

EDITORIAL: Expanding Our Ability To Care

Expansion is the first of the six challenges General Director Zaitzu shared at the start of this year. Certainly it expresses the essential purpose and intent of Buddhism. The term *kosen-rufu*, literally “to widely declare and spread broadly,” suggests an expanding movement of dialogue to broaden understanding of the law of life that Buddhism teaches.

Human revolution, too, is expansion. The Lotus Sutra symbolizes expansion with the emergence of a grand and majestic treasure tower, representing the supreme potential of our lives, from the Earth, representing our mundane limitations.

Josei Toda, the second Soka Gakkai president, characterized human revolution as an expansion of the sphere of our personal perspective and concern from that which encompasses simply our own happiness or that of our immediate family to that which embraces and includes the happiness of friends, acquaintances, community, nation and the world.

In that sense, human revolution is an expansion of our capacity to care. How many people can we care for, how deeply do we care, and how consistently can we act to support them and to help them reveal the treasure tower within? Herein lies the basic groundwork for *kosen-rufu*.

Growth is generally a desirable proposition. Economists view a growing economy as a positive sign. A child who steadily grows makes his or her parents happy and full of pride. Personal growth is something most people want to achieve.

When faced with the opportunity for growth, however, not all groups or individuals can easily achieve it. Several things may happen: First, no growth or expansion may take place. If we are constructing a building, for example, we need a good blue print, a solid budget, a workable timetable, a commitment to get it done, and a good team of dedicated, capable people. Without these elements, the designer’s drawing may continue to hang on our wall, but we will never enjoy a 10th-floor view.

Second, expansion might take place, but it may be wild and uncontrolled, lacking a real foundation or sustaining substance. Any progress without a solid basis is bound to digress. Back to the building: If our aim is merely to finish the job quickly and cheaply, without concern for the safety, convenience, health and well-being of the occupants far into the future, then the consequences can be catastrophic. Any expansion that comes at the expense of individual happiness, health or well-being is nothing more than a castle built on sand.

The third and ideal option is that healthy growth will take place, that the expansion will benefit and enrich everyone involved and send ripples of value and progress into society. The building, the treasure tower, we construct will then be enduring. Everyone who enters it will feel joy, hope and courage and be inspired to reveal their own treasure towers from within.

On what should we base our expansion? In his treatise “Repaying Debts of Gratitude,” Nichiren Daishonin writes: “If Nichiren’s compassion is truly great and encompassing, Nam-myoho-enge-kyo will spread for ten thousand years and more, for all eternity, for it has the beneficial power to open the blind eyes of every living being....” (*The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 4, p. 272). As the Daishonin suggests, Nam-myoho-enge-kyo itself expresses the Buddha’s great and encompassing compassion; it is only such compassion that drives the advancement of our humanistic Buddhist movement.

The SGI-USA is now at a crossroads — we are reorganizing by neighborhood, streamlining and solidifying our foundation for fresh development and growth into the new

Title: Editorial: Expanding Our Ability to Care

Subject: World Tribune 04/25/97 n.3136 p.2 WT970425p02

Author:

Keywords: Ability Care Editorials Expanding Goals Opinion Organization Reorganization Tribune World

century. Everything hinges on whether each of us takes this opportunity to expand our power and capacity to care, to pray for each person's happiness and growth, so that not a single human treasure falls by the wayside in the process.

As SGI President Ikeda recently said: "Prayer is a struggle to expand one's life. When we sincerely pray, then, without fail, the Buddha wisdom to know how to encourage others will well forth in our lives. Our movement of kosen-rufu is an effort to expand this world of encouragement."

WT

Title: Editorial: Expanding Our Ability to Care
Subject: World Tribune 04/25/97 n.3136 p.2 WT970425p02
Author:
Keywords: Ability Care Editorials Expanding Goals Opinion Organization Reorganization Tribune World