

## Words to the Wise: Propagation

**Only, I, Nichiren at first chanted Nam-Myoho-Renge-Kyo, but then two, three and a hundred followed, chanting and teaching others. Likewise, propagation will unfold this way in the future. (*The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 1, p. 93)**

*From SGI President Ikeda:*

\* The essence of Buddhism lies in living out one's life as a "great common mortal." To completely dedicate one's life to others; to thoroughly exert oneself for the Law and for society; and to die having fully expended oneself — that is the way of life of a bodhisattva and a Buddha. It's a matter of "laying down" one's life; of fearlessly speaking out on behalf of justice; of exhausting one's energy to bring people true happiness. Where this spirit is lacking, Buddhism does not exist... Fundamentally, the Soka movement exists only where people manifest the spirit to dedicate their lives to spreading the Law. (August 1997 *Living Buddhism*, p.33)

\* Even when we are spreading the Law "without concern for our lives," we absolutely must not do anything that would reflect badly on the Law. Because we have the highest concern for the Law, we need to fully exercise our wisdom in propagating it... While teaching his followers the *shakubuku* spirit... Nichiren Daishonin also emphasized the importance of showing people genuine courtesy and respect, and of conducting oneself with wisdom. (September 1997 *Living Buddhism*, p.34)

\* We have to shed light on people, to give people light. We must also bathe ourselves in light. We must never remain in darkness, nor must we allow others to remain in the dark. Flowers will not bloom, the lotus will not blossom, in darkness. We have to send the light of the Mystic Law to all those we share a bond with. Doing so also increases our own light. (November 1997 *Living Buddhism*, p.44)

\* Attaining Buddhahood in one's present form means developing in oneself the Buddha's strong spirit to unhesitatingly lead all suffering people to happiness. It is to take action cheerfully and with composure to help those who are suffering, even though one might be subject to ridicule or discrimination. Those who carry out such a practice shine as Buddhas just as they are. (July 1997 *Living Buddhism*, p.35)

\* Working to overcome misunderstandings and prejudices is a large part of our Buddhist practice in the Latter Day of the Law. Actively discussing and conveying the truth to others constitute the practice of *shakubuku*. (Aug. 22, 1997, *World Tribune*, p.8)

Title: Words to the Wise

Subject: World Tribune 06/05/98 n.3194 p.9 WT980605p09

Author: Daisaku Ikeda

Keywords: Essay Guidance Practice Propagation Tribune Wise Words World