

SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S POEM BECOME STRONG!

SGI President Ikeda dedicated this new poem to all SGI members on Sept. 4. He presented the poem at the Tokyo Makiguchi Memorial Hall in Hachioji, during his acceptance speech on receiving an honorary doctorate from the National University of Central Peru.

*Become strong!
Become strong!
Become strong without fail!
We need strength to be happy,
To be victorious.
The strong can help others
Transform their lives
Into lives of value,
Dedicated to truth,
Leading to happiness and peace.*

*Weakness is a source of misery—
Weakness
Is to live in fear;
Weakness incurs people's scorn
And abuse;
It has no power to fight back.*

*Weakness is a source of unhappiness—
It will make you a loser
And a coward.
The weak are bereft of good fortune;
The prayers of cowards are not answered.*

*What transforms such weakness
Into strength
Is faith,
Buddhist practice,
And struggle.*

*Cowards
Burn with jealousy,
Often resenting others' happiness,
Maligning and attacking excellence.
They are losers in life,
Pathetic and base,
Possessing neither faith nor character.*

Courageous people of justice and truth

*Look down upon
The likes of such treacherous cowards;
They pay them no heed,
Advancing serenely
Toward the future,
As lions.*

*The brave-hearted
Rejoice in struggles,
Welcoming them with pleasure and joy.
The cowardly
Lose in every battle;
They are gloomy, cheerless
And pathetic.*

*Fear is hell;
Courage is joy.*

*Never forget
That devotion to faith,
Without begrudging our lives,
Forges, in the depths of our beings,
The heart of an indomitable hero,
The supreme state of life.*

*With an intrepid spirit
We solemnly adorn this existence
With justice, courage and triumph!*

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