

**EXCERPTS FROM...
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BY HO GOKU**

Ho Goku is the pen name of SGI President Ikeda. The following two excerpts are from the "Successors" chapter, in which second president Josei Toda attends the historic March 16, 1958, meeting with 6,000 Japanese youth.

The more Toda spoke, the more power infused his words.

"From the standpoint of the Mystic Law, everyone is equal. And for individuals and the nation to achieve prosperity and happiness, there is no other way but to make the True Law our foundation. To achieve this, it is our mission to accomplish kosen-rufu!

"Today, I want to bequeath this mission to you young people. I entrust the future to all of you. I'm counting on you — counting on you to accomplish kosen-rufu!"

It was a call that issued from the depths of Toda's life, striking the hearts of the 6,000 youth like a bolt of lightning and leaving them profoundly moved. For a moment, a hushed, solemn stillness pervaded. Then, their emotion gave way to a powerful surge of determination that erupted the next moment into a storm of tumultuous applause. Rising skyward, a snowcapped Mount Fuji seemed to embrace these youth who burned with passion and resolve for kosen-rufu.

[Later, after the meeting and the banquet....]

Toda now sensed that everything was complete. He felt all of his remaining energy drain from his body, but it was a good feeling — a fulfilled sense of exhaustion. He sank down into the armchair atop the litter. Jutting from behind a grove of cedars, cloaked in a mantle of snow, he could see the serene and perfect summit of Mount Fuji. He was reminded of the lyrics of the "Song of Comrades," which he had composed:

I do not begrudge my life,
But where are the young flagbearers?
Can you not see Fuji's summit?
Rally now, quickly, in growing numbers!

Now, the youth he spoke of in these lyrics had gathered around him in large numbers, standing up bravely to hold aloft the banner of the Mystic Law. In his mind, Toda recalled the image of his mentor, Tsunesaburo Makiguchi, who died in prison. He clearly remembered how he, Toda, had been the only disciple Makiguchi could really count on to carry the movement in the future. Thirteen years had now passed since he had stood up alone amid the burned-out ruins of a defeated Japan, seething with rage at his beloved mentor's death. And now these young people he had nurtured under his wing had gallantly embarked on their own long march toward kosen-rufu.

Toda addressed Makiguchi in his heart:

"Sensei! I have inherited your will and secured the lasting foundation for kosen-rufu; I have now entrusted the entire future to my own beloved disciples. Your will continues to pulse with fresh and vibrant energy in their veins. The day is not far off when the flame of kosen-rufu will spread throughout Asia and to the entire world."