

**THE NEW HUMAN REVOLUTION
'SECURING THE FOUNDATION'
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Due to an oversight in the production process, the final installments of the “Securing the Foundation” chapter were not printed in the World Tribune. Please see the April 27 issue for where we left off. The “Jeweled Sword” chapter will resume next week.

The heat of the summer and the Amami members' excitement filled the hall at the men's division group leaders meeting. Beads of sweat trickled down their faces as they listened intently to President Shin'ichi Yamamoto. “Propagation is the lifeblood of religion, and kosen-rufu is the spread of the True Law,” he said. “If this Law does not spread, happiness for all people will not be realized. Naturally, the means of propagation differs according to the time and place, but without steady growth, our movement will stagnate.

“Some people believe that because the Soka Gakkai has reached a total membership of 3 million households, it will probably not grow any larger, but that is completely unfounded. We must develop and expand our movement for kosen-rufu throughout our lives. If we consistently act with the determination to spread Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism and to dedicate our lives to promoting this great cause, no matter what anyone says, even if we have to do it alone, there will be no limit to the Soka Gakkai's development.

“Our movement has made incredible progress in a very short time in the Amami Islands. That is because all of you have worked hard to tell as many people as you can here about this Buddhism, without fearing any obstacle.

“That is the Soka Gakkai spirit. If we can keep this spirit burning forever, passing it on from member to member, to our children and our grandchildren, we will achieve kosen-rufu without fail. Please remember, too, that ‘leader’ is another name for those who are responsible for kosen-rufu. It is important that you always ask yourself how much you, as one of the central figures of our organization, have contributed to this movement.

“Amami is the Hawaii of Japan. I love these islands. Your friends in nearby Okinawa have written a song, ‘Heroes of Okinawa,’ and are singing it proudly as they advance. Why don't you write a song of your own and call it ‘Heroes of Amami’? You can sing it together as you go forward in high spirits and friendship, with ‘unity first’ as your motto.

“You are the only ones who can realize kosen-rufu of the Amami Islands. I hope that, with my spirit and determination as your own, you will begin to advance anew.” Shin'ichi's words moved and inspired the members.

As Shin'ichi climbed into the car after the meeting, a wave of dizziness swept over him. In addition to being unaccustomed to the heat, he was suffering from exhaustion and lack of sleep.

When he arrived back at the community center, some 269 members from Okinoerabujima and Yoronjima were waiting for him in the main hall. Their ferry to Amami Oshima had been delayed, causing them to miss the inaugural meeting for Amami Oshima General Chapter.

Shin'ichi called energetically to the members waiting for him: “Thank you for coming! How nice to see you! How long did it take you to get here?” One of the members from Yoronjima answered cheerfully, “The sea was rough, so it took 38 hours.”

“That is a long time!” Shin’ichi responded. “You must be tired. This center belongs to all of you, so please relax and make yourselves at home.”

Shin’ichi then encouraged the members, praising their strong seeking spirit. He said that he hoped all would persist in their faith, never forgetting the great joy of encountering the supreme teaching of Buddhism, and that they would continue to transform their lives to the point where they could say they had attained a state of unsurpassable happiness.

He then addressed each member individually, exchanging firm handshakes. To an elderly woman he said: “Please live very long. Being healthy and happy in itself is proof of the power of Buddhism.” To a young man he said: “The future belongs to your generation. Please develop your strength and ability and become a great leader! A great leader of Okinoerabu!” One men’s division member shared his determination with Shin’ichi as they shook hands, and another woman told him with tears in her eyes of the tremendous joy she felt through her faith.

Superficial words do not touch other people’s lives. Shin’ichi poured his entire being into each word and each handshake as he wholeheartedly encouraged the members. After 20 minutes of shaking hands and exchanging greetings, his right hand was numb.

Following dinner, he met with the leaders of Amami Oshima General Chapter. He then sat down to inscribe copies of Mr. Toda’s poems to present to members as gifts:

*No matter how painful,
Do not lament, my friends!
Tomorrow we will see
A realm of true happiness
Of kosen-rufu.*

*Death awaits
All of us one day;
Thus, be fearless,
Leaving unchallenged
Not a single enemy of
the Buddha.*

*Now, let us set out on a
journey
Our hearts emboldened
To spread the Mystic Law
Even to the farthest reaches
Of India.*

Shin’ichi wrote each word with his life, praying that every member would stand up in faith and realize great development.

Night deepened on Amami Oshima. Midnight came and went, but Shin’ichi did not stop writing.

On the morning of June 23, Shin’ichi departed from Naze Harbor, sent off by members singing Soka Gakkai songs. The ferry took him back to Tokunoshima, where he boarded a plane for Kagoshima. He arrived at Kagoshima Airport at 5:30 p.m. There he transferred

to a flight headed for neighboring Miyazaki Prefecture, where he was scheduled to attend the Miyazaki General Chapter leaders meeting at the Prefecture Public Hall that evening.

At the Public Hall, Shin'ichi's exhaustion had reached its peak. Even so, he gave his all to encouraging the members, declaring that the growth of the Soka Gakkai was in exact accord with the Lotus Sutra's description of the emergence of the Bodhisattvas of the Earth. He then went to the nearby Prefecture Education Hall to speak with members who were waiting there for him as well.

Shin'ichi's high spirits made it impossible for the members to know just how tired he was and how much he was exerting himself. He lived by the passage in the "Twenty-six Admonitions of Nikko": "Until kosen-rufu is achieved, propagate the Law to the full extent of your ability without begrudging your life" (*Gosho Zenshu*, p. 1618). In other words, kosen-rufu will only be made possible through the selfless efforts of individuals dedicated to spreading the Daishonin's teachings.

Shin'ichi's mentor, Josei Toda, had demonstrated this principle with his very life. He only left the world after having achieved the unprecedented goal of a membership of 750,000 households. Shin'ichi had made a profound vow to embody and communicate his mentor's spirit of total devotion to realizing world peace and happiness for all humankind.

Spiritual succession does not take place in the conceptual realm. It happens only through action and behavior. That is why Shin'ichi poured everything he had into each moment. He consistently gave his all, knowing that one's actions now, in this instant, reveal one's spirit.

The formation of many new headquarters and general chapters was steadily securing the Soka Gakkai's organizational foundation, but Shin'ichi felt deeply that securing the spiritual foundation would breathe real life into the organization. He was determined that the 7th memorial (6th anniversary) of Mr. Toda's death (on April 2 the following year, 1964) would be a true gathering of lions who had inherited Mr. Toda's spirit and could say with confidence that their mentor was alive in their hearts.

As the leader in the race for kosen-rufu, Shin'ichi ran ahead alone at full speed. He believed that scores of runners, true friends in faith, would definitely follow in succession.

(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.