

**SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S POEM
FOR THE START OF THE SECOND SEVEN BELLS
THE INDESTRUCTIBLE POWER OF THE PEOPLE:
A MARCH OF JOY AND TENACIOUS EFFORT**

By Shin'ichi Yamamoto [the name President Ikeda uses for his character in the *Human Revolution* novels]

*The people,
O, the people!
How great and noble
The indestructible mountain ranges
Of capable people!*

*Therein lies
The power to overturn
The unscrupulous,
The power to laugh dismissively
At the arrogant.*

*The united hearts of the people
Are like the sun.
Nothing is stronger
Than the people.
The people are a great wave—
No, a raging breaker.*

*Despicable tyrants
Who scorn the people
Will all fall and disappear.*

*They have been cast
Into oblivion,
Buried by the people's
Fiery strength,
Awesome and inexhaustible.*

*The world is too small
For the colossus
Of the people arisen.
The ultimate power of destiny
That will determine the future
Of this Century of Humanity
Lies in the people.*

Beside the people—

*A human alliance
Of monumental scale—
All authoritarian forces
Pale into insignificance.*

*The people, who are fearless!
The people, who crush and
destroy evil!*

*Those who sincerely value
The people
Are wise and praiseworthy.*

*Those who betray the people
Wound themselves with their own swords
And will be eternally despised
By the people
As ingrates.*

*When the people
Unsheathe the sword of firm
conviction
Against treacherous authorities,
The cruelest regime
Will be washed away by crashing waves
And perish in pitiful tears.*

*The power of justice and fairness
Resides in the people.
No matter what vicious daggers
May assail them,
The lifeblood they spill
Will leave their names
As exalted heroes
And divine protagonists.*

*Striking a mighty blow
Against depraved, scheming monsters,
The noble people
Will be bathed in resounding cheers.*

*Nothing can compare with the people.
No one can surpass the people.*

*The people
Are the true nation,
A community of humanity*

*That must be eternally celebrated,
An everlasting community of justice and truth.*

*Those who are trusted by the people,
Those who are loved by the people—
Such individuals
Are genuine champions of happiness;
They are victors who proudly wear
The crown of supreme humanity.*

*In isolation we are weak,
But when we
Go among the people
And unite with the people,
Our strength is multiplied
A millionfold.*

*Popularity is not what matters,
For that is fleeting;
It has no substance.
Popularity can be won by deception
And manipulation.*

*We have finally welcomed
The 21st century,
For which we have waited
For countless ages.*

*It is the century
In which we will live
The best possible lives,
Energetically,
Day after day,
Bathed in the light of the sun,
Embracing a clear philosophy
That enables us to fully exercise
Our right to be eternally victorious.*

*We have built
A great path for kosen-rufu
Into the infinite future.
We have constructed
A magnificent citadel
Of humanism.*

*This path
And this citadel*

*Are the towering bastion
Of all who possess the spirit of justice,
Endowed with success, happiness and mission.
This bastion is imperishable!
No one can ever undermine
Or destroy it.*

*Undaunted by what the new day may bring,
Unperturbed by winter,
This majestic, jeweled citadel,
Will never crumble again.*

*As Rousseau says,
“A mind given nothing to do
Becomes heavy and sluggish
Through inaction.”*

*Those who vigorously take action
Are filled with joy and courage,
Their faces shining brightly
With victory.
Their lives are that of genuine
 humanity,
Upholding as they do
A lofty mission
Like that of heavenly emissaries,
Commended by all humankind.*

*Always uniting together as one,
The stout hearts of those capable
 individuals
Grow ever stronger
And shine ever brighter,
Creating a history of honor and
 triumph.*

*In such people
And in the realm in which they are
 active—
Together profoundly significant—
Stretches a vast open road of glory
That transcends all changes and
 transitions.*

*In tumultuous times,
Where each day
Is marked by ceaseless change,*

*We are serene
And undeterred.*

*We are always
Staunch allies of the people.
We are determined to warmly welcome
With supreme compassion
Those who have been driven to despair
By the crass folly of those in power.
And
We have the power of friends
United in a shared purpose—
A power that can restore smiles
To the grim, frozen lips
Of many people
And make them gentle friends.*

*We wish to dedicate this precious life
To bestowing on all
Without exception
The crown of happiness—
Happiness that shimmers
With the tranquil light of glory.*

*Truth!
This is our lives.
History!
This is our struggle.
Accomplishment!
This is our victory
Won through the causes we make.*

*The long history of humankind
Has been dominated
By the dark, destructive tendencies
Of the human heart,
By tragedy and sorrow.
It has been a sad history
In which so many souls,
Treated like condemned prisoners
By the arrogant authorities,
Were destined to mount the execution block.*

*For the sake of those who suffer,
We demolish
Cruel authoritarianism
And human despair*

*With the mighty hand of the people,
And eternally extend
Our brilliant network
That shines with our dazzling
Victory and glory.*

*Here
There are no sorrowful wails,
No bitter tears
Of suffering or regret.
No coldly sneering
Opportunists.*

*Our mission
Is to bring hope to all.
Do not be beaten by life!
Do not be defeated in life!
Do not cave in to despots!
Let them hold
The flag of infamy!
We will wave
The scarlet banner of victory!*

*The world of these wretches
Is a domain of cold brutality.
They are doomed
Without a doubt
To receive lasting retribution
And will crumble and vanish.*

*Ours
Is a domain of happiness.
Here
There is no harsh retribution;
It is a realm
Of absolute happiness and security—
Where the lights are all go
And we can move ahead freely,
Where truehearted heavenly deities
Cheer us on.*

*In our society, every day
The wings of evil
Beat with fiendish fury.
There,
Enchanters wielding arcane powers
Lead people down the path*

*Of idle pleasure,
Where only profuse regret awaits,
And laugh scornfully
As they watch them drown.*

*My friends,
Be strong of heart!
My friends,
Be firm of heart!
When you do so,
You will stand tall with triumph.
That is why we practice
This great Buddhism.*

*Please do not lead a life
Bereft of value or good fortune!
Build your own fortress of happiness,
Reactivating
The truly profound spirit
Of genuine humanity
That has been deep within you
From time immemorial,
Sparkling with golden brilliance
Beneath the tears.*

*And also
Take resolute action
Again today,
For the sake of peace,
For the sake of justice,
And so that you may lead
A fulfilling life
Of complete satisfaction,
Free of all regret.*

*My friends!
Remember
The vow you made
That day,
Along with
The deep friendship forged
That day!
Life is short,
But friendship
That is bound by a pledge
Is profound and everlasting.*

*Remember!
My friends,
If you do not strive
For the undertaking
You promised to fulfill,
All that will remain
Are regrets
Instead of accomplishments.*

*My friends,
Do not become cowards,
Feeble and doddering!
My friends,
Do not become losers,
Scheming and devious!*

*Stand up,
Just as you vowed!
Can you not hear
The solemn reverberations
Of that time
Echoing in our hearts—
Yours and mine?*

*Come!
While gazing at the beautiful blossoms
Of the vows we made that day,
Let us dedicate our lives,
Blazing with passionate commitment,
To the happiness of our fellow
members,
And for the sake of that day
On which we announced to our friends
Our lofty pledge!*

*And even more—
Let us work energetically
To respond to the noble mentor,
Who, when we were near to drowning
In delusion,
Infused our lives
With words of strict encouragement
Based on the deepest compassion.*

*Let us stand up!
Let us stand up resolutely!
My friends!*

*We must move;
We must act;
We must win —
This is our life's path.*

*My friends!
Do not be swept away by your karma
To foolishly walk a dark, unlit road!
Our lives are dedicated
To happiness
And to realizing our mission.
It is for these goals
That we constantly strive and advance.*

*And
We wish to die having proudly created
A dynamic and noble history
Of courage and victory
As human beings.*

*The German writer Weisenborn,
Who fought against the Nazis, says,
“Justice — this is
What must govern
All our deeds and thoughts,
And not animosities, not hate, not
prejudice.”*

*The sight
Of young, hope-filled heroes,
Of aged warriors,
And the beautiful vision
Of women striving
Toward the horizon of happiness!
The powerful, fresh advance
Of the noble people
Resounds far and wide,
As they forge their way
Through the dim light
To a place beyond
The strife and conflict
And swirling intrigue.*

*These bright-hearted souls
Press ahead buoyantly,
Like immortal phoenixes,
To a realm bathed*

In dazzling jeweled light.

*We unleash our anger
Toward injustice;
We raze the cruelty
Of tyrants and villains.
We shatter innumerable terrors
And triumph over fear.*

*While breaking through
The unending stream of obstacles
That bear down on us,
We will definitely
Build a giant stage
Of immense, almost miraculous
victory,
From which triumphant
Orchestral music resounds.
And on that stage of ours,
We will give full and free expression
To our happiness.*

*We refuse to become
Slaves of authoritarian leaders!
We refuse to be fooled
By corrupt big shots!
We refuse to be exploited
By dark-hearted, two-faced scholars.*

*Look at us!
Nightmarish times
Like those of the past
Are no longer
On our horizon.
For ours is a grand stage
Of genuine humanity
That has been won by the people,
For the people.*

*Friends, far and wide,
Come join us!
Tireless, hardworking friends,
Come join us, for a refreshing respite!
Anxious friends,
Who have run aground
On life's treacherous reefs,
Come join us, quickly!*

*Friends who have wept in despair
At society's contradictions,
Come join us, quickly!*

*Our great people's movement,
Each and every day,
Is filled with sunshine,
With hopes and dreams.*

*My friends,
Those hopes and dreams
Infuse and animate your existence,
Which brims with happiness.
Your uninhibited laughter,
Which makes the base and arrogant quake,
Echoes high into the heavens.*

*Let us live our lives together!
Let us drink toasts of celebration
together!
And together wielding the sword
Of our commitment to justice,
Let us lead shining lives of truth
That will live on for all posterity.*

*My friends,
My beloved friends,
Let us enjoy life!
That means being victorious.
Let us live with a smile!
That is the shining fruit
Of effort and perseverance.*

*We refuse to be credulous
And allow ourselves to be taken in
By calculating pseudo-intellectuals.*

*Ah!
Our beings reverberate
With a dancing symphony.
Happiness courses
Vibrantly and joyously
Through our veins.*

*We will win.
You and I will win
Without fail.*

*And we will shout
Our victory.
And we will greet
The season of flowering triumph,
Filled with hope
And savoring life's joys to the fullest.*

*O, the people!
You are certain to win.
This is the unchanging
Essence of history.*

*O, the people!
The spirit of each of you
Is that of a political leader,
An actor,
A soldier,
A prosecutor,
A judge,
An educator,
And a Dharma king who rebukes
devils.*

*Do not forget
This awesome, unlimited power
Of the people!
My friends,
You must fight resolutely!
And
You must win resolutely!
Leave behind a magnificent
Personal monument of achievement
That will endow this finite lifetime
With infinite value and meaning.*

*Hurray for the people!
O, the people,
May you be eternally victorious!
O, the people,
May you be eternally happy!
O, the people,
May you be eternally endowed with glory!*

*The people are smart,
Even if they are reduced to only one.
The shrewdness of the people
Is the wisdom of the heavens.*

*The laughter of the people
Is the laughter of the heavens.
The weeping of the people
Is the sorrow of the heavens.
The voice of the people
Is the cry of the heavens.
And the actions of the people
Are the commands of the heavens.*

*It is the people
Who are the sovereigns of humanity.
And therefore
There can never be for all eternity
Anyone superior to the people.*

*Lift up your heads!
Stand tall!
The people
Are the monarchs of humanity.
The people
Are not nameless weeds;
They are a great forest
That gives life to the world.*

*Even today,
In that country
And this country,
The people
Are toppling despotic rulers.
The world is astonished at
And filled with praise for
Their power.*

*And if someday,
Black-hearted tyranny should arise,
We, too, will come out fighting
With energy and passion
In the grand theater of life.
Doesn't everyone know this
Deep in their hearts?
This is the greatness
And the philosophy of the people.*

*Whatever happens,
Our movement of 10 million friends—
Powerfully united
In faith and spirit*

*And the cause of truth and justice—
Constitutes a great movement of the people
That will go down forever in history.
It is a true picture of the people,
Ever-victorious, indestructible,
fearless.
What an inspiring
And sublime sight it is!*

May 3, 2001

— Proclaiming the start of the second Seven Bells
— With palms pressed together in reverence

SGI President Ikeda is recognized throughout the world as a poet laureate.