

'A Truly Monumental Figure' **Courtesy of SGI NEWSLETTER**

On May 18, at the SGI headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, SGI President Ikeda attended the unveiling of a statue of Mahatma Gandhi depicted in trademark dhoti and shawl and walking resolutely with staff in hand. In his remarks, the SGI leader said:

“Gandhi waged his struggle through a commitment to nonviolence. Armed only with the power of the written and spoken word, he walked the length and breadth of the vast land of India in order to lay the foundations for peace.

“Shakyamuni Buddha also traveled on foot throughout the land until the last moment of his life. All of you, too, have been venturing forth tirelessly for the sake of peace.

“This is a statue of Gandhi walking. May you look at it and think: ‘Yes, Gandhi was active and traveling the country even in his old age. I’m going to do my best, too.’

“I hope it will serve as such a bright source of hope and inspiration. Gandhi stands as a truly monumental figure in human history.

“In his last years, Gandhi revered the Lotus Sutra. He is said to have found within it ‘the universal spiritual home of humankind’ and to have included the daimoku, Nam-myoho-renge-kyo, in his daily hymnal. Korea is the great benefactor who transmitted the Lotus Sutra to Japan. We of the SGI are practicing the very quintessence of nonviolence.”

WT

Title: "A Truly Monumental Figure"

Subject: World Tribune 07/03/98 n.3198 p.3 WT980703p03

Author:

Keywords: Figure Gandhi Heroes International Mahatma Monumental News People Truly