who had long persecuted him. Ema came to understand Kingo's sincere heart and to cherish his input as an employee and a friend.

At the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site, I suddenly remembered that a year before on March 23, Hiroe Clow, who courageously shared the truth of the Seattle Incident, had died. I sent a prayer to Dr. King, Mrs. Clow and all those who have given their lives for justice, and made a determination to always do my best, too, to speak the truth.

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