

**DECLARATION OF THE SGI-USA YOUNG MEN'S DIVISION
FOR THE 21ST CENTURY
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The following poem was written in commemoration of the 2001 Florida Nature and Culture Center Young Men's Conference.

We are the strength of the pride
Young Lions whose roars are cries for justice
We are an army of generals
Ferocious guardians of the Mystic Law
Protectors of the voice-hearers that have emerged from the earth
Giving our very lives to protect the children of the Buddha
We wage battle against our own fundamental
 darkness.
Employing no strategy other than the Lotus Sutra
We are arrows shot straight and true by the archer that is our mentor
Guided by the light of the Lotus Sutra
Arrows that pierce the very hearts of the devils that dwell in their temples of
 suffering and pain
Devils who lie to the world of their benevolence and truth
Masters of deception lead by the shadow housed in the heart of Mount Fuji
Thieves of life who live in temples that were once the battlegrounds for the fight
 for kosen-rufu
Temples that are now nothing more than graveyards haunted by wraiths that know
 neither what they are, nor what they once were
Shadows who mock the men of true faith that have come before us

We are a nation of young kings
Benevolent and just, with the truest sense of mission and purpose
We will grind ourselves to dust, to fulfill that which is our mentor's dream
Burning like a white hot flame, consumed by the fire that is the mark of a life lived
 with purpose
Even as we burn down to the very core of our beings, until nothing remains but
 white hot ash, we shall rise like the phoenix
Burning so brilliant and wondrous that we blind
 the sun
We will walk into hell itself and make it the Buddha land
We abide neither fear in our hearts nor doubt in our minds, because these are the
 currencies of the coward
We refuse to wear the cloak of hate or tread the path of ignorance
We will illuminate the way before us with the brilliance of our own enlightenment
We will smash the temples of pain and deception that seek to suffocate the hearts
 and spirits of our brothers and sisters
Even as we free our brothers and sisters from the shackles of despair, we will burn
 away the shadows of darkness that seek to take root in our own souls
We will consume suffering even as it seeks to consume the world and it will be

extinguished like a candle's flame before the hurricane that is the roar of our prayers
Struggles are fuel for the flame of our passion
The obstacle before us and the sufferings we endure on the path of Buddhahood are offerings from the King Devil himself to our enlightenment

The fortress of our ichinen is impenetrable
Even the fiercest tempest cannot force us from our course of navigation
The raging winds that call themselves destiny seek to toss and buffet us about to no avail
We Young Lions shall stand fast against any storm
Even in those moments when we cannot see the path before us, the Lotus Sutra and our mentor's heart show us the way
We will never become lost because the vision of who we are and who we will become is grounded in the core of our being from time without beginning
We will never lose hope nor courage because every breath is victory itself
We are Young Lions whose hearts burn with the desire to see all people manifest their true greatness
We are as the thunder that rolls across the mountains and echoes in the valleys and into the hearts and minds of all who crave justice and peace

Revolution is our name
Hot blooded and full of rage, we stand defiant of injustice and oppression
But we fight not with fists of violence nor stones of hate
Our weapon is the razor sharp sword of truth, our shield is indestructible compassion, our power is in our prayer
We are the vanguard of the warriors of peace
Shock troops of a new age where compassion replaces anger and despair gives way to hope
We are unbothered and unfazed by the venomous fangs of critics that talk but do not act
Like warriors that live and fight on the frontlines, we confront evil without fear and without hesitation, in the very heart of darkness itself
Our mission and our voices reach those who have lost their way in this saha world
We honor our mothers and fathers in faith not with material gifts but with the brilliant jewels our lives have become

Precious mentor, please never fear!
We will never forsake you!
We will never abandon you!
Your wait is over
The Lions you seek are here and we raise our voices
in unity
You ask who will protect the children of the Buddha?
We roar, "we will!" And pledge our very lives
Every demon that seeks to prey upon the children of the Buddha will not find

helpless lambs
No! They will face fierce Young Lions that will stand fast and unshaken
Precious mentor!
If we had been there that day, when the enemies of the Buddha through deception
and guile corrupted the minds of the voice-hearers
We would have deafened you with our praise
You would have seen a hall full of Lions
We scream our rage at the injustice done to you
Never will you have to fear
Your sons will rise to protect you
As you have protected us

So long as our hearts pump our life's blood
So long as breath passes our lips, we shall never stop
We shall be as relentless and awesome as the waves that crash upon the shore
Never stopping in our cadence toward making our Mentor's dream a reality
We are as the drops of water that compose the wave, countless and unstoppable
when so united
We will never retreat
We will never give ground
We will die before we are defeated
We will live free from the yoke of suffering and
injustice or not at all
We are sons guided by a father who has given blood, sweat and tears only to see us
grow strong in spirit, bold in action, steadfast in faith and vigilant in heart
We will be the first to seek hardship and struggle for they are the fire by which we
will purify our lives
Even the smallest among us can crush the darkness that dwells within us all
Not one of us will fail because we vow to be brothers who shall always know each
other's hearts and minds, never allowing suffering to defeat any of us
Our lives will shine like beacons to those who are lost

Even when it appears that the battle is at an end
We will never stop fighting
Because the true revolution occurs in our own hearts and minds from moment to
moment
We promise to always advance from this lifetime to the infinite future united.