

**THE NEW HUMAN REVOLUTION  
'SECURING THE FOUNDATION'  
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*After attending a Kyoto Headquarters leaders meeting, Shin'ichi Yamamoto invites several leaders to join him for a public bath. He explains that encouraging and inspiring others to stand up in faith does not have to happen only at meetings.*

Shin'ichi Yamamoto's speech at the May Headquarters Leaders Meeting in Tokyo was brief and to the point. First he announced that the number of leaders at the chapter level and above—those who comprised the organization's core leadership—now numbered about three thousand, and that a strong foundation was thus in place for the widespread propagation of Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism.

"When Mr. Toda died," he said, "only about two hundred people held the positions of chapter leader and higher. When I became president, I determined to increase that number to three thousand toward expanding and strengthening the organization. Now we have reached that goal, and I am confident that with this many leaders taking responsibility as central figures on the chapter level, we have secured a solid foundation that nothing can disturb.

"I assure you that, if these leaders advance together in iron unity, an eternal current of kosen-rufu will definitely be set in motion. As our first step in that direction, let us set as our targets Mr. Toda's seventh memorial on April 2 and the Headquarters general meeting on May 3 next year, and begin to move toward victory with dignity, joy, and the courage of a lion."

Along with the organizational expansion announced at the Headquarters leaders meeting, major personnel changes were also made in the young men's and young women's divisions. After speaking at a women's division leaders meeting on the afternoon of May 27, Shin'ichi attended a young men's division leaders meeting that evening and then one for the young women's division the following day. Together with these young people, he celebrated the fresh start they were making.

On May 30, Shin'ichi moved on to Kansai, attending leaders meetings for each headquarters in the region. The Kyoto Headquarters leaders meeting took place in the Ojiyama Gymnasium of Otsu City, Shiga Prefecture, on May 30. Until then, Goro Watari, who was also the nationwide student division leader, had been the leader of Kyo-to Headquarters. With the formation of the new Hyo-go Headquarters, Watari had been made Hyogo Headquarters leader. To replace him, Tatsuzo Oyama, a dentist, was appointed as the new Kyoto Headquarters leader.

Shin'ichi had wanted to attend the Kyoto Headquarters leaders meeting because he felt it was his responsibility as a top leader to ensure that the members understood and were comfortable with the new personnel changes and were prepared to work together. He therefore introduced Oyama at the meeting and spoke about his character, and clearly explained the reasons behind the latest changes.

Laying the groundwork for kosen-rufu is not simply a matter of forming new headquarters and chapters and appointing new leaders. The key is to foster awareness in new leaders of their mission and at the same time inspire each member, arousing in them a determination to start afresh.

It was a hot day, and many members were crowded into the gymnasium for the Kyoto Headquarters leaders meeting in Otsu City. Despite the heat, Shin'ichi Yamamoto had given his all to encouraging the members, and now he was dripping with sweat. After the meeting, he returned to Kyoto where he invited several leaders to join him for a public bath.

Towels in hand, they went out in search of an open bathhouse. Finally, after walking around for some time, they found one.

As they sat soaking in the tub, one of the Kyoto leaders said, "You know, we have a bathtub at the community center. It wasn't necessary to walk all this way just to take a bath." Laughing, Shin'ichi replied, "I know that, but I thought going to a public bath together would help us get to know each other better. Sometimes leaders need to think of such things for the members' sake. It's important for leaders to do things with their members, rather than act as if they were above them.

"Also, offering guidance, encouraging and inspiring others to stand up in faith do not have to happen only at meetings—they can take place in the public bath, for example, or over dinner."

Shin'ichi then turned to Goro Watari and said, "Watari, your center of activities is going to move from Kyoto to Hyogo. Please become friends with the members there. You're young, so I hope you will always be careful to listen to and respect the opinions of your elders. I'm sure it will be easier to surround yourself with people of your own generation and work most closely with them, but that will only upset the balance of the organization, and you'll end up alienated from everyone.

"At the same time, older leaders should surround themselves with youth and value their opinions. The Soka Gakkai's membership is made up of young and old alike. The true power of the Soka Gakkai can only be revealed when each member is able to utilize his or her full potential and all can work together in harmony and unity."

On the way back from the bath, Shin'ichi and the others ate ice cream cones and talked about the future prospects for kosen-rufu. Shin'ichi wanted to eliminate formalism from the Soka Gakkai as much as possible. He was completely himself at all times, and this had always been how he lived.

On May 31, the day after the Kyoto Headquarters leaders meeting, Shin'ichi attended the Kansai Headquarters leaders meeting, held that afternoon at the Osaka Prefectural Gymnasium. That night, he attended the Hyogo Headquarters leaders meeting at the Amagasaki City Municipal Gymnasium. In June, leaders meetings marking fresh beginnings for each headquarters in the Tokyo and Kanto regions awaited him.

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