

## I Have Fought, I Have Won

*SGI President Ikeda gave the following speech at the 3rd All-Japan Student Division Leaders Meeting and a gathering of future division representatives at the Soka University Auditorium in Hachioji, Tokyo, April 2.*

My mentor, second Soka Gakkai president Josei Toda, often said that he had three joys in life. The first was coming into contact with people of the highest intellect. In fact, a lifelong source of pride for him was that, in his youth, he and his mentor, first Soka Gakkai president Tsunesaburo Makiguchi, attended a lecture on the theory of relativity by Albert Einstein (1879– 1955) during the great physicist’s visit to Japan.

Today, we are privileged to welcome the world-renowned Russian physicist Dr. Anatoli A. Logunov, who is developing theories that promise to go beyond Einstein’s theory of relativity and is on the leading edge of modern physics. He is famous for overseeing the construction of the world’s largest proton synchrotron, an enormous high-energy particle accelerator with a circumference of 21 kilometers. He has also served as rector of Moscow State University, making many lasting contributions during his tenure there. Throughout the tumultuous times that have buffeted Russia, Dr. Logunov has stood strong and firm as a towering pillar of science and education.

My young friends, let us welcome this eminent scientist with another resounding round of applause!

### **The Genuine Article**

President Toda’s second joy was having a great mentor. Mr. Toda regarded it as his supreme honor to have received guidance and training from such an exceptional philosopher as Mr. Makiguchi.

What was President Toda’s third joy? It was to fight intrepidly for justice. Together with Mr. Makiguchi, he resolutely opposed Japanese nationalism during World War II and spent two years in prison as a result. He later said, “As a disciple, there is no greater honor for me than to have fought at my mentor’s side when he was facing unprecedented persecution.”

Throughout his life, President Toda felt deep gratitude to Mr. Makiguchi for making this possible. And once at a memorial service, he eulogized his mentor, saying, “In your vast and boundless compassion you let me accompany you even to prison.” This is the heart of Buddhism. This is the essence of the Soka Gakkai.

However, there have been cowardly individuals not only reluctant to undergo persecution with their mentor, but who have also openly used their mentor and the organization of faith to advance self-serving interests and ambitions. They repaid what should have been a debt of gratitude with betrayal.

People of genuine courage and conviction in faith are sure to meet with persecution. That is a sign that they are the genuine article. Those who do not encounter obstacles or resistance are impostors.

For the past 40 years, I have waged a great spiritual struggle, transcending life and death, to promote our movement. I have borne the full brunt of countless persecutions.

### **No Worries Because of You**

Earlier in this meeting, I received the first honorary doctorate to be conferred by the Institute for High Energy Physics, a venerable institution representing the pinnacle of

Russian science. Inasmuch as today, April 2, is the 40th anniversary of my mentor's death, I dedicate this honor to President Toda; it is proof of the triumph of the oneness of mentor and disciple. As his disciple, I have fought, and I have won.

It is you, my dear friends of the student and future divisions, who will carry on our struggle. Because of you, I have no worries about the future. I place my wholehearted trust in you — your presence gives me the greatest peace of mind.

The honorary degree certificate is imprinted with the image of Mikhail Lomonosov (1711– 65), a pioneer of modern Russian science and the founder of Moscow State University. Throughout his life, Lomonosov battled arrogant forces that sought to obstruct the development of science and spiritual freedom.

Above all, he stood up to the church, which was openly contemptuous of the people and made every effort to keep them in spiritual bondage and dependency. Not daunted in the least by persecution, Lomonosov vehemently condemned the corruption and decadence of the clergy.

We should go even further in denouncing corruption. We must never hesitate or compromise when it comes to speaking out against evil or injustice.

What do you suppose Lomonosov described as his “sole source of hope”? His young students. He prayed that promising youth from humble backgrounds like himself would be given a chance to shine. His wish was that his schools would produce the great river of talented individuals for which society so desperately yearned.

President Toda also placed all his trust in youth, believing that people of older generations tended to be crafty and cunning. And he entrusted me, then still a young man, with carrying on his lifework.

My sentiments now are the same: I place my every hope in the growth and development of each of you. The future depends entirely on the youth. It is up to you to rise to action.

I congratulate the formation today of several new university groups and new future division groups.

This meeting, by the way, will later be viewed via broadcast by friends from Taiwan, who are currently participating in a study session in Okinawa. I bid them a warm welcome and thank them for traveling so far. I appreciate from the bottom of my heart their tremendous efforts.

### **The Brain's Full Powers**

The first honorary doctorate that I received was from Moscow State University in 1975. With today's degree from yet another distinguished Russian institute, the number of honorary doctorates and professorships bestowed on me from universities and scholarly institutions around the world comes to 50. I am particularly honored to be granted this doctorate of philosophy and physics.

Buddhism teaches that “all phenomena in the universe are manifestations of the Law” (*Gosho Zenshu*, p. 564). With this understanding, I hope you will engage yourselves in broad-ranging studies with vigor and determination.

According to Dr. Logunov, the human brain has more than 10 billion nerve cells, or neurons, in the cerebral cortex alone. Moreover, each of these cells is said to have 2,000 contacts, or synapses, for conveying nervous impulses.

So, if we multiple 10 billion by 2,000, we get the total number of synapses. Dr. Logunov has told me that the number of components making up the neural network is even greater than the total number of particles known by scientists today to form physical matter in the universe.

