

WORDS TO THE WISE THE SPIRIT OF LEADERS

To teach another something is like oiling the wheels of a heavy cart so that they will turn, or like floating a boat upon the water so that it may move ahead without difficulty. ("The Wealthy Man Sudatta," *The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 5, p. 307)

FROM SGI PRESIDENT DAISAKU IKEDA:

Leaders have to cast aside all selfishness and vanity, becoming strongly determined to devote themselves fully to the members. This is the true, correct way to practice Buddhism. In any event, you have to decide to work for your fellow members and do everything in your power to enable them all to fully reveal their potential. This is what it means to be a genuine leader. (Aug. 22, 1997, *World Tribune*, p. 7)



A leader has to consider what to impart to others. Even just a few words may be enough: "You seem tired. Have you been very busy?" "How is your husband doing?" "Please dress warmly to avoid catching cold." "Thank you for allowing us to use this wonderful room for our meeting." You might bring a snack like a rice cracker or piece of fruit for members to enjoy on their way home. What you choose to do is up to you, but a leader should always ponder the question "What can I do to raise everyone's spirits? How can I give people hope and peace of mind?" (September 1997 *Living Buddhism*, p. 38)



It is also important that leaders love the members as they would their own children. This is the spirit of a genuine leader. (Sept. 5, 1997, *World Tribune*, p. 9)



In the struggle for kosen-rufu, when the leaders advance, everyone advances. When the leaders grow, everyone grows. But if the leaders are all words and no action, there will be no victory. When a leader resolves: "I will challenge my human revolution! I will develop myself!" and then takes action, the driving force for continual victory is born. This is the only formula for continuous triumph. (Sept. 26, 1997, *World Tribune*, p. 11)



We mustn't allow ourselves to be ruled by a self-centered mind. Rather, we have to discipline the mind and gain mastery over it. This is the Dai-shonin's strict admonition. We are not the center around which things revolve. Central are the Buddhist teachings and Nam-myoho-rence-kyo. Central is the goal of kosen-rufu, the happiness and peace of all humanity. Central are our precious, fellow SGI members. It is our place as SGI leaders to exert ourselves thoroughly for this nucleus of faith. Ultimately, selfless devotion means possessing such a deep sincerity of purpose. (Oct. 24, 1997, *World Tribune*, p. 10)



Leaders should be second to none when it comes to prayer.... Leaders who do not

pray for their fellow members are leaders in name only. Leaders should also be second to none when it comes to working hard and agonizing for the advance of kosen-rufu.... Leaders should be second to none in taking action. We have to take the initiative ourselves, encouraging those who are suffering and visiting those who are unwell and need to be cheered up. We have to spring to action quickly — with a light step, warmth in our voice and a friendly, down-to-earth attitude. (Oct. 24, 1997, *World Tribune*, p. 11)



I hope that the SGI will always remain the most friendly and harmonious of organizations. I ask you, as leaders, to be careful never to lose your tempers and scold members emotionally. The role of a leader is to be patient, to listen to what everyone has to say and to be encouraging and supportive. (Aug. 8, 1997, *World Tribune*, p. 14)



A question we must constantly ponder as SGI leaders is how we can generate fresh energy and momentum for kosen-rufu. That is our responsibility as leaders, and wisdom is essential for this task. Ingenuity and resourcefulness are important hallmarks of a leader. To simply go about activities — whether it be meetings or some other challenges — in the same old way, out of force of habit or laziness, is a disservice to everyone. There is no sense of freshness, and all progress grinds to a halt. (Nov. 7, 1997, *World Tribune*, p. 8)



To become a leader in the Soka Gakkai and to work for kosen-rufu is the highest, most enduring honor in life. Getting a doctorate or becoming a physician, studying abroad, getting elected to public office — such things alone do not constitute human greatness. Far more noble and praiseworthy are the lives of those who strive earnestly in the organization for the sake of the people's happiness and a peaceful world. (Aug. 1, 1997, *World Tribune*, p. 9)

