

THE RESOLUTENESS OF THE DAWNING SUN QUOTATIONS FROM SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA

Seize the Day is publishing the following collection of quotations from SGI President Ikeda as a source of wisdom and inspiration in creating this year's March 16 meetings.

Quotations from *The Human Revolution*, Volume 10

Note: In this novel, President Ikeda is portrayed by the character Shin'ichi Yamamoto. Also, the following paragraphs make reference to the famous "Osaka Campaign" led by President Ikeda.

When Shin'ichi heard what Toda expected of him in the forthcoming Kansai campaign, he responded to his master's call without a moment's hesitation. However, even at that moment he was all too painfully aware of the wide gap which lay between reality and their goal...

They told him that the key to victory did not necessarily lie in the numerical strength but in the indestructible unity of even a few people, and clearly revealed that the power of faith was unlimited. Did not the Goshu state "Before all others, employ the strategy of the Lotus Sutra."...

More than anything Toda wanted Shin'ichi to command the campaign. Victory or defeat was secondary to him. He must put his disciple through the arduous task of opening a new path toward kosen-rufu in the future (December 1977 *Seikyo Times*, p. 14).

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"I'm in a fix," Haruki said with his Kansai accent. "I don't have the least idea of what to do."

"We all have a mission to accomplish in this world," Shinichi encouraged him. "We've got to keep that in mind and do everything we can... This is my first maiden battle. It's your first one too. We are both destined to challenge the campaign"(December 1977 *Seikyo Times*, p. 16).

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"Our campaign will begin with the strong prayers of all the members in Kansai. Chanting and praying is only the first condition. The second condition is that we use the best strategy and the most effective action. Without this second part, we will never be able to gain the initiative in order to win. Neither the first nor the second condition alone is enough. Only when both are perfectly harmonized does the impossible become possible" (December 1977 *Seikyo Times*, p. 23).

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“Now is the time for you members in Kansai to make a great leap forward in propagation. Be solidly united so that no one will fall by the wayside. We are not doing this for the sake of the Soka Gakkai. But we have at last discovered that the way of propagation taught us by Nichiren Daishonin and shown to us by President Toda is the surest and easiest way to open up our lives and make both ourselves and others happy”(December 1977 *Seikyo Times*, p. 28).

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“I believe that it is up to us to realize that only those who stand up and fight to save the people can be true disciples of Nichiren Daishonin. It is now the time for us to undertake that mission – the time to accomplish the movement for kosen-rufu by all means” (July 1978 *Seikyo Times*, p. 27).

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The general meeting had indeed served as a powerful springboard on which the local members could make a leap ahead. It gave them the resolve to save any person who was crying out in misery and agony. Each was determined to do his utmost, and encouraged others to do the same. They knew that their endeavor would infallibly bear fruit.

They looked around themselves and saw that their city was filled with unhappy people. Their thoughts turned toward their next-door neighbors, the people living across the street, relatives and acquaintances whom they had not seen for a long time, friends they had not hear from for years. Now they had awakened to their mission of saving suffering people, they discovered there were many things to do (July 1978 *Seikyo Times*, p. 29).

March 16, which came to be called “Kosen-rufu Day,” would thereafter serve as a day for us to renew our pledge to build the eternal, indestructible foundation for kosen-rufu.

The entire country at that time lived in poverty, and the youth division members were struggling to make ends meet. They must have used every possible means to spare time and money to go to the head temple, carefully managing their daily obligations.

Unless we young people are fired up with energy, we will not be able to burn away the darkness of life that overshadows the times. Unless we advance, the flames of justice will not reach the people’s lives. The true significance of March 16 lies in each of us standing up, taking action, praying and speaking out as a torchbearer in our own right.

“No matter who attends or doesn’t, we’re going to hold this ceremony for our

young people!” [Josei Toda] said. He knew, in his heart of hearts, that as long as the young people who would faithfully inherit his legacy were there, that was all that mattered.

—March 27, 1998, *World Tribune*, p. 10

The Soka Gakkai has always devoted itself to the people, and it continues to do so to this day. That is why it has won the people’s hearts. There is no greater strength than this.

Devotion to the people is what wins a religion widespread support — this formula will never change. I hope you will remember this lesson of history throughout your lives. It is this point that I especially wish to impress upon you today. I want all of you to be proud of this spirit of the Soka Gakkai. Above all, religion must help the sick, the poor, those who are suffering the most. Wouldn’t you agree? To be valued and looked up to are not corrupt, arrogant individuals who despise the people. I want you to inherit my spirit — a spirit of ungrudging service to the people — and put it into magnificent practice in your lives

—April 18, 1998, *World Tribune*, p. 1

Each year when March 16 comes around, I am filled with thoughts of various expressions of the mentor-and-disciple relationship.

—*Buddhism in Action*, vol. 3, p. 181