

TRIBUTE TO DR. DAISAKU IKEDA

The following is a speech given by Dr. Lawrence Edward Carter Sr. at the 49th Headquarters Leaders Meeting in Hachioji, Japan, Sept. 7.

Dr. Ikeda, Mrs. Ikeda, members of the SGI and distinguished scholars from Soka University in Japan—before I make my formal statement, I wish to make a personal statement. Dr. Daisaku Ikeda is an enlightened international role model, moral example and mentor to generations in the tradition of the Buddha, Jesus, Gandhi and King. I am, therefore, pleased to say that that makes me his disciple.

Good afternoon, I bring you warm greetings from the alma mater of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Morehouse College, our 3,000 African American students, 150 faculty, the president and the 35 trustees. I am personally very happy to be at Soka University as the guest of Dr. Daisaku Ikeda, whom I admire and consider one of my spiritual mentors.

Dr. Ikeda, you have kept your mind in creative, productive work. You are one of the most highly educated persons in the civilized world. You have plunged into the sea of books to think your way out of the wilderness of ideas to climb the mountaintop of unquestionable enlightenment. You are a lover of learning and hence, the richest and happiest of men. You recognize that reading minds are growing minds. To read well is to think well. Your books and poems are not written for money, but to inspire higher impulses, adding to the world's humanity, wisdom, understanding, knowledge and joy. You are replete with curative virtues against the maladies of mediocrity and superficiality.

You are endowed with treasures that make the poorest person rich. You have a spiritual wealth that no power can diminish, a dedication to liberal education and an eternal New World of wisdom. Your life gives glory and grace to humankind. Dr. Ikeda, you are the quintessential model of civility recalling the world to sanity by increasing our moral, intellectual and spiritual love. You are strengthening global democracy by educating us through your emphatic dedication to the mentor–disciple principle. Therefore, it is my sincere honor to induct you into our highest society of value creation in the American Academy.

Your citation reads:

Morehouse College, be it known to all that Dr. Daisaku Ikeda, Third President of Soka Gakkai, Founder of the Soka School System of Japan and Soka University of America;

Because of your life's mission, the relevance and the universality of your scholarship for the 21st Century; because your voice and life echo the teachings and activism of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Mohandas Karamchand “Mahatma” Gandhi; and because of your good character in the tradition of the New Testament Good Samaritan, and because you are the spiritual mentor to generations of people of the world, you are hereby proclaimed a member of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Collegium of Scholars.

You are henceforth recognized for having embodied the ecumenical moral laws. These laws are a synthesis of philosophical ethics originating in Judeo-Buddhist-Hindu-Islamic-Christian scriptures, tradition and ancient African history. Dr. King and Mahatma Gandhi lived their lives and led the nonviolent civil and human rights movement based on these principles.

This citation, my good sir, then lists the twenty ethical principles in six philosophical categories. They are the principles of:

Consistency
Autonomy
Coherent Valuation
Consequences
The Best Possible
Situational Relevance
Variety and Depth
Ideal Control
Ecological Integrity
Self Realization
Altruism
The Ideal of Personality
Cooperation
Social Devotion
The Ideal of Community
Nonviolent Caring
Conflict and Reconciliation
Fallibility and Corrigibility
The Metaphysical Source
And
Ethical Adaptation to Ultimate Reality

Testifying to this investiture, and

In Witness whereof under the seals of the College and the Chapel, the signatures of duly authorized officers are here unto affixed, the seventh day September, 2000

Per Dominum Nostrum Jesum Christum. (Through Jesus Christ Our Lord)

Otis Moss Jr., Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Walter Eugene Massey, President of the College

Lawrence Edward Carter Sr., Dean of the Chapel and Professor of Philosophy and Religion

Fifty-two philosophers of these principles are here referenced including Nichiren Dai-shonin, Tsunesaburo Makiguchi, Josei Toda, and Daisaku Ikeda.

Dr. Ikeda, I call you forth; Mrs. Ikeda, would you join us?

In token of this investiture on April 1, 2001 at 11 anti meridiem, your official oil portrait will be unveiled in the Great Nave of King Chapel for induction into our International Hall of Honor, designated for those world citizens who have contributed the most to the civil and human rights nonviolent movement in the 20th Century. We have brought to Japan an enlarged photograph of the oil portrait of you, your wife, Kaneko Ikeda, the first president of the Soka Gakkai, and its second president, your mentor. You have our sincerest congratulations!