All of your young brains have a potential as vast and boundless as the universe. How,

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then, do we manifest the brain's full creative powers? Dr. Logunov maintains that there is only one way to bring out our full intellectual capacity: by constantly putting our minds to work.

### **To Study in Adversity**

While in prison, President Makiguchi earnestly read and reread the philosophy of Kant. President Toda, likewise, pushed himself to study differential and integral calculus and the history of mathematics while in prison.

Even while fighting for their beliefs, both these great predecessors never lost their spirit to study and learn. I hope you, my young friends, will remember the importance of such efforts, of having such a tenacious, undefeated spirit. The future belongs to you.

Buddhism teaches that one characteristic of a bodhisattva is being able to perceive the world's sounds. The insight and astuteness needed to correctly discern and grasp developments in society and of the times — even to anticipate them before they happen — is indispensable.

### **Religion and Science As Complementary**

About a year before President Toda died, I viewed an exhibition of leading scientific advances and discoveries from around the world. When I related at length what I had seen, Mr. Toda, who had a very scientific mind, listened intently. He then said, “You should give some thought to the relationship of science and religion.”

That casual remark prompted me to do just that. I began to ponder the matter in earnest. A single word of advice or direction from my mentor always contained voluminous meaning.

My efforts to pursue this subject came to wonderful fruition in the dialogue that Dr. Logunov and I published [currently available only in Japanese]. When Dr. Logunov talked about quantum mechanics, I shared the Buddhist doctrine of the unification of the three truths — the truth of non-substantiality, the truth of temporary existence and the truth of the Middle Way. When Dr. Logunov introduced field theory, I offered the perspective of non-substantiality. In this way, we discussed the deep concordance between the profound philosophy of Buddhism and the ideas of modern physics.

In essence, science and religion should not be at odds. Buddhism, in particular, finds no discord with science.

In our discussions, Dr. Logunov and I became ever more convinced that religion and science can complement each other. They can cooperate in the development of phenomenal value creation, thus realizing genuine happiness and prosperity for humankind.

The 20th century was a century of war and peace, and a century of politics and economics. The dawning 21st century holds the promise, however, to be a century of humanity and culture, and a century of science and religion. I hope all of you will advance on this wonderful, new path of humanism with pride and confidence as gallant young philosophers of action.

Russia suffered the greatest casualties in World War II. When the German forces attacked, Dr. Logunov's wife, Anna, a beautiful young woman with a noble heart, volunteered to fight at the front against the enemy.

Mrs. Logunov died last year. My wife and I planted a cherry tree in her honor in the Makiguchi Garden adjoining the Tokyo Makiguchi Memorial Hall, adjacent to this campus. In the East, it has long been said that planting a tree is planting life. The Mrs. Anna Logunov Cherry Tree is now in fragrant bloom.

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## **The Beautiful Path of Friendship**

We are honored to have with us today Dr. and Mrs. Logunov's granddaughter, Anna, who shares her grandmother's name and has inherited her spirit.

I hope that the future division members will join hands with Anna and advance in harmony along the beautiful path of friendship, the path that links Russia and Japan in the new century. I hope that you will journey together on the avenue of life in warm fellowship.

Dr. Logunov and I also discussed the importance of informing people about the tragedy and horror of war through books and movies. We mustn't let people's wartime experiences be lost and forgotten.

I watched with deep emotion the Japanese movie *Wings of the Human Spirit*, which I introduced at the Soka University graduation ceremony the other day [March 18]. It dramatizes the true story of Shin'ichi Ishimaru, an ace baseball pitcher who, at age 24, plunged to his death as a kamikaze pilot.

War robbed Ishimaru not only of his beloved baseball but of his youth and his life. Burning with indignation at the senselessness of war, Ishimaru engages in a last round of catch with some friends in his corps before boarding his plane.

In the final scene, Ishimaru's father looks up into the sky, where he sees an image of his son flying. He cries out, "Shin'ichi's come home!" I think this suggests that the life of the young Ishimaru lives on as the determination in our hearts to realize peace.

Buddhism teaches the eternity of life and the essential oneness of life and death. Dr. Logunov, cherishing the memory of his late wife and brilliant son [Oleg, who died of leukemia in 1993], continues to devote himself to peace and the betterment of humankind.

Likewise, President Toda is always in my heart.

Paraphrasing the words of Leo Tolstoy, Dr. Logunov once solemnly told me: "If corrupt and cold-hearted individuals act in alliance to bring harm to the people, then individuals who desire world peace and goodwill should unite and work together to oppose evil. This is so simple and yet so true!"

Let us rise to that challenge. I hope you will work dauntlessly to extend our network of truth and humanism, keeping hope, courage and joy alive.

## **Nothing Beats Actual Proof**

Science is based on tested proof or empirical evidence. You conduct a test or experiment and then observe the results.

Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism, similarly, teaches that nothing beats actual proof. In this regard, it stands alone among the religions of the world. President Makiguchi and President Toda both emphasized the importance of showing tested proof of Buddhism's efficacy and validity.

My friends in the student division, I hope that each year you will strive to show clear proof of victory in Buddhism and your studies. Please always remember that showing such proof is the mark of a true successor.

In closing, I express my heartfelt prayers for the further development of the Institute for High Energy Physics and for the eternal happiness of my most esteemed friend Dr. Logunov and his family.

*Spasibo!* (Thank you very much!)

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