

**THE NEW HUMAN REVOLUTION
'SECURING THE FOUNDATION'
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'As you know, Nichiren Daishonin states that we "voluntarily choose to be born in evil circumstances so that we may help others,"' says Shin'ichi Yamamoto. 'In other words, we deliberately made the negative causes that destined us to be born into this defiled age so that we could help all living beings become truly happy.'

Shin'ichi Yamamoto turned to General Director Koichi Harayama, who was also serving as a member of the Upper House of the Japanese parliament, and said: "Don't you think that politicians should listen closely to such problems and wrack their brains to come up with good solutions? Representatives of the Clean Government Group in particular should never overlook even a single cry for help from among the people." Shin'ichi then asked Takashi Nogawa, the Amami Oshima general chapter leader, "Are there any other problems besides *habu* snakes?"

"Yes," replied Nogawa. "Typhoons. So many typhoons hit Amami that it is called Typhoon Alley. We suffer enormous damage every year."

"This is also an area where the government should think of various ways to assure the public's safety and security," Shin'ichi said. "But the fundamental solution to these problems lies in the determined prayers of the members.

"Buddhism teaches that the mind encompasses the entire universe. When we change our innermost state of mind, our whole being changes, and this affects the world in which we live. This is the teaching of the oneness of life and its environment, and the principle of a single life-moment possessing three thousand realms. This means that if more and more people start chanting with determined prayer, even the most difficult of situations will change.

"Everything starts with a strong determination. Such determination may inspire us to research ways of protecting the home or find out what kind of crops are most likely to survive a typhoon, for example. This determination can also move the government. Our duty, our mission, is to make the place we live a Land of Eternally Tranquil Light, a realm of happiness and peace. I hope the members here in the Amami Islands will be pioneers in this endeavor."

After sightseeing, Shin'ichi headed for Ryuan-ji, the temple where the men's division group leaders meeting was to be held. It had been built and donated to Nichiren Shoshu by the Soka Gakkai in December 1959, when there were only a few members living in the Amami Islands. Believing it would be a great source of strength for future kosen-rufu activities, Shin'ichi had proposed its establishment. The Soka Gakkai had always given the construction of temples and the growth of Nichiren Shoshu top priority, even if it meant delaying the construction of Soka Gakkai facilities.

However, the priesthood later took advantage of the Soka Gakkai's sincerity and, intending to exploit the membership, excommunicated Shin'ichi, their staunchest supporter, setting into motion a contemptible plot to disband the organization. The offense committed by these priests will never be erased.

Thus, decades after its establishment, Ryuan-ji became a stronghold for the attempted destruction of Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism in the Amami Islands. Such malice is like

a cancer. The longer it is left untreated, the farther it will spread, until it finally destroys life. That is why it is so important to challenge injustice and wrongdoing. It is the only way to protect the realm of good and to secure the correct path of faith.

At the men's division group leaders meeting, Shin'ichi spoke of the sense of commitment and responsibility required of leaders. He was profoundly aware of the hardships faced by the inhabitants of the Amami Islands, and he knew how difficult it was for the members there to do Soka Gakkai activities. Yet, without the continuous spread of the Daishonin's teachings, the fate of Amami would not be changed and happiness for the people could not be realized. That is why Shin'ichi chose to talk about the attitude of those taking the lead in activities for kosen-rufu.

“Thank you for all your hard work every day. The challenges you face geographically, economically, and in trying to share the Daishonin's Buddhism amid deep-seated local traditions must be overwhelming. As you know, the Daishonin states that we ‘voluntarily choose to be born in evil circumstances so that we may help others’ (*The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, p. 243). In other words, we deliberately made the negative causes that destined us to be born into this defiled age so that we could help all living beings become truly happy.

“Buddhism teaches that we appeared in the Latter Day of the Law to propagate the Daishonin's Buddhism as Bodhisattvas of the Earth. This means that all of you volunteered to be born here in the Amami Islands. Well aware that this place is frequently struck by typhoons, has poisonous snakes, is difficult to get around and suffers economically, you accepted the karmic burden and appeared here as Bodhisattvas of the Earth with a vow to work for kosen-rufu.

“If you are complaining that these circumstances are not what you expected, that they are more than you bargained for, then you are not yet demonstrating the real essence of your mission. You will in that case be unable to manifest your innate power and wisdom, which means you will not break through your problems. Only when you have a firm awareness of your mission to accomplish kosen-rufu are you a true Bodhisattva of the Earth. Then, as you strive to fulfill your mission, your eternal self will take over and boundless strength and wisdom will well forth, enabling you to surmount all obstacles.”

The men's division group leaders listened intently as Shin'ichi spoke. Looking directly at each person, he continued: “Today I would like to talk about what will prevent our achievement of kosen-rufu. It is not the harshness of our circumstances or our environment, but the complacency of leaders and their willingness to give up. When leaders start thinking: ‘My area has accomplished so much. There is nothing more we can do,’ or ‘We set a goal, but if we can't reach it, then so be it,’ then they have already lost the battle.

“A strong determination is the driving force for victory. If that is lost, defeat is the only option.”

(This concludes “Securing the Foundation,” chapter 1 of Volume 8 of *The New Human Revolution*.)

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