

VOICES: What book has profoundly impacted you and why?

Members from Seattle Joint Territory respond:

Long Walk to Freedom [the autobiography of Nelson Mandela] was a truly inspiring account of a remarkable man. Nelson Mandela is an absolute lion! His spirit to face severe racism and brutal treatment with profound courage has helped me to strengthen my resolve to face injustice in whatever way I can.

— ART HOOVER, Olympia, Wash.

Centennial by James Michener. I read this book when I was 16 and it left a big impression on me. The story chronicles the lives of people in Colorado over hundreds of years and shows how good and bad causes affect generations of people. I realized then that my actions not only affect me but also others. Now, as an elementary school teacher, I know that a young person I influence could become president of the United States or could go in the opposite direction.

— AARON FRANKLIN, Everett, Wash.

Nuclear Madness: What Can I Do? by Dr. Helen Caldicott. This 20-year-old book brought to light that I knew next to nothing about nuclear proliferation. It has a map in it that gives details of where nuclear arms are stored, where nuclear plants have been built, etc. I was stunned that all but two states had several symbols in them. And my home state of New Mexico had started it all. As I chanted for a goal for kosen-rufu, it came to me that I needed to contact Dr. Caldicott and find out exactly what I can do to help her cause, to stop the nuclear madness. If I can, in this lifetime, make a major impact on stopping nuclear development, I will feel I have done my job for kosen-rufu.

— GLENNA VINCENT, Bellingham, Wash.

I read *For Whom the Bell Tolls* by Ernest Hemingway awhile ago. Hemingway is an exquisite writer and sections of his prose moved me to tears. I was also moved by the courage and nobility of the characters. I am convinced that people seek good and value and that war must never be tolerated.

— WARREN EDMONDSON, Seattle

In his book *Beyond Discipline*, Alfie Kohn gives some substantial arguments why many of the disciplinary programs currently used in schools are failing our children. He shows how we can move from control and compliance to a community environment where children are respected and valued. His visionary thinking inspired me to challenge my issues of control both at school and in my daily life. I was touched by the underlying Buddhist or humanist philosophy in his practical approach to the journey of self-discipline.

— KATHLEEN TRACY, Kent, Wash.

The Constitution of Liberty by Friedrich A. Hayek. It deeply impressed me when I first read it in the early '60s. The world then was crushed in the vice of the Cold War. How clearly and completely this book restated the ideal of liberty! I dreamed that one day all humankind might live in a free, prosperous commonwealth liberated by the Rule of Law. Until I began practicing, however, I did not really believe this could be realized. As the

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years of practice have become decades, I have growing confidence that it is possible and will be an important aspect of kosen-rufu.

— TOM LOOMIS, Seattle.

Black Elk Speaks and the Carlos Castenedas series directly led to my willingness to try chanting Nam-myoho-renge-kyo. The practices and lifestyles of Native Americans have certain commonalities with chanting and the use of physical objects for meditative purposes. Subsequent to [After??] becoming a Buddhist, the various translations of the Lotus Sutra have been of greatest importance to me.

— BUSTER GREENE, Seattle

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