

**THE NEW HUMAN REVOLUTION**  
**A NOVELIZED HISTORY OF THE SOKA GAKKAI**  
**'EARLY SPRING', VOLUME 7, CHAPTER 3, PARTS 23-24**

*Arriving in Geneva, Switzerland, Shin'ichi Yamamoto says, 'If you are brave and determined to fight for what you believe in, you can even convert enemies into allies.'*

Jan. 18 had arrived, the day that Shin'ichi Yamamoto and his party were to leave Paris. Europe General Chapter Leader Eiji Kawasaki was to accompany them to Geneva, Rome and Beirut.

When they arrived at the airport a little before 9:00 a.m., about a dozen members were waiting to see them off. They gathered around Shin'ichi in the airport lobby, and a conversation ensued.

The members began to talk about their goals and make resolutions. Kiyoko Ohara of Sweden said: "Sensei, we still have few members in Sweden, but I am determined to increase our membership there. So please come to visit us."

"Of course," replied Shin'ichi. "I'll come. You can count on it. But I'm most concerned that you take good care of your health in that cold climate!"

"Please come to Norway, too," Koji Hashimoto chimed in. "By the time you do, I promise I will have made great efforts to spread this Buddhism and built a solid district."

"I'm indebted to you for the feast you prepared for us, so of course I'll come to Norway! The food you made was just delicious. I hope you'll keep working hard for kosen-rufu. Let's create eternal wealth and fortune in the depths of our lives!"

Next, Koichiro Sada from West Germany declared energetically: "Just watch Germany Chapter! We're going to lead the way for kosen-rufu in Europe!"

"Yes, Germany Chapter is really full of energy, isn't it? Make sure you all work together with a spirit of friendship and harmony. Unity is strength."

Sada replied loudly, "Right!"

"I appreciate your enthusiasm, but try to keep it down. We're in public," said Shin'ichi with a smile.

"RIGHT!!" trumpeted Sada, even more loudly, making everyone burst into laughter. It was a happy, warm discussion.

"It's important to be determined," said Shin'ichi, after the laughter subsided, "but when you are propagating Buddhism, there's no need to set about it with grim determination like soldiers marching off to the front.

"Europe is a civilization that prizes individualism. And individualism produces a feeling of loneliness, of isolation, in many people. When they see you gathering together joyfully and doing activities in a bright, cheerful spirit of unity and harmony, they will naturally be attracted to you. They'll come to you on their own, wishing to practice Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism."

When Shin'ichi looked around, he noticed that several people in the airport lobby were standing some distance away in a sort of loose ring around the members; they were watching them intently, trying to catch what they were talking about.

"Just look at these people watching us!" he said. "That's what I'm talking about." Gentle laughter rose again from the group.

The plane carrying Shin'ichi and his party left Orly Airport in Paris at 10:15 a.m., arriving in Geneva, Switzerland, about an hour later. Mitsuko Motosugi, the Soka Gakkai's central contact person in Switzerland, met them at the airport.

Geneva was covered in a mantle of snow. After arriving at their hotel on the shore of Lake Geneva and eating lunch, Shin'ichi suggested that they do some sight-seeing around the city. He thought walking through the city streets would give them a firsthand taste of what the Swiss people had to endure during the cold winter months.

Leading the way in the gently falling snow, Shin'ichi said: "If we just stay snug and warm in our rooms, because it's so cold outside, we'll never get anything done. At times like this, you have to say to yourself, 'I'm not going to let this snow hold me back!' and just go out into it. When you do, you'll find the cold isn't so bad after all.

"Above all, when you take action, the small and constricted inner realm of your life opens and expands. The same is true of faith. If you are afraid of being criticized or attacked and close yourself off from the world, things will never change for the better. But if you are brave and determined to fight for what you believe in, you can even convert enemies into allies."

Shin'ichi walked briskly, his breath forming white puffs. It was all his companions could do to keep up with him. Yet as they walked, their bodies warmed, and they even began to perspire with the healthy exertion.

That evening, a Study Department exam and a discussion meeting were held at the hotel where they were staying. While the propagation efforts of the members in Switzerland had still not yet borne fruit in the form of new members, steady progress was being made in spreading an understanding of Buddhism and the Soka Gakkai's activities through ongoing dialogue with friends and acquaintances.

Among those present at the discussion meeting were Mrs. Motosugi's bubbly twin daughters. Sachi Takayama—now Sachi Bruno—was also there. On Shin'ichi's last trip to Switzerland, the latter had asked him for advice on whether to remarry. In the meantime, she had done so. Her Swiss husband attended the meeting with her.

Soon after the meeting began, Mrs. Bruno said: "President Yamamoto, I have to apologize for not taking the study exam this time. Mr. Kawasaki came here from Paris several times to help me study, but I just couldn't grasp the material. I promise, though, to become a full-fledged member of the Study Department in the future!"

"Don't worry," said Shin'-ichi. "Study is a lifelong pursuit. The main thing is to not give up. You can keep studying a little at a time. More important than that, I am delighted to see you looking so happy."