

**THE NEW HUMAN REVOLUTION**  
**A NOVELIZED HISTORY OF THE SOKA GAKKAI**  
**'EARLY SPRING', VOLUME 7, CHAPTER 3, PARTS 9–10**

*When Nagayasu Masaki decides to become a Soka Gakkai staff member in America, President Yamamoto has a serious talk with him about the future of the American kosen-rufu movement.*

The deliberations on leadership appointments went on past midnight. When they finished, Eisuke Akizuki told Shin'ichi Yamamoto that youth division members from West Germany were heading to Paris by car.

"I see," said Shin'ichi, "so they're driving here. With the snow and cold, I'm sure they'll be quite delayed. I just hope that they don't try to push themselves too hard and have an accident. When they arrive tomorrow, I want to see them right away."

After the others left, Shin'ichi chanted daimoku and prayed for the safety of the German members. He went to bed just before dawn, but he was so concerned for their safety that he hardly slept at all.

He arose a little after 6:00 a.m., did gongyo and chanted daimoku and then waited for the German members to arrive. At about 8:00 a.m., Nagayasu Masaki knocked and entered his room.

Seeing Masaki, Shin'ichi immediately asked: "Well, how about it? Have you made a decision?"

A Soka Gakkai community center had been established in Los Angeles, while Shin'ichi and his party were in the United States. Since that time, Shin'ichi had been talking to Masaki about working there as a Soka Gakkai Headquarters staff member.

"Yes, I have," said Masaki, with a happy, eager expression. "I have decided to accept your kind offer. My wish is to propagate Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism throughout the United States. Please make whatever use of me you can. I promise to do my best."

Shin'ichi was pleased by his response. Masaki's attitude was just what was required of a Soka Gakkai staff member.

Masaki continued, explaining his determination with the bright vigor of youth: "I am your disciple. I promise to show actual proof."

Shin'ichi nodded and said: "All right. It's decided. I'll let the Personnel Department at the Gakkai Headquarters know right away."

Shin'ichi believed that to propagate the Daishonin's Buddhism in America, it was necessary to bear the expense of employing a full-time staff member to support and sustain the fledgling organization from behind the scenes. Having now found someone to fill that position meant a step forward for the kosen-rufu movement in the United States.

Shin'ichi looked Masaki in the eye and said: "I am certain that working as a Soka Gakkai staff member will turn out to be the best thing you can do with your life. But remember, the spirit of all Soka Gakkai staff members is to be on duty 24 hours a day serving the members. Unless you can accept the fact that you won't have any free time or much personal privacy, you won't be able to fulfill your mission as one of our staff. Being a Soka Gakkai staff member means giving your life to the spread of Buddhism."

Masaki looked earnestly at Shin'ichi. "If, as America General Chapter leader," Shin'ichi went on, "and as a staff member, you devote all your energies to achieving kosen-rufu in

the United States, then your name will shine forever as one of the great contributors to the spread of Buddhism around the world. But if you lose sight of our goal of kosen-rufu and start to think only of your own interests, you will succumb to the desire for fame and fortune and end up exploiting our members, who are noble children of the Buddha. This is what is meant by becoming 'a parasite in the lion's bowels.' It is the destruction of the Gakkai from within.

"Our top leaders and staff members have a tremendous influence on our organization. Most people are fervently committed to their ideals at the start, but after 20 or 30 years, it's easy to become complacent. In addition, the more you pride yourself on having worked very hard to build the organization, the more likely you are to grow arrogant and fall under the illusion that the organization is somehow your personal possession.

"Once that happens, you will begin to dominate and suppress your juniors in the organization, and stifle the growth of new talent. Ultimately, you will end up disliked by all. You'll also stop listening to the advice of others, and when someone says something with the sincerest intentions, you'll feel insulted and begin to nurse a grudge. That will lead to you attack the Gakkai and turn into traitor. This is an insidious trap that leaders easily fall prey to. I think we can say that faith is a lifelong challenge to fight the inner tendency to lapse into such arrogant ways.

"Now that you will be the central figure in our organization in the United States and a staff member, you must strive to maintain pure faith to the very end, never forgetting your initial spirit. You must serve wholeheartedly, for the sake of our members and the propagation of Buddhism.

"You are a pioneer of worldwide kosen-rufu. From now on, members around the world will look to you as a model. They will be watching what you do, to learn from you. You have a heavy responsibility."

Masaki listened to Shin'ichi intently, nodding in agreement after each sentence.

"All right then," Shin'ichi said. "After attending today's inaugural meeting of the Europe General Chapter, I want you to head back to the United States without delay. There, I want you to join up with Katsu Kiyohara and the other leaders from Japan who are presently on a guidance tour of American cities. Together, create a fresh, forward momentum for kosen-rufu across the United States.

"Next month I'll be in Washington to meet with President Kennedy. Why don't you stay in Washington through February and then move to Los Angeles in March?"

At last, thought Shin'ichi, the groundwork for the American organization had been laid.