

**THE NEW HUMAN REVOLUTION
'SECURING THE FOUNDATION'
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'Every day, I study and self-reflect,' says Shin'ichi Yamamoto. 'I challenge myself and strive for personal growth. All of the Soka Gakkai's affairs are my responsibility. They are my concern. It is because of this firm awareness that I absolutely cannot sit idly by and make careless remarks like an uninvolved critic or spectator.'

Shin'ichi Yamamoto continued speaking to the Soka Gakkai directors: "On Feb. 11 the year he died, Mr. Toda expressed his concern that organizational guidance had not been producing the expected results. He said that this was not the fault of the members but a lack of faith and personal growth on the part of the leadership, who were the core of the organization.

"He also said: 'I, as president, must first be diligent on this point myself if the Soka Gakkai is to develop. I realize that I must educate and refine myself.' He advised us that leaders on every level of the organization should similarly be vigilant in their efforts to improve themselves.

"Mr. Toda was stressing the importance of self-improvement for himself as well as other leaders. This is his legacy to us. One cannot be called a true leader unless one continuously strives for self-improvement. I feel the same way as Mr. Toda and share the same determination.

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"I hope that each of you, as directors and vice general directors, will have the same commitment I do. Otherwise, kosen-rufu will never progress, no matter how many directors we have. In fact, our movement will only be slowed down."

Shin'ichi feared the degeneration of the true spirit of leadership more than anything. This was because, as the Soka Gakkai grew and developed, he could see that there were leaders who, rather than trying to contribute to the Soka Gakkai, were instead becoming dependent on it, almost as if they were living off it.

"When Mr. Toda became president," Shin'ichi continued, "the Soka Gakkai consisted of 12 chapters, and all 12 chapter leaders were resolved to give their very lives to carrying out the widespread propagation of Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism together with Mr. Toda. None of them cared the least for social status, recognition or wealth. Their only thought was advancing kosen-rufu and carrying out their missions in this lifetime. This is the Soka Gakkai spirit, the spirit that kept us going in the beginning.

"The determination of these pioneers became the driving force for kosen-rufu. Some of you here today were the very leaders I am talking about, and all of you have been leaders from the outset. I therefore hope that you will revive and reawaken that firm resolve within you.

"I hope all of us in this room will start by going back to the original Soka Gakkai spirit, to the spirit of those early days."

Determination shone in everyone's eyes.

Shin'ichi looked intently at each leader as he continued: "With the seventh memorial service for Mr. Toda as our goal, I want all of the vice general directors, including General Director Harayama, to take responsibility for each local organization as headquarters leaders. In doing so, I hope that each of you will come to embody as a leader of this organization the spirit that was prevalent in the pioneering days of our movement.

"Without a clear outline of one's responsibilities, it is easy to lose touch with the organization, which gives rise to a careless attitude. I wish to completely eliminate this tendency from the Soka Gakkai. Your new leadership appointments will be announced at this month's Headquarters Leaders Meeting.

"Of course, what I am saying does not only apply to you. As president, I myself will also work much harder than I have until now. I will exert myself fully in serving our members, the children of the Buddha. Just watch me."

In fact, Shin'ichi was always on the lookout for those working hard for kosen-rufu behind the scenes, doing whatever he could to encourage them. That is why, prior to the Headquarters General Meeting earlier that day, he had proposed that "Seniors Gatherings" be held for the Soka Gakkai's elderly members. It had thus been planned that on May 12 and 14, every regional organization would put on events where these members could gather and enjoy performances of music, song, dance or theater. Shin'ichi wanted to take the opportunity of the Soka Gakkai's fresh start to recognize and show appreciation to the pioneer members.

When Shin'ichi saw a Soka Gakkai leader taking action on all fronts, he always thought about those who were supporting that leader in the shadows. He knew that, just as the tip of an iceberg is all one sees above the surface of the water, there is always a multitude of people supporting a leader working in the limelight.

Inevitably, whenever Shin'ichi looked for those supporters, he would find elderly members. Some of them were experts at giving personal guidance, striving to enable their juniors to joyfully participate in Soka Gakkai activities. Paying close attention to the needs of those younger members, the elderly members would visit them in their homes regularly and listen to their troubles, encouraging them based on their rich experiences in faith. Many would also look after their grandchildren and help with household chores, while their daughters-in-law, with whom they usually lived, were out fighting on the frontlines of the organization.

The Buddhist law of cause and effect applies equally to all people. The Buddha will absolutely praise and protect those doing their best to advance kosen-rufu, even if no one else takes notice. The efforts of such people will turn without fail into great fortune and benefit.

Nevertheless, as Soka Gakkai president, Shin'ichi wanted to do something extra to recognize and reward those hardworking members.

Daisaku Ikeda appears in the
novel as Shin'ichi Yamamoto.
The events take place in 1963.