

**SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S NEW YEAR'S POEM  
SOWING THE SEEDS OF PEACE IN  
THE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD**

*New Year's Day, 2000—  
The door of the new century has opened!  
In this momentous year we celebrate  
The twenty-fifth anniversary of the SGI's founding  
And the fortieth anniversary of worldwide kosen-rufu.  
The curtain has risen on the start  
Of a deeply significant history  
For the future of humanity and kosen-rufu!*

*My noble friends who have emerged from  
the earth,  
Who with me have scaled  
The precipitous peak of the twentieth century  
To usher in this brilliant dawn,  
Let us embark once more—  
Aiming for the distant peaks of the third  
millennium,  
Advancing our movement of hope  
In harmonious unity!*

*The old century was an interplay of darkness and light  
Created by science, industry, military might and national strength.  
The worship of these powers was also a form of culture.  
It is known as the "culture of war"—  
The name given to that which bred the seeds  
Of countless tragedies.*

*A transformation from the pursuit of economic profit above all;  
Respect for human rights and freedom;  
Rejection of war and violence;  
Moving from patriarchy to an age of women;  
Casting off selfishness—  
Herein lies the "culture of peace."*

*We can clearly hear the deep far-reaching  
reverberations  
That indicate the world is moving  
From a culture of war to a culture of peace.  
The pure melody of the rushing stream  
Of the Century of Life.*

*Beyond the ever more pervasive information age we live in,  
The giant form of an ecological age is visible.*

*“All things are interconnected” —  
This is an underlying principle of ecological thought  
And also the insight of Buddhism.*

*All life on this blue planet of water —  
No, the entire universe itself — is a single  
living entity.  
Even the most microscopic being is an  
important part of the whole.  
The world is in need of a deeply religious spirit.*

*Even the macroscopic ideal of peace  
Is actualized only when it connects with the  
life of each individual.  
Peace is not found in some distant place;  
It lies close at hand, in the vibrant sense of  
fulfillment felt  
By each person taking earnest action  
For the welfare of their community, society  
and fellow citizens.*

*By a mystic coincidence,  
The United Nations has designated this year  
As the International Year for the Culture of Peace,  
and next year as the Year of Dialogue among Civilizations.*

*Let us recall that appointed gathering in Guam,  
That pledge made twenty-five years ago,  
On the start of our SGI movement!  
I called on those present:  
“I hope you will dedicate your whole lives  
To sowing the seeds of the Mystic Law  
For the sake of peace throughout the entire world.  
I shall do the same thing.”*

*Let us now, with renewed commitment,  
Plant in people’s hearts the seeds of trust and friendship,  
The seeds of philosophy and happiness,  
The seeds of peace!  
In our immediate environments,  
Let us spread gardens of peace,  
Green and full of flowers,  
With deep prayer and patience!*

*In the global solidarity of such “people’s power”  
Lies the future, lies hope, lies a way forward.*

*The morning skies of the new millennium  
Are dyed with the rays of the rising sun  
That illuminate the centuries ahead.  
Together let us advance afresh!  
Toward that brilliant dawn,  
Toward a future of unsurpassed wisdom  
and creativity  
For humankind!*

*New Year's Day, 2000*

*To my beloved fellow members  
in 128 countries and territories  
around the world:  
I pray for your good health.  
I pray for your happiness.  
I pray that your life's noble mission  
Will bring you glory and triumph.  
With my deepest respect and affection.*

*Palms pressed together in reverence.*

*Daisaku Ikeda  
World Poet Laureate*