

## THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF KOSEN-RUFU DAY A New Day in the History of Humanity

**Every March 16 is a celebration of youth for the SGI organization. On this day in 1958, our second president, Josei Toda, held a meeting with 6,000 youth in Japan, passing to them the responsibility for securing lasting peace through the sharing of Buddhism (kosen-rufu). Over the last 40 years, our organization has maintained its commitment to supporting youth in their Buddhist practice and awakening their sense of mission. Over the years, our current president, Daisaku Ikeda, has often spoken on the significance of March 16, Kosen-rufu Day.**

March 16, 1958, was the day our mentor, President Toda, revealed for us the outline of kosen-rufu, letting us participate in a dress rehearsal for that time so that we would know in what direction to strive. A top government leader [the prime minister] had promised to attend that day but in the end couldn't make it. President Toda declared that all of a nation's citizens, including its prime minister, are equal in front of the Gohonzon [the object of devotion in this Buddhism]. He showed us a vision of kosen-rufu in which the light of the Mystic Law would shine equally on all people.

After the ceremony and just before returning to his lodging, President Toda called out to us, "Let us fight!" I think these words are profoundly meaningful. I feel certain he was referring to the whole spectrum of struggles we must grapple with: to help those suffering become happy, to challenge erroneous teachings, to fight against abuses and injustices committed by those in positions of power and our individual struggle against our own weaknesses.

In any case, when I heard him call out, "Let us fight!" — his eyes sharp and radiant, his voice strong and vibrant despite his terrible gauntness — I was electrified. At that time, I resolved anew to fight intrepidly for kosen-rufu. His cry came from the depths of his being; it was an appeal from his very life.

— The New Human Revolution,  
*vol. 4, p. 40*

According to Greek legend, when Prometheus created human beings and made them stand erect, he said: "All other animals look downward. Man, you will live by looking up at the sky. You will live and talk with the sky and the stars!"

With the world as your stage and your gaze fixed on the eternal universe, youth, live boldly, rising above the insignificant vicissitudes of the world. Let us proceed with composure, afraid of nothing. Let us resolutely proclaim the truth.

Unless you young people are fired up with energy, we will not be able to burn away the darkness of life that overshadows the times. Unless you advance, the flames of justice will not reach the people's lives. The true significance of March 16 lies in each of you standing up, taking action, praying and speaking out as a torchbearer in your own right.

At the end of your energetic advance will come the time when the mountain ranges and cities of the people's glory and triumph will emerge. That is the time when the ceremony of our "Eternal March 16" will come vividly to life in your hearts and begin to shine with a new and inextinguishable light.

— *May 1991 Seikyo Times, p. 44*

*Youth,  
Always push on.  
Now is the time;  
We should not go back even a step.*

*Youth, sing the bright and brave song of youth  
Proudly and hopefully,  
Continuing to challenge your daily efforts courageously,  
In your pursuit of study and training.*

*With a golden unity that will never break down,  
Give yourselves to accomplishing this,  
Our sacred undertaking,  
Bringing in a new day in the history of mankind.*

— “A Blue Deeper Than Indigo Itself: To My Young Friends on Kosen-rufu Day,” Songs of Victory, pp. 215–16