

## AN ESSAY BY SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA WORDS OF TRUTH AND JUSTICE

**In an essay for the 50th anniversary of the ‘Seikyo Shimbun,’ SGI President Ikeda emphasizes the importance of our publications, reminding us that ‘kosen-rufu is a peaceful revolution carried out through a struggle of words of truth and justice.’**

This year, we celebrate the glorious 50th birthday of the *Seikyo Shimbun*, the Soka Gakkai’s daily newspaper. My profoundest gratitude to our many readers.

A half century has passed since the *Seikyo Shimbun* debuted in the struggle for kosen-rufu with a courageous roar, on April 20, 1951, just ahead of Josei Toda’s inauguration as second Soka Gakkai president on May 3 the same year.

Now, with the momentous milestone of May 3, 2001 — as we ring in a new set of Seven Bells—the *Seikyo Shimbun* stands poised to advance with an even deeper sense of mission.

With a daily circulation of 5.5 million copies, the *Seikyo Shimbun* has become a towering pillar of truth and justice in Japanese society. Nothing could make me happier.



“The Buddha saves people through the written word,” Nichiren Daishonin asserts (*Gosho Zenshu*, p. 153). How immense is the mission of the *Seikyo Shimbun*, which has embraced the great compassion of the Buddha as its own spirit and, by means of the written word, is working tirelessly for people’s happiness.

The *Seikyo Shimbun* is a source of powerful ammunition in our struggle for kosen-rufu! The *Seikyo Shimbun* is a citadel of truth and justice defending the people! The *Seikyo Shimbun* is a light of hope opening a new age!

My day always starts with the *Seikyo Shimbun*. Praying with my wife for the safety of those who deliver the newspaper around the country, I look through the freshly delivered paper, still smelling pleasantly of ink.

As I do, I start to think of the next day’s front page. What will be the top story, the “face” of the paper? Will the content enrich the spirit and shine with intelligence, appropriate to the Soka Gakkai, which is committed to culture, education and peace?

I am also always keen to see how the latest installment of the popular “Open Forum” series turned out. [In this regular feature of the *Seikyo Shimbun*, SGI Deputy President Einosuke Akiya leads a discussion on a wide array of subjects related to the Japanese organization and Japanese society at large with other Soka Gakkai leaders.] On occasion, in my capacity as honorary Soka Gakkai president, I offer my honest opinions and advice to the paper’s editorial department on various articles.

The paper we put together today determines the enthusiasm and energy of tomorrow’s activities. In these peril-ridden times, my thoughts are always on the production of the *Seikyo Shimbun*, the voice of truth and justice.



I often receive requests from the editorial department to write pieces for the paper. In particular, as a poet whose pen is his weapon, I frequently agree to compose lengthy poems out of a desire to inspire and guide the construction of a new century. It is my wish

to leave as many guiding principles, ideas and instructions as I can for coming generations, because I believe they will provide a path to the future. An organization that strays from the correct path disintegrates.

There are many times when the torrent of words I dictate flows too fast for my colleagues, struggling to take them down as I speak. Recently, instead of actually writing with my own hand, I do more dictation and have my words typed out by the modern convenience of the word processor. This is faster and a more productive use of my time.

But whatever form it may take, writing is a struggle. A single word can cast people into the depths of despair. A single word can become the source of hope that illuminates an entire life. That is why I take writing so seriously.

When I come to the end of a dictation session, not only do I feel a wonderful feeling of satisfaction but a deep exhaustion. I get so engrossed sometimes that my wife, Kaneko, worried about my health, has to intervene and ask me to take a rest.



From April 20, my novel *The New Human Revolution* resumes publication in the *Seikyo Shimbun* after a roughly four-month hiatus. The demands of a serialized novel are such that you cannot relax for even a single day.

When I have meetings with world leaders and thinkers, I often become a reporter myself and ask them questions about their lives and experiences for the sake of the youth who will inherit the future. In addition, when I hear that there are important meetings taking place somewhere, I am always happy to send members messages or poems if it will please them.

Each and every one of these efforts represents a grand struggle with the limited time I have in this life. I am determined to pour all of my heart and soul into the task of saying everything necessary for the sake of future generations.

My mentor, Mr. Toda, too, took a leading role in writing for the *Seikyo Shimbun*. Under the pen name Myo Goku, he wrote the serialized novel *The Human Revolution*. As an editorial writer, he wrote many of the paper's lead stories. And he also wrote the daily "Epigrams" column, which continues to this day. [It is renowned for its pithy and sometimes scathing social commentary.]

By his example, he urged us to take up the weapon of words and speak without restraint for the sake of truth and justice. This was the *Seikyo* spirit that he demonstrated for us through his life.

And I, his disciple, am faithfully carrying on the relentless struggle that he waged. That is why the Soka Gakkai, champion of truth, has grown and developed so greatly. We have triumphed over every vile obstruction in our path.



Nichiren Daishonin says that there are two ways in which people can use their voices. One is to deceive others, and the other is to say what one truly believes (see *The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, p. 86). An extreme example of the first might be the cold, cunning demagoguery of the Nazis and other such groups, but there are many other cases in which people or groups purposely stir up evil passions and deceive and manipulate the people, exploiting them for nefarious purposes.

The polar opposite of that are words that express one's true thoughts and beliefs just as they are. The *Seikyo Shimbun* has given voice to, and recorded forever in writing, the determination not to condone evil or injustice that inflicts suffering on people, along with the sincere desire to encourage and inspire those who are racked by pain and unhappiness.

Kosen-rufu is a peaceful revolution carried out through a struggle of words of truth and justice. Nothing promotes the rampant growth of evil as much as the silence of truth and justice. Lions must roar. They must not lose their teeth!

One false statement, dripping in lies, needs to be met with a volley of 10 or 100 true statements, boldly launched to vanquish evil. Protecting good, honest people is the very lifeline of the *Seikyo Shimbun*.



In March 1951, at the first planning session for the *Seikyo Shimbun*, Mr. Toda said: “This newspaper will truly launch our kosen-rufu movement. Let us become, in every arena, champions in the verbal battle for truth!” That day I wrote in my diary: “Sincerely resolved to develop it [the *Seikyo Shimbun*] into the greatest newspaper in Japan — no, in the world” (*A Youthful Diary*, p. 99).

*Seikyo!* May you always be a jeweled sword that refutes the erroneous and reveals the true, cutting through the darkness of injustice and evil! May you be a beacon of hope for people, illuminating life’s winning path! May you be a flag-bearer of humanistic philosophy, uniting the people of the world!

Now is the time for us to boldly take up our pens again and let the spirit of *Seikyo* burn forth brightly. There is no better time.

The advance of the *Seikyo Shimbun* is the advance of kosen-rufu and peace.

My dear friends, striding forth courageously together with the *Seikyo Shimbun*, let us make the lion’s roar of truth and justice resound powerfully across Japan and the entire world!

This essay was published in the “Thoughts on *The New Human Revolution*” series in the April 20 *Seikyo Shimbun*, the Soka Gakkai’s daily newspaper